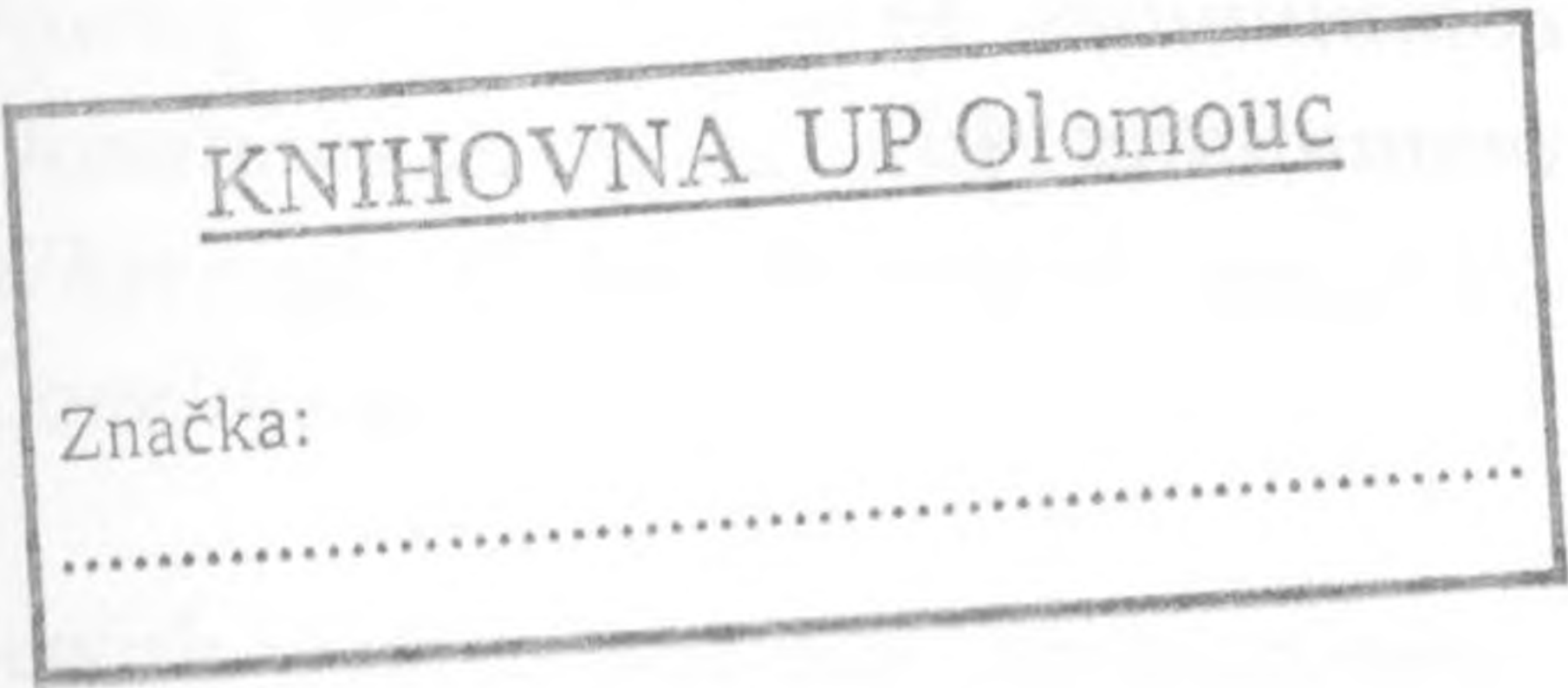


Contents



<i>List of figures</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Chronology</i>	xi
<i>Who's who</i>	xiii

PART I
Introduction

1 Introduction	3
<i>Previous works on medieval Jewish women</i>	4
<i>The limitations of this work</i>	6
<i>Sources for the study of medieval Jewish women</i>	7

PART II
Analysis

2 Jewish life in the medieval world	11
<i>Judaism and the Jewish people: beliefs and practices</i>	12
<i>Jewish life in medieval Christendom</i>	14
<i>Jewish life in the Dar-al-Islam before 1500</i>	18
<i>Conclusion</i>	21
3 Gender roles in medieval Jewish cultures	22
<i>Religious roles and expectations for Jewish men</i>	23
<i>Religious roles and expectations for Jewish women</i>	24
<i>The social and familial role of Jewish men</i>	27
<i>The social and familial role of Jewish women</i>	29
<i>Non-Jewish perceptions of Jewish women</i>	31
<i>Conclusion</i>	34

4	Marriage, divorce, and widowhood	36
	<i>Age at first marriage</i>	37
	<i>Finding a marriage partner</i>	39
	<i>Creating a Jewish marriage</i>	41
	<i>Polygyny in medieval Jewish communities</i>	44
	<i>Divorce in medieval Jewish communities</i>	46
	<i>Widowhood</i>	48
	<i>Conclusion</i>	49
5	Sex and sexuality	50
	<i>Virginity, sex, and adolescence</i>	51
	<i>Sex and marriage</i>	53
	<i>Sex and mysticism</i>	55
	<i>Sex outside marriage</i>	57
	<i>Sex with non-Jews</i>	58
	<i>Queer sex and sexuality</i>	59
	<i>Women's sexual health</i>	60
	<i>Sexual assault</i>	61
	<i>Conclusion</i>	62
6	Family, childbirth, and child-rearing	63
	<i>Family in the medieval Jewish world</i>	64
	<i>Pregnancy and childbirth</i>	65
	<i>Infertility</i>	67
	<i>Rituals of motherhood</i>	68
	<i>Nursing and wetnurses</i>	69
	<i>Child-rearing</i>	71
	<i>Guardianship</i>	73
	<i>Mothers and adult children</i>	74
	<i>Conclusion</i>	75
7	Jewish women's work	76
	<i>Jewish women in credit and long-distance trade</i>	77
	<i>Artisanal production and local trade</i>	80
	<i>Real estate</i>	81
	<i>Medicine and midwives</i>	82
	<i>Prostitution</i>	83
	<i>Domestic labors</i>	84
	<i>Conclusion</i>	87

8 Gender, faith, and worship	88
<i>Prayer and ritual</i>	89
<i>Education and Torah study</i>	91
<i>Menstruation and ritual purity</i>	94
<i>Fasting</i>	95
<i>Donations and pious works</i>	96
<i>Where are the Jewish women mystics?</i>	97
<i>Conclusion</i>	98
 9 Jewish women between communities	 99
<i>Women in Jewish courts</i>	100
<i>Jewish women in non-Jewish courts</i>	101
<i>Responding to massacres</i>	103
<i>Conversion, forced and voluntary</i>	104
<i>Ritual murder, blood libel, and host desecration</i>	
<i>accusations</i>	106
<i>Illness and epidemic</i>	109
<i>Expulsion</i>	110
<i>Conclusion</i>	111
 PART III	
Assessment	113
 10 Conclusion	 115
<i>Directions for further research</i>	115
<i>Change and continuity: Jewish women in the early modern</i>	
<i>world</i>	116
 <i>Documents</i>	 118
<i>Glossary</i>	141
<i>Guide to further reading</i>	150
<i>Bibliography</i>	159
<i>Index</i>	166