



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Department of Old Testament Studies



## David-Herzog-Fonds Lecture

# Women in the Wilderness?

## Women, Qumran, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

This lecture explores the enigmatic world of the Qumran community, with a focus on the role and presence of women. By navigating through the archaeological evidence and examining the texts themselves, we aim to reconstruct the lives and status of women associated with this isolated community of the late Second Temple period. We will begin by reviewing the unique discoveries from the Judean desert and discussing theories concerning the identity of the separatist group that possessed the scrolls at Qumran. We will then examine the archaeological evidence from the site, including graves that may indicate the presence of women, and discuss the traditional view of Qumran as an exclusively male community. We will also explore how the texts found at Qumran provide insights into the status of women, particularly through scrolls that retell and interpret the biblical narrative, such as Jubilees and the Genesis Apocryphon. We will then look at the role of women as portrayed in the Dead Sea Scrolls, particularly through laws and regulations concerning marriage, purity and other religious practices, and try to reflect on the place and status of women within this context.

**Wednesday, 29 January 2025 | 19:00–20:30**

HS 47.01 | Universitätszentrum Theologie (Heinrichstr. 78A)

## Anna Shirav Hamernik

### David-Herzog-Fonds Guest Professor

Anna Shirav Hamernik, Ph.D. (2023), is a Research Fellow at the Department of Jewish Philosophy, Tel Aviv University, and currently holds the David-Herzog-Fonds Visiting Professorship at the University of Graz. Her forthcoming book „The Development of Ezekiel Traditions in the Second Temple Period“ (STDJ 151, Brill) offers a fresh perspective on the transmission of biblical traditions and the development of apocalyptic writings. Her course this semester at the Institute for Old Testament Studies in Graz, „The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Window on the Biblical and Second Temple Period,“ provides an overview of the unique finds from the Judean Desert and addresses the major challenges in research today.



The lecture will be followed by light refreshments.

**Please register by Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>:** [at-institut@uni-graz.at](mailto:at-institut@uni-graz.at)

DAVID HERZOG FONDS  
der steirischen Universitäten

### Contact

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