

Jews and Health

Brill's Series in Jewish Studies

Founding Editor

David S. Katz (*Tel Aviv University*)

Series Editor

Joshua Holo (*Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion*)

VOLUME 76

The titles published in this series are listed at brill.com/bsjs

Jews and Health

Tradition, History, and Practice

Edited by

Catherine Hezser



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: The Garden of Eden with the Fall of Man, Jan Brueghel the Elder and Peter Paul Rubens, ca. 1615. Mauritshuis, The Hague.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Hezser, Catherine, 1960– editor.

Title: Jews and health : tradition, history, and practice / [edited by]
Catherine Hezser.

Description: Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2023. | Series: Brill's series in
Jewish studies, 0926–2261 ; volume 76 | Includes bibliographical
references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022057794 (print) | LCCN 2022057795 (ebook) | ISBN
9789004541207 (hardback) | ISBN 9789004541474 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Health—Religious aspects—Judaism.

Classification: LCC BM538.H43 J495 2023 (print) | LCC BM538.H43 (ebook) |
DDC 296.3/642—dc23/eng/20221205

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022057794>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022057795>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 0926-2261

ISBN 978-90-04-54120-7 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-54147-4 (e-book)

Copyright 2023 by Catherine Hezser. Published by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill NV incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Hotei, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink,
Brill mentis, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau, V&R unipress and Wageningen Academic.

Koninklijke Brill NV reserves the right to protect this publication against unauthorized use. Requests for
re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill NV via brill.com or copyright.com.

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

Contents

Notes on Contributors VII

**Introduction: The Significance of Health in Jewish History,
Culture, and Society 1**

Catherine Hezser

- 1 Trauma, Brokenness and Pain in the Book of Lamentations:
Empathetic Attention as a Hermeneutic for Thinking about the
Restoration of Health 23**
Katherine E. Southwood
- 2 Health and Hellenism: Philo of Alexandria's Discourse on Health
in the Context of Greek Philosophy and Hippocratic Medicine 43**
Catherine Hezser
- 3 Definitions of the Human Body and the Order of Creation in
Rabbinic Literature 69**
Reuven Kiperwasser
- 4 Physical Strength and Weakness as Means of Social Stratification
in Palestinian Rabbinic Discourse of Late Antiquity 87**
Catherine Hezser
- 5 Medieval Jewish Views on the Preservation of Health at the
Crossroads of the Arabic and Latin Medical Traditions 107**
Carmen Caballero Navas
- 6 "The Trouble That Stalks in Darkness" (Ps 91:6): Jewish Resilience
During the Plague in Early Modern Prague 133**
Maria Diemling
- 7 Humoral Regimens of Health in the Jewish Medical Cultures
of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries 159**
Magdaléna Jánošíková

- 8 **Somatic and Spiritual Health in Times of Change:
Kabbalists, Rabbis and New Approaches to Medicine
in the Eighteenth Century** 181
Nimrod Zinger
- 9 **Health as a Jewish National Ideal in Early Zionist Writings** 208
Catherine Hezser
- 10 **Quality of Life versus Sanctity of Life: Euthanasia in Modern Halakhic
Discourse and in Israeli Law** 231
Irit Offer Stark and William Friedman
- Index** 259

Notes on Contributors

Carmen Caballero Navas

is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Granada in Spain.

Maria Diemling

is Reader in Jewish-Christian Relations at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Rabbi William Friedman

is a faculty member at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a doctoral candidate in Ancient Judaism at Harvard University.

Catherine Hezser

is Professor of Jewish Studies at SOAS, University of London.

Magdaléna Jánošíková

is a Fellow at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem.

Reuven Kiperwasser

is a research associate at the Hebrew University Jerusalem and at Ariel University.

Irit Offer Stark

is a Senior Fellow at the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at the Shalom Hartman Institute.

Katherine E. Southwood

is Associate Professor in Old Testament at the University of Oxford.

Ninrod Zinger

is a lecturer in the division of the History of Ideas and in the MA Program of Jewish History and Culture, Achva Academic College, Israel.