Religion, Ethnicity and Identity in Ancient Galilee

A Region in Transition
Ed. by Jürgen K. Zangenberg, Harold W. Attridge, and Dale B. Martin

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What is a Galilean? What were the criteria of defining a person as a Galilean – archaeologically or with respect to literary sources such as Josephus or the rabbis? What role did religion play in the process of identity formation? Twenty-two articles based on papers read at conferences at Cambridge, Wuppertal and Yale by experts from 7 countries shed light on a complex region, the pivotal geographic and cultural context of both earliest Christianity and rabbinic Judaism. In these papers, ancient Galilee emerges as a dynamic region of continuous change, in which religion, ‘ethnicity’, and ‘identity’ were not static monoliths but had to be negotiated in the context of a multiformal environment subject to different influences.

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info@mohrsiebeck.com
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