

**Sarah Pearce,**

**Abstract**

**'Excellent and Profitable for Life': Philo on the Decalogue**

In this session, I present some reflections on Philo's treatise *De Decalogo*, itself the earliest known sustained commentary on the Ten Words. Special attention is given to Philo's treatment of *De Decalogo* as a commentary on the Greek books of Moses, and on Philo's efforts to elucidate the reasons for the commandments and their benefits to the human soul and human society, with particular focus on the Second Commandment. This study, together with a short commentary on *De Decalogo* published in *Outside the Bible* (2013), is an outcome of preliminary studies towards my translation and commentary of this treatise for the PACS series. I am very grateful to the *Journal of Jewish Studies Supplements Series* for permission to reproduce the article for the purposes of response and discussion at this meeting.