

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463668803321
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Titolo	Tradition and the formation of the Talmud // Moulie Vidas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, New Jersey ; ; Oxfordshire, England : , : Princeton University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-4008-5047-9
Edizione	[Core Textbook]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	296.1/25066
Soggetti	Talmud - History Jewish law - Interpretation and construction Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on a thesis (Ph. D) Princeton University, 2009.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- A Note on Style Conventions -- Introduction -- Part I -- Chapter One. The Alterity of Tradition -- Chapter Two. The Division into Layers -- Chapter Three. Composition as Critique -- Part II -- Chapter Four. Scholars, Transmitters, and the Making of Talmud -- Chapter Five. The Debate about Recitation -- Chapter Six. Tradition and Vision -- Conclusion -- Acknowledgments -- Bibliography -- Source Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	Tradition and the Formation of the Talmud offers a new perspective on perhaps the most important religious text of the Jewish tradition. It is widely recognized that the creators of the Talmud innovatively interpreted and changed the older traditions on which they drew. Nevertheless, it has been assumed that the ancient rabbis were committed to maintaining continuity with the past. Moulie Vidas argues on the contrary that structural features of the Talmud were designed to produce a discontinuity with tradition, and that this discontinuity was part and parcel of the rabbis' self-conception. Both this self-conception and these structural features were part of a debate within and beyond the Jewish community about the transmission of tradition. Focusing on the Babylonian Talmud, produced in the rabbinic academies of late ancient Mesopotamia, Vidas analyzes key passages to show how the

Talmud's creators contrasted their own voice with that of their predecessors. He also examines Zoroastrian, Christian, and mystical Jewish sources to reconstruct the debates and wide-ranging conversations that shaped the Talmud's literary and intellectual character.
