

“A Feminist Commentary to Massekhet Taanit: How to Read Gender Into a Commentary of the Mishnah and Babylonian Talmud”

A Discussion with Dr. Tal Ilan

Professor of Jewish Studies, Institut für Judaistik, Freie Universität Berlin

Series editor, *A Feminist Commentary to the Babylonian Talmud*

Author, *A Feminist Commentary to Masekhet Ta'anit*

Thursday, December 16, 2010

7:30 p.m., Kripke 406

The landmark international series *A Feminist Commentary to the Babylonian Talmud*, the first of its kind, will produce a volume on every Babylonian tractate, as well as a commentary on the mishnaic tractates that do not have a Babylonian exegesis. A feminist response to these writings is intended to uncover the pervasive and deeply ingrained Jewish conceptions of women and gender, and the way these have shaped women's social and religious position within Judaism over the centuries. In each volume a scholar of rabbinic Judaism will engage all the texts that she or he sees as relevant to the issue of women and gender, and will also produce an overall introduction to the tractate, outlining its gender conception. The exegetical approach to the text will be varied—theological, philosophical, philological, literary, or historical, depending on the commentator's preferences.

About Professor Tal Ilan

Dr. Tal Ilan is professor of Jewish Studies, Institut für Judaistik, Freie Universität Berlin and the project director and editor of the series *A Feminist Commentary to the Babylonian Talmud*. Her other publications include *Jewish Women in Greco-Roman Palestine* (1995), *Mine and Yours Are Hers: Retrieving Women's History from Rabbinic Literature* (1997), *Integrating Women into Second Temple History* (1999), and *Silencing the Queen* (2006). She has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale, Trinity College Dublin, Frankfurt University, and JTS.

This event is sponsored by The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary and the Program in Jewish Gender and Women's Studies at JTS. Professor Judith Hauptman, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture, JTS, will serve as moderator.

Admission to the Book Talk with Dr. Tal Ilan in JTS's Kripke 406 is free, but reservations are required. Please email Hector Guzman at heguzman@jtsa.edu for more information or to register.