Record Nr. UNINA9910404069803321 Women and knowledge in early Christianity / / Ulla Tervahauta [and **Titolo** three others] Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden:,: Brill,, [2017] ©2017 **ISBN** 90-04-34493-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (x, 379 pages) Collana Supplements to Vigiliae Christianae: texts and studies of early Christian life and language, , 0920-623X ; ; v. 144 270.1082 Disciplina Soggetti Women in Christianity - History - Early church, ca. 30-600 Women in the Bible Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

**Formato** Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia

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## Sommario/riassunto

Women and knowledge are interconnected in several ways in late ancient and early Christian discourses, not least because wisdom (Sophia) and spiritual knowledge (Gnosis) were frequently personified as female entities. Ancient texts deal with idealized women and use feminine imagery to describe the divine but they also debate women's access to and capacity of gaining knowledge. Combining rhetorical analysis with social historical approaches, the contributions in this book cover a wide array of source materials, drawing special attention to the so-called Gnostic texts. The fourteen essays, written by prominent experts of ancient Christianity, are dedicated to Professor Antti Marjanen (University of Helsinki).