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Rabbinic literature, especially the Mishnah and the Talmud, is regarded in Judaism as the “oral Torah,” handed down directly from God to Moses at Sinai together with the “written Torah,” the Hebrew Bible. Originating in the divine, it has a normative, canonical status and represents up to this day the main religious and cultural possession of the Jewish people. Whatever challenges, catastrophes and revolutions confronted the Jewish communities throughout the ages, rabbinic literature was (and still is) the invigorating source, from which every formulation of Jewish identity and practice orthodox-traditionalist, liberal, Zionist or secular is drawn.

Rabbinic literature is sometimes explicitly, but always implicitly an interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. It is the defining “other” to the Christian exegetical project of reading the Bible in Late Antiquity. Women and gender are constitutive components of the biblical text. Since the authority of the biblical text is for the rabbis indisputable, they must manoeuvre between this tenet and their own gender concepts and assumptions, which are often challenged by the biblical text. Because rabbinic literature is non-dogmatic, this challenge is answered in different ways by different rabbis, and all the various opinions are reported in rabbinic texts side by side. The rabbinic reading of the Bible thus has led to the creation of an enormous corpus of diverse, kaleidoscopic, surprising and conflicting interpretations of the biblical text and its women and gender concepts.

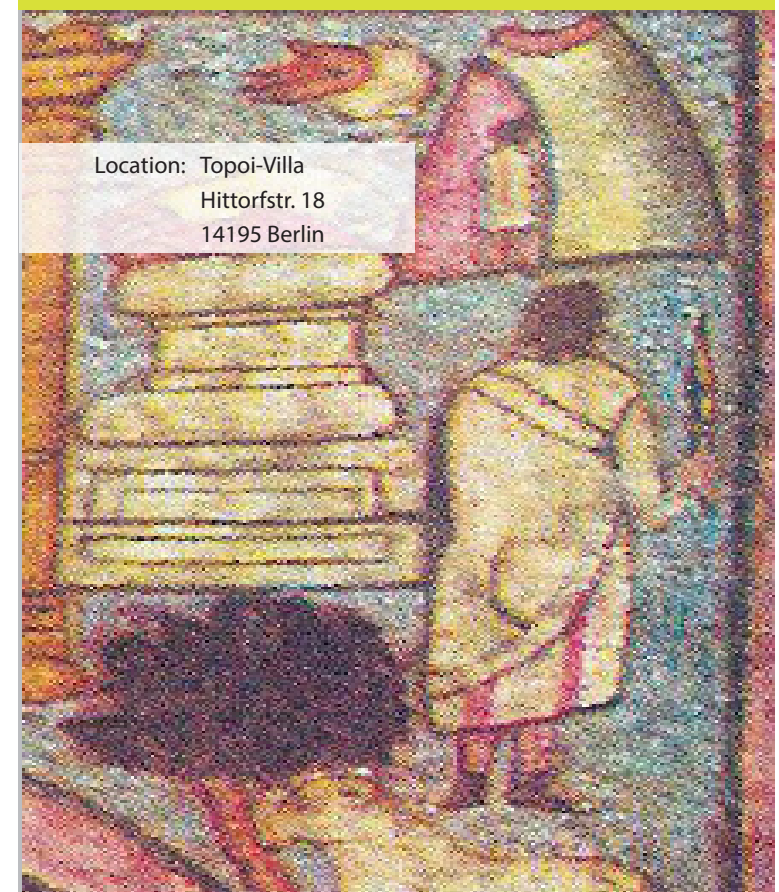
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The Reception of Biblical Women and Gender in Rabbinic Literature

Monday, December 4th, 2017
- Tuesday, December 5th, 2017



Location: Topoi-Villa
Hittorfstr. 18
14195 Berlin

Program				
Monday, December 4 th		17:00 - 18:00	Buffet (Room 2.2058, Holzlaube; Fabekstr. 23-25)	16:40 - 17:20 <i>Aveirah Lishma</i> Alexander Dubrau: Hannah, Female Fertility and the Case of <i>Sotah</i> : Legal Methodology and Gender in Bavli <i>Berakhot</i> 31b
09:00 - 09:40	Irmtraud Fischer: The Bible and Women: An Interdisciplinary Project on Bible Reception in Four Languages	18:30	Tal Ilan: Women Citing Scripture in Rabbinic Literature (Room 2.2058)	17:20 - 18:00 Judith Baskin: Female Prophets in <i>Bavli Megillah</i>
09:40 - 10:00	Coffee Break	Tuesday, December 5 th	Rabbinic Midrashim to Specific Biblical Books	19:00 Dinner
The Reception of Biblical Gendered Law in Rabbinic Literature		09:00 - 09:40	Lorena Miralles-Maciá: Women from Israel, Women from the Nations: <i>Leviticus Rabbah</i> on Biblical Characters	Participants
10:00 - 10:40	Hannah C. Tzuberi: Biblical Ritual (Im)purity and the Making of a Rabbinic Female Self	09:40 - 10:30	Susanne Plietzsch: Sarah in <i>Genesis Rabbah</i>	Judith Baskin (Professor, University of Oregon, USA)
10:40 - 11:20	Dvora E. Weisberg: Remaking or Unmaking? Levirate in the Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic Literature	10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	Yuval Blankovsky (Dr., Fellow at New York University, Law School)
11:20 - 12:00	Olga Ruiz Morel: Divorce, with her Consent or without it	Case Studies in Later Midrash		Dagmar Börner-Klein (Professor, Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf)
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch	11:00 - 11:40	Ronit Nikolsky: Sarah as <i>eshet hayil</i> in <i>Tanhuma</i>	Judith v. Bresinsky (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Women between Mishnah and Tosefta		11:40 - 12:20	Natalie Polzer: The Many Faces of Eve in <i>Avot de-Rabbi Nathan</i> and Beyond	Alexander Dubrau (Dr., Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany)
13:30 - 14:10	Judith v. Bresinsky: "...when it is not for the sake of marriage..." - A Midrash on Biblical Verses in <i>tQiddushin</i> 1:4	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	Irmtraud Fischer (Professor, Universität Graz, Austria)
14:10 - 14:50	Cecilia Haendler: Biblical Women in Mishnah and Tosefta	14:00 - 14:40	Katharina Keim: "For you have made them unruly, like a woman who is unchecked owing to immorality": Biblical Women as Exemplars of Virtue and Disgrace in <i>Pirquei de-Rabbi Eliezer</i>	Cecilia Haendler (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
14:50 - 15:30	Coffee Break	14:40 - 15:20	Dagmar Börner-Klein: Making Choices: The <i>Yalkut Shimoni</i> on the Book of Esther	Tal Ilan (Professor, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Case Studies of Biblical Women		15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break	
15:30 - 16:10	Gail Labovitz: The Hagar(s) of Rabbinic Imagining: At the Intersections of Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in <i>Genesis Rabbah</i>	Sugyot in the Bavli		
16:10 - 16:50	Devora Steinmetz: Switched Before Birth: Dina and the Patriarchal Covenant	16:00 - 16:40	Yuval Blankovsky: Seduction for the Sake of God: The Talmudic Sugya of	