## Contents

Acknowledgments List of Abbreviations		page ix	
		xi	
	Introduction	I	
I	The Talmud's Genre among Imperial Period/Late Antique		
	Genres	16	
	The Trouble with Genre	17	
	The Commentary in Late Antiquity	23	
	The Encyclopedia and the Miscellany in the Imperial Period		
	and Late Antiquity	30	
	The Talmud: A Rare Case of a Commentary on an Encyclopedia?	37	
	The Talmud: A Symposiac Commentary?	43	
	Conclusion	53	
2	Late Antique Data Management	56	
	The Perennial Appeal of Orality	56	
	Arguing with Yaakov Elman	62	
	Looking Over and Beyond Pliny's Shoulder: Data Management		
	in the Imperial Period and Late Antiquity	75	
	The Ubiquity of Excerpting and Reassembling: Writing Material		
	in Late Antiquity	83	
	Conclusion	91	
3	Manufacturing the Talmud	94	
	Essential Building Blocks of the Talmudic Commentary:		
	Lemmas, Keywords, and Excerpts	95	
	The Influence of the Palestinian Talmud on the Keywords	IOI	
	The Rhetorical Structure of the Talmudic Commentaries	104	
	The Commentary in b. Sanhedrin 67b	III	
	The Commentary in b. Shabbat 30a–31b	116	
	Some Reflections on the Date and Relationship of the Two Talmud		
	Conclusion	131	

viii Contents

4	The Making of the Talmudic Narrative	I33
	The Late Antique Story and Progymnasmatic Training	134
	The Larger Impact of the <i>Progymnasmata</i>	142
	The Talmudic Story	148
	The Case Example: Solomon, Ashmedai, and the	
	Building of the Temple	150
	Creating a Plausible Character	156
	Finding the Template	161
	Summary and Repetition: Potential and Limits of	
	Talmudic Stories	166
	Conclusion	173
5	Medical Recipes and the Composition of the Talmud	177
,	The List of Recipes in Tractate Gittin in Prior Scholarship	178
	Differently Structured Talmudic Recipes in the Hands of the	,
	Composers	180
	Pause- and Verb-Recipe Treatises and Their Literary Context	186
	Reassembling and Placing a Medical Treatise Used by the	
	Composers of the Talmud	192
	Crossing Genres and Expanding the Classifiable	198
	Conclusion	208
	Consolidation and Further Research Paths	210
Αħ	pendix: The Talmud's Aramaic Treatise of Simple Remedies	219
-1	Prolegomena	219
	The Treatise	221
Bibliography		237
Ancient Source Index		265
General Index		271
General Index		