

CONTENTS

Preface.....	ix
Acknowledgements.....	xiii
Introduction: How Categories Take Shape and Why They Matter.....	1
I. Description, Analysis, Interpretation.....	1
II. The Social Construction of Categories.....	6
III. The Circumstantial Character of Categories and of their Formation	8
IV. How Categories Take Shape: An Inductive Approach.....	11
1. Description: The Category "Judaism".....	13
I The Protestant Origin of "Judaism." Religion as Mainly a Matter of Faith: Conscience versus Culture	13
II Alternative Categories: From "Judaism" to "A Judaism".....	17
III An Exercise in Category-Formation.....	20
2. Analysis: The Category "Midrash".....	25
I. Defining the Category "Midrash".....	26
II. Comparative Midrash.....	28
III. Faulty Category Formation: Geza Vermes.....	33
IV. What Is Wrong with Comparative Midrash Today.....	36
V. Category Formation and Comparative Midrash.....	39
VI. Challenges to the Canonical Theory of Category Formation in Comparative Midrash	43
VII. Canon and Comparison	46
3. Interpretation: The Category "Messianism".....	55
I. <i>The Messianic Idea in Judaism?</i>	55
II. The Messiah in the Synagogue Liturgy.....	60
III. The Messiah in the Targums.....	63
IV. The Rabbinical Context.....	71
V. One Theme, Two Settings.....	75
VI. The Messiah and the Talmuds.....	76
VII. The Rabbi and the Synagogue.....	77
VIII. Conclusion.....	79
4. Systems and Their Contents: Canon as Inductive Category.....	83
I. Category Formation and the Canon. A Preliminary Statement	83
II. Challenges to the Canonical Theory of Category-Formation.....	86
III. Describing a System Whole: The Canonical Principle in Category-Formation	87
IV. Comparing Wholes: The Centrality of Redaction.....	90
V. The Argument of <i>The Integrity of Leviticus Rabbah</i>	91
VI. The Integrity of a Document in the Canon of Judaism.....	96
VII. A Fond Adieu to "Judaism".....	97
VIII. From "Judaism" to <i>Torah</i>	119
Index.....	121