

**ESWTR conference 2017**

**Gender and Agency: Moses' Nativity Story and its Transformations in Patristic and Rabbinic Texts**

The biblical account about Moses' birth and childhood shows an interesting structure of relations of power and gender. The Egyptian Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the narrated world is powerless compared to the women in the story. Through their non-violent resistance the midwives, Moses' mother and sister, and Pharaoh's daughter save the life of Moses, the future savior of his people. Patristic and rabbinic texts transform the structures of the biblical text and present power and gender relations according to their own ideas and necessities.