

RESIANNE SMIDT VAN GELDER-FONTAINE

# THE FEMALE CONTRIBUTION TO GENERATION IN MEDIEVAL HEBREW TEXTS: THE ISSUE OF FEMALE SEMEN

LECTURE SERIES:  
**FEMINISM &  
SCEPTICISM**

Several medieval Hebrew scientific and medical encyclopedic texts addressed issues related to procreation. Such issues were hotly debated in the Middle Ages since the two main classical authorities on which these texts drew, Aristotle the philosopher and Galen the physician, held quite different views about essential topics in the domain of zoology. One of the topics discussed was the question of what the female contributed to the formation of the embryo and the nature of the so-called female semen. In my lecture, I will examine how some medieval Jewish authors treated these questions.

Resianne Smidt van Gelder-Fontaine has taught at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (1994–2001) and in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of Amsterdam (2001–2019).

APRIL 13, 2021  
18:00–19:30

**MAIMONIDES CENTRE  
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