

Medieval Testimonia to the Palestinian Talmud (Testimonia Mediaevalia zum Talmud Yerushalmi)

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The Palestinian Talmud is one of the central works of ancient Palestinian rabbinic literature, yet it is also one of the most problematic: its text is often corrupt, and numerous aspects of its reception and transmissional history are obscure. However, there are various tools which can shed considerable light on these difficulties, one of the most significant being the thousands (!) of medieval testimonia to Palestinian Talmud's text.

However, in order to properly utilize this material, various obstacles must be overcome. These testimonia must be culled from a wide variety of books written by hundreds of authors over several centuries. Moreover, the accuracy and provenance of each testimonium and its relationship to parallel testimonia must be scrutinized before this material can be used to help establish a correct text of the Talmud and to investigate the nature and scope of Palestinian Talmud's reception during medieval times.

The proposed research project accordingly seeks to generate a computerized, openly accessible database of all extant medieval testimonia to Palestinian Talmud, accompanied by textual and chronological analysis of the sort described above. Such a project will be of great benefit both to talmudic scholars, by helping to establish a correct text of Palestinian Talmud, and to scholars of medieval Jewish cultural history, by contributing to our understanding of Palestinian Talmud's use and influence during the Middle Ages.

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