

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788584703321
Autore	Wimpfheimer Barry S
Titolo	Narrating the law [[electronic resource] ] : a poetics of talmudic legal stories // Barry Scott Wimpfheimer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-89766-0 0-8122-0594-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (248 p.)
Collana	Divinations : rereading late ancient religion
Disciplina	296.1/2066
Soggetti	Narration in rabbinical literature Aggada - History and criticism Jewish law - History Judaism - History - Talmudic period, 10-425 Talmudic academies - Iraq - Babylonia - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [217]-228) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Privileging legal narrative: resisting code as the image of Jewish law -- Deconstructing halakhah and aggadah -- A touch of the rabbinic real: rabbis and outsiders -- Social dynamics of pedagogy: rabbis and students -- Torah as cultural capital: rabbis and rabbis -- Lengthy Bavli narratives: a new theory of reading.
Sommario/riassunto	In Narrating the Law Barry Scott Wimpfheimer creates a new theoretical framework for considering the relationship between law and narrative and models a new method for studying talmudic law in particular. Works of law, including the Talmud, are animated by a desire to create clear usable precedent. This animating impulse toward clarity is generally absent in narratives, the form of which is better able to capture the subtleties of lived life. Wimpfheimer proposes to make these different forms compatible by constructing a narrative-based law that considers law as one of several "languages," along with politics, ethics, psychology, and others that together compose culture. A narrative-based law is capable of recognizing the limitations of theoretical statutes and the degree to which other cultural languages interact with legal discourse, complicating any attempts to actualize a hypothetical

set of rules. This way of considering law strongly resists the divide in traditional Jewish learning between legal literature (Halakhah) and nonlegal literature (Aggadah) by suggesting the possibility of a discourse broad enough to capture both. Narrating the Law activates this mode of reading by looking at the Talmud's legal stories, a set of texts that sits uncomfortably on the divide between Halakhah and Aggadah. After noticing that such stories invite an expansive definition of law that includes other cultural voices, Narrating the Law also mines the stories for the rich descriptions of rabbinic culture that they encapsulate.

---