

A note from the editors

We are honored and excited to present the first issue of *Oqimta* under a new editorial team.

As editors, our aim is to contribute in leading to significant changes in the field of rabbinic literature.

Opening access. Thanks to the vision of its founding director, Shamma Friedman, and to the generosity of its publisher, Ruben Knoll, *Oqimta* continues to be an open access and free publication; anyone can learn from and engage the scholarship that we publish, and we do not contribute to the saddling of libraries with heavy subscription fees.

A better review process. We are committed to an efficient and constructive peer review process. Our reviewers, in general, have made good on their commitment to submit reviews promptly, and together we all work to see that authors receive a review that is forward-looking, respectful, and engages their ideas and arguments genuinely.

A less polarized field. We think methodological diversity is key to the continued flourishing of the field. We seek to publish articles from different corners of the field, with a variety of perspectives and methods – philological or historical; employing literary theory, anthropology, or intellectual frameworks through which the field has not yet been explored; focusing on rabbinic texts themselves or working across the different traditions and cultures of antiquity. We also mix reviewers and authors across methodological borderlines, so that scholars who take different approaches can learn from one another and be accountable to one another.

Battling gender bias. Rabbinic literature is a field that suffers from gender disparity. We are continuing to do our best to address this disparity through outreach and a fair and transparent review process, in which writers as well as reviewers are chosen with gender considerations in mind. We are always open to ideas on how to do better on this front.

We want to express our gratitude – to Mr. Knoll for maintaining this fantastic venue; to our editorial board for its support and commitment, especially through the review process; and to Avraham Yoskovich, our executive editor, who shepherds the articles from submission to publication expertly and efficiently.

The editors