

*Monsters and Monstrosity in Jewish History* is the first study of monstrosity in Jewish history from the Middle Ages to modernity. Drawing on Jewish history, literary studies, folklore, art history and the history of science, it examines both the historical depiction of Jews as monsters and the creative use of monstrous beings in Jewish culture.

Jews have occupied a liminal position within European society and culture, being deeply immersed yet outsiders to it. For this reason, they were perceived in terms of otherness and were often represented as monstrous beings. However, at the same time, European Jews invoked, with tantalizing ubiquity, images of magical, terrifying and hybrid beings in their texts, art and folktales. These images were used by Jewish authors and artists to push back against their own identification as monstrous or diabolical and to tackle concerns about religious persecution, assimilation and acculturation, gender and sexuality, science and technology and the rise of antisemitism.

Bringing together an impressive cast of contributors from around the world, this fascinating volume is an invaluable resource for academics, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates interested in Jewish studies, as well as the history of monsters.

IRIS IDELSON-SHEIN is Gerda Henkel Research Fellow at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She is the author of *Difference of a Different Kind: Jewish Constructions of Race During the Long Eighteenth Century* (2014).

CHRISTIAN WIESE holds the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought and Philosophy at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is the editor, together with Cornelia Wilhelm, of *American Jewry: Transcending the European Experience?* (Bloomsbury, 2016).