

## The Babylonian Talmud and Late Antique Book Culture

In this book, Monika Amsler explores the historical contexts in which the Babylonian Talmud was formed in an effort to determine whether it was the result of oral transmission. Scholars have posited that the rulings and stories we find in the Talmud were passed on from one generation to the next, each generation adding their opinions and interpretations of a given subject. Yet such an oral formation process is unheard of in late antiquity. Moreover, the model exoticizes the Talmud and disregards the intellectual world of Sassanid Persia. Rather than taking the Talmud's discursive structure as a sign for orality, Amsler interrogates the intellectual and material prerequisites of composers of such complex works, and their education and methods of large-scale data management. She also traces and highlights the marks that their working methods inevitably left in the text. Detailing how intellectual innovation was generated, Amsler's book also sheds new light on the content of the Talmud. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Monika Amsler is Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Ancient History at the University of Bern. A historian of ancient religion, she is the editor of *Knowledge Construction in Late Antiquity*, published in the *Trends in Classics* Supplementary Volume Series.

# The Babylonian Talmud and Late Antique Book Culture

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-29733-2 — The Babylonian Talmud and Late Antique Book Culture  
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Frontmatter  
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103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009297332](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009297332)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009297349

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DOI 10.1017/9781009297349

First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the  
Library of Congress.*

ISBN 978-1-009-29733-2 Hardback

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The open access version of this publication was funded by the  
Swiss National Science Foundation.

*To Martin,  
Emelina, Gwendolin, Filippa, and Charlotte*

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## Acknowledgments

This book is “based on a true dissertation,” advised by Christoph Uehlinger and Michael Satlow (University of Zurich, 2018). I am grateful for their kind but critical feedback, and for their ongoing support and advice. The dissertation was funded by the University of Zurich’s Research Priority Point (URPP) “Asia & Europe” and a Marie Heim-Vögtlin scholarship by the Swiss National Scientific Foundation (SNSF). The inclusion of the dissertation project into the URPP’s research field “Concepts and Taxonomies” offered a stimulating intellectual environment and left distinct marks on its course. I am thankful to all involved for this great opportunity and experience.

I am grateful to the SNSF for funding the open-access publication of this book. The Meyerhoff Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Maryland, the Doctoral Program Asia and Europe, and *Fonds für Altertumswissenschaft* hosted by the Department of Greek and Latin Philology at the University of Zurich (funded by Walter Burkert) paid for the copyediting and indexing at different stages in the process of the book’s genesis.

Regarding copyediting and indexing, Adina M. Yoffie, William H. Brown, and Katherin Papadopoulos (and her helper John Keily) have done more for this book than cleaning up my English, detecting typos, and producing a useful index, and I am most thankful for your careful work, personal interest, and prompt delivery. I am also grateful to the anonymous reviewers from Cambridge University Press for their insightful remarks and the editor, Beatrice Rehl, for her support and patience with a first timer. Susan Marks was a great mentor “on the go.”

Hayim Lapin has read a prior draft of this manuscript and provided substantial feedback, and Maxine Grossmann has helped me to digest

setbacks and to reframe frustration and despair. Thank you both “a google times” as my kids would say. Speaking of which: My girls grew alongside this book. Just in time for its publication, they are now old enough to understand what this means. And I am so sorry that this discovery ended only in a series of frustrations! No, there are no pictures in the book and there is nothing to color; no, it’s not a story with some fancy main characters, a brave heroine, or a funny prince; no, we won’t be giving a copy to your teachers for Christmas or deposit one in the school library. Honestly, I don’t think they will ever read it. I am still dedicating it to them. And to their father, my best friend, Martin Ferrazzini, who really wants to see his name in it and deserves it more than anyone else. He had many chances and reasons to vote against this project but never did, and instead chose encouragement. Merci tuusig!



## Abbreviations

AJEC	<i>Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity</i>
AJSR	<i>Association for Jewish Studies Review</i>
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
DJBA	Michael Sokoloff. <i>Dictionary of Jewish Babylonian Aramaic of the Talmudic and Geonic Periods</i> . Ramat-Gan: Bar Ilan University Press; Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002
DJPA	Michael Sokoloff. <i>Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic</i> . Ramat-Gan: Bar Ilan University Press, 1990
EI <i>r</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia Iranica</i> . Edited by Ehsan Yarshater. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982–
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
Hug	<i>Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies</i>
Jastrow	Jastrow, Morris, comp. <i>A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature with an Index of Scriptural Quotations</i> . London: Luzac; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1903
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSJ <i>Sup</i>	<i>Supplements to Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LSJ	Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, Henry Stuart Jones. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996

NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OECS	<i>Oxford Early Christian Studies</i>
SFSHJ	<i>South Florida Studies in the History of Judaism</i>
SJLA	<i>Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity</i>
SLA	<i>Studies in Late Antiquity</i>
STAC	<i>Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum</i>
SyrLex	Sokoloff, Michael. <i>A Syriac Lexicon: A Translation from the Latin, Correction, Expansion, and Update of C. Brockelmann's Lexicon Syriacum</i> . Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns; Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2009
TSAJ	<i>Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism</i>
TSJTSA	<i>Texts and Studies of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America</i>
WGRW	<i>Writings from the Greco-Roman World</i>
WUNT	<i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>

## TALMUDIC TRACTATES

<i>Avod. Zar.</i>	<i>Avodah Zarah</i>
<i>Avot</i>	<i>Avot</i>
<i>B. Bat.</i>	<i>Bava Batra</i>
<i>B. Metz</i>	<i>Bava Metzi'a</i>
<i>B. Qam</i>	<i>Bava Qamma</i>
<i>Ber.</i>	<i>Berakhot</i>
<i>Betzah</i>	<i>Betzah</i>
<i>Eruv.</i>	<i>Eruvin</i>
<i>Git.</i>	<i>Gittin</i>
<i>Hor.</i>	<i>Horayot</i>
<i>Hul.</i>	<i>Hullin</i>
<i>Kelim</i>	<i>Kelim</i>
<i>Ketub.</i>	<i>Ketubbot</i>
<i>Meg.</i>	<i>Megillah</i>
<i>Mo'ed Qat.</i>	<i>Mo'ed Qatan</i>
<i>Ned.</i>	<i>Nedarim</i>
<i>Nid.</i>	<i>Niddah</i>
<i>Pesah.</i>	<i>Pesachim</i>
<i>Qidd.</i>	<i>Qidushim</i>
<i>Rosh Hash.</i>	<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>
<i>Sanh.</i>	<i>Sanhedrin</i>
<i>Shabb.</i>	<i>Shabbat</i>

*List of Abbreviations*

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<i>Ta'an.</i>	<i>Ta'anit</i>
<i>Tem.</i>	<i>Temurah</i>
<i>Ter.</i>	<i>Terumot</i>
<i>Yevam.</i>	<i>Yevamot</i>
<i>Yoma</i>	<i>Yoma</i>

Prefixes to the tractates are used as follows:

<i>m.</i>	= <i>Mishnah</i>
<i>t.</i>	= <i>Tosefta</i>
<i>y.</i>	= <i>Palestinian Talmud</i>
<i>b.</i>	= <i>Babylonian Talmud</i>