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Gender and Second-Temple Judaism

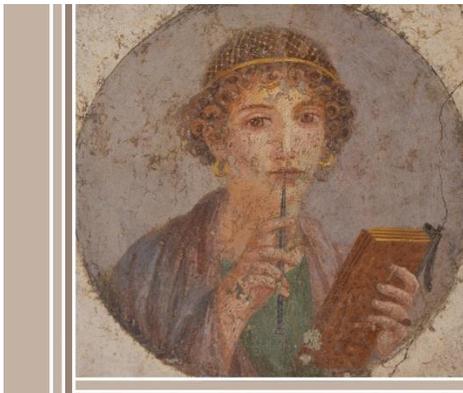


Edited by Kathy Ehrensperger and Shayna Sheinfeld

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“Through fresh arguments and methodological precision, the authors make a powerful case for the centrality of gender research within Jewish studies. They analyze its current marginalization and question received wisdom on various points, such as on Jewish women’s religious roles, authorship of religious texts, followers of Jesus, and Pharisees. They analyze the subtleties of masculinity and femininity within Jewish and Roman culture, examine literary representations of patriarchy and of motherhood, and assess women’s authority. They explore the extent to which one can best understand specific New Testament texts on women or with female imagery within the context of contemporaneous Judaism. Students and scholars alike will find this innovative volume indispensable.”

— **Bernadette J. Brooten, emerita, Brandeis University, and Director of the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project**



GENDER AND
SECOND-TEMPLE
JUDAISM

EDITED BY KATHY EHRENSPERGER
AND SHAYNA SHEINFELD

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Ancient literature was generally written by and produced for elite men. That fact creates specific challenges to modern interpreters of gender roles in the ancient world, especially once contemporary understandings of gender as construction and performance are embraced. In *Gender and Second-Temple Judaism*, world-renowned scholars take on these challenges with regard to ancient Judaism (here including early Christianity and early rabbinic Judaism as well), at once examining the ancient evidence and quite consciously addressing difficult methodological questions regarding gender. Taken together, these chapters further complicate discussions of the construction of identity (e.g., “who is a Jew?”) by inflecting them with questions of gender construction as well. Scholars of ancient Judaism and of gender alike will find much to grapple with in these pages.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Kathy Ehrensperger is research professor of New Testament in Jewish Perspective at the Abraham Geiger Kolleg, University of Potsdam, Germany.

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