

abstract

Seminal Omissions: Giving *Tumtum v'Androginos* Their Due

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This article sets forth a novel reading of the rabbinic category of *tumtum v'androginos*. It offers an alternative to the dominant interpretive framework by positing and historicizing a process through which a single category, *tumtum v'androginos*, becomes “*tumtum*” and “*androginos*.” Central to this historicization is a (re)contextualization of what is increasingly cited as the defining, “seminal,” text about *tumtum* and *androginos* in rabbinic sources: Tosefta Bikkurim 2:3-7. Placing this tradition in its larger rabbinic textual context and situating it among other rabbinic mentions of *tumtum v'androginos* invites us to revisit and reconsider the meanings and functions of *tumtum v'androginos* as a rabbinic categorization as it develops over time. Ultimately, contextualizing t. Bik. 2:3-7 also offers alternative ways of seeing the place of nonbinary gendered bodies in rabbinic sources and provides a fuller understanding of rabbinic constructions of gender within halakhic sources.