

Izaak J. de Hulster

Figurines in Achaemenid Period Yehud

Jerusalem's History of Religion and Coroplastics in the Monotheism Debate

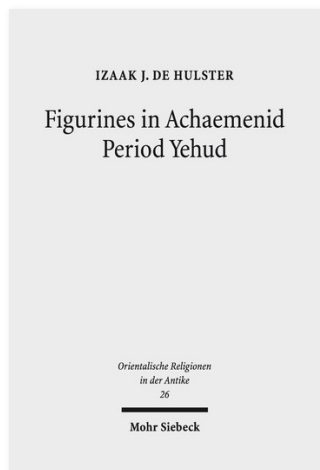
[Figurinen im achämenidischen Jehud. Die Religionsgeschichte Jerusalems und Koroplastik in der Monotheismus-Debatte.]

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Were there figurines in Yehud during the Achaemenid period, and in particular in Jerusalem? A positive answer to this question disproves the general consensus about the absence of figurines in Yehud, which is built on the assumption that the figurines excavated in Judah/Yehud are chronologically indicative for Iron Age II in this area (aside from a few typological exceptions). Ephraim Stern and others have taken this alleged absence of figurines as indicative of Jewish monotheism's rise. Izaak J. de Hulster refutes this 'no figurines → monotheism' paradigm by detailed study of the figurines from Yigal Shiloh's excavation in the 'City of David' (especially their contexts in Stratum 9), providing ample evidence for the presence of figurines in post-587/586 Jerusalem. The author further reflects on the paradigm's premises in archaeology, history, the history of religion, theology, and biblical studies, and particularly in coroplastics (figurine studies).

Izaak J. de Hulster Born 1979; 2008 PhD (Utrecht); since 2014 University Researcher at the Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki; 2017 Habilitation (Göttingen).

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0706-4480>



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