

Francesco Cocco

Women in the Wilderness

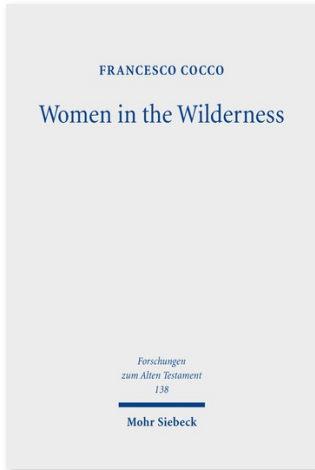
The »Female Legislation« of the Book of Numbers (Num 5,11–31; 27,1–11; 30,2–17)

[Frauen in der Wildnis. »Weibliche Gesetzgebung« im Buch Numeri (Num 5,11–31; 27,1–11; 30,2–17).]

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How were legal issues featuring women treated and resolved in the Book of Numbers? Francesco Cocco studies a trio of texts and finds the prominent place afforded to women quite peculiar and, it seems, at odds with the notions of autonomy, freedom, self-determination, or whatever other synonym can be married conceptually to the idea of women in leading roles. This in-depth investigation goes beyond appearances however to reveal a broader, perhaps even unexpected, understanding of these three literary traditions – traditions which are the product of the skillful amalgamation of narrative and legislative material so characteristic of the Torah in general and the Book of Numbers in particular.

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