## Table of Contents

### List of Contents

Chapter 1. *Gender* and Taxonomies ................................................................. 1  
1.1 Texts ........................................................................................................... 2  
1.2 Methodologies ........................................................................................... 8  
1.3 Classification ............................................................................................... 12  
1.3.1 Binary Oppositions and Deconstruction ............................................ 12  
1.3.2 Binary Oppositions and Taxonomic Logic ........................................ 16  
1.4 Taxonomies of *Gender* .............................................................................. 17  
1.4.1 Ben Sira’s *Taxonomy of Pairs* and *Affinity-Schema* .................... 18  
1.4.2 A Greek Taxonomy of *Gender* .......................................................... 22  
1.5 Parameters for *Gender* ............................................................................ 32  

Chapter 2. *Gender* and Impersonal Speech ....................................................... 35  
2.1 Ben Sira’s Colonial Status .......................................................................... 36  
2.1.1 Hellenistic Colonialism ....................................................................... 37  
2.1.2 Language and Resistance .................................................................... 39  
2.2 The Production of “Impersonal Speech” ................................................... 42  
2.2.1 Greek Genres Available to Ben Sira .................................................... 43  
2.2.2 Schematic Figures in the Book of Ben Sira ......................................... 47  
2.2.3 Proverbial Statements ........................................................................... 53  
2.3 Colonial Contexts for Some Gender-Incidental Passages ....................... 60  
2.3.1 Speech and Shame in Ben Sira’s Colonial Context ......................... 61  
2.3.2 “Praise of the Fathers”: Genre in a Colonial Context ....................... 69  
2.4 Genre in a Gender-Focal Passage: BBS 25:13–26:3 ................................. 73  

Chapter 3. Divine Female(s) .............................................................................. 79  
3.1 Wisdom ....................................................................................................... 79  
3.1.1 Wisdom and God ............................................................................... 94  
3.1.2 Personified-Wisdom in Later Texts .................................................. 96  
3.2 Why Is the “Strange Woman” Not in the Book of Ben Sira? ............... 99  
3.2.1 Schematic Human Figures in Proverbs .......................................... 99  
3.2.2 Non-Human Figures in Proverbs ..................................................... 102  

Chapter 4. Human Females .............................................................................. 105  
4.1 Male/Female Pairs ...................................................................................... 106
## Table of Contents

4.1.1 “Father” and “Mother”; “Son” and “Daughter” ....................... 106
4.1.2 “Friend (Male)” and “Wife” ..................................................... 111
4.2 Passages concerning the “Intelligent Wife” ....................................... 116
   4.2.1 First Set of Paired Poetic Units ................................................ 119
   4.2.2 Second Set of Paired Poetic Units ............................................. 127
4.3 Interlude for Wordplay ...................................................................... 129
4.4 Two Poems in One Gender-Focal Passage: BBS 42:9–14 ................. 134
   4.4.1 Archaeology, Anthropology, and Texts ................................... 142
   4.4.2 Reading a Text Together With External Evidence .................. 146

Chapter 5. Human Female, Biblical Females ........................................ 153
5.1 Citation by Allusion: Genesis 1–4 in BBS ........................................ 153
5.2 Eve and the “Woman” in BBS 25:24 ................................................. 158
5.3 The “Intelligent Wife” and Eve .......................................................... 163
   5.3.1 Third Set of Paired Poetic Units, Part 1: Female ...................... 164
   5.3.2 Third Set of Paired Poetic Units, Part 2: Male ......................... 166
5.4 The “Intelligent Wife” and Wisdom—and Eve ................................. 169
5.5 (Potentially) Erotic Passages in the Book of Ben Sira ...................... 172
   5.5.1 Erotic Images for Wisdom .......................................................... 173
   5.5.2 Erotic Images for the “Intelligent Wife” .................................. 175
   5.5.3 Wisdom, the Sage, and the “Intelligent Wife” ......................... 178
5.6 The Book of Ben Sira and the Song of Songs ..................................... 182

Chapter 6. The Discourse of Gender in the Book of Ben Sira ............... 187
6.1 Relational-Gender Passages .............................................................. 188
6.3 Gender in the Book of Ben Sira .......................................................... 193

Appendix: Lexical Studies and Annotated Translations ....................... 197
A.1 Lexical Studies .................................................................................. 197
   A.1.1 טוב and רע: Good and Bad/Evil in the Book of Ben Sira ........... 197
   A.1.2 Eve and the Vocabulary of BBS 25:24 ....................................... 200
   A.1.3 Miscellaneous Lexical Studies .................................................. 205
A.2 Fully-Annotated Translations, Passages from the Book of Ben Sira... 216
   A.2.1 Fully-Annotated Chart for Chapter 1 ...................................... 216
   A.2.2 Fully-Annotated Charts for Chapter 2 .................................... 217
   A.2.3 Fully-Annotated Charts for Chapter 3 .................................... 223
   A.2.4 Fully-Annotated Charts for Chapter 4 .................................... 231
   A.2.5 Conjectural Translation of BBS 42:14 .................................... 246
   A.2.6 Fully-Annotated Charts for Chapter 5 .................................... 246

Select Bibliography .................................................................................. 253

Index of Modern Authors ........................................................................ 273
Index of Ancient Sources (and the chart “Translated verses from BBS”)....277
Index of Subjects........................................................................................................285

List of Charts

Chapter 1. Gender and Taxonomies
Vocabulary key for the Book of Ben Sira ..........................................................6
Chart 1-1: Bicola sequences in poetic units of BBS/Sirach.................................8
Chart 1-3a: Ranking of figures from BBS, religion-primary taxonomy..........20
Chart 1-3b: Ranking of figures from BBS, gender-primary taxonomy ..........21
Chart 1-4a: Embryology in the Book of Ben Sira ..........................................27
Chart 1-4b: Embryology in b. Niddah 31A ..........................................................27
Chart 1-5a: The binary male/female in two gender-related taxonomies.....30
Chart 1-5b: Semantic warping in the Greek taxonomy .................................31

Chapter 2. Gender and Impersonal Speech
Chart 2-1: “The oppressed-man’s cry for help” BBS 35:21–26 .....................41
Chart 2-2: The Sage’s Two Identities .............................................................48
Chart 2-3: Schematic figures of BBS/Sirach ..................................................50
Chart 2-4: Passages about the Wrong Wife and the Fool .........................52
Chart 2-5: Proverb-tokens vs. the classic model of the proverb ...............59
Chart 2-6: Speech and mutual respect in BBS ...........................................62
Chart 2-7: “My son, in a time of tumult” BBS 4:20–28 ..............................64
Chart 2-8: “Listen, children …” BBS 41:15c–42:1d ....................................66
Chart 2-9: “However, for these matters …” BBS 42:1e–8 .........................67
Chart 2-10: BBS 44:1–6 from “Praise of the Fathers” ..................71
Chart 2-11: “Any wound, not like a heart’s wound” BBS/Sir 25:13–26:3 ....74

Chapter 3. Divine Female(s)
Chart 3-1: “Wisdom has taught her sons” BBS 4:11–19 ................................80
Chart 3-2: “... you will reach Wisdom” BBS 6:18–31 .................................82
Chart 3-3: Wisdom, the high-priest, and the sage: Who has what? ..........83
Chart 3-4: “Happy the person …” BBS 14:20–15:8 ..................................87
Chart 3-5: “I was a young man …” BBS 51:13–30 .....................................90
Chart 3-6: Verses that associate Wisdom with God ..................................94
Chart 3-7: Schematic “Fool” verses in Proverbs 26:1–12 .........................100
Chart 3-8: Wrong Wife in BBS/Sirach and Contentious Wife in Proverbs.. 101
Chart 3-9: The Foolish Woman in Proverbs 9:10–18 ..............................103

Chapter 4. Human Females
Chart 4-1: “… honors his mother” Sir 3:1–6, BBS 3:6b–16 .........................107
Table of Contents

Chart 4-2: Sons and daughters in BBS/Sir 7:23–25 ............................................. 109
Chart 4-3: “Do not give him rulership in his youth” BBS 30:11–13 ................. 110
Chart 4-4: “Do not yearn for… worthless youths” BBS 16:1–4 .................... 111
Chart 4-5: “Son and wife, friend and companion” BBS 33:20–30 .................. 112
Chart 4-6: Some equivalent comments for females and males in BBS ........ 113
Chart 4-7: The “intelligent wife” ..................................................................... 116
Chart 4-8: “Do not exchange a friend for a price” BBS 7:18–26 .................... 118
Chart 4-9: “Do not make jealous the wife of your bosom” BBS 9:1–9 ............ 120
Chart 4-10: “Do not reject an old friend” BBS 9:10–16 ................................. 121
Chart 4-11: Comparison of BBS 9:1–9 and BBS 9:10–16 ............................ 123
Chart 4-12a: Differences between adultery-passages, BBS and Proverbs.... 125
Chart 4-12b: Similarities of adultery-passages in BBS and Proverbs .......... 126
Chart 4-13: “A person who transgresses against his bed” Sir 23:16–27 .......... 128
Chart 4-14: Double translation of a poetic fragment BBS 38:24–25c.......... 132
Chart 4-15a: “Do not bring every man to a house” BBS 11:29–31 .............. 135
Chart 4-15b: “Let me declare Your name” BBS 51:1–2 .............................. 135
Chart 4-16: “A daughter is a deceptive treasure …” BBS 42:9–14 .............. 138

Chapter 5. Human Female, Biblical Females
Chart 5-1: “Do not say ‘my transgression …’” BBS 15:11–20 ....................... 154
Chart 5-2: “The Lord created a human being …” Sir 17:1–8 ........................ 155
Chart 5-3: “Each creature loves its kind” BBS 13:14–20 .............................. 157
Chart 5-4a: Parallel elements in the stories of Eve and Pandora .......... 160
Chart 5-4b: Opposed elements in the stories of Eve and Pandora .......... 161
Chart 5-5: Hebrew and Greek versions of BBS/Sir 26:1–3 .......................... 162
Chart 5-6: “Any food the throat eats” BBS 36:18–26 ................................. 164
Chart 5-7: “The source of every deed …” BBS 37:16–26 ............................ 167
Chart 5-8: BBS 36:18–26 and BBS 37:16–26 .............................................. 168
Chart 5-10: Erotic passages about Wisdom .............................................. 173
Chart 5-11: “Grace of a wife pleases her husband” BBS 26:13–17 ............ 176
Chart 5-12: Erotic passages about the “intelligent wife” ............................ 178
Chart 5-13: Similar verses for … Wisdom and the “intelligent wife” .... 179
Chart 5-14: The Book of Ben Sira and the Song of Songs .......................... 183

Chapter 6. The Discourse of Gender in the Book of Ben Sira
Chart 6-1: Gender-focal passages in the Book of Ben Sira .......................... 188
Chart 6-2: Identical vocabulary for females and males in BBS ................. 192

Appendix
AppLex-1: Greek words in BBS/Sirach related to “evil” ............................... 198
AppLex-2: “Bad” or “good” + “wife/woman” in BBS and Sirach ............... 199
AppLex-3: Translations of טוב (toḇ) and ח ylim (q̱ ḻ y̱ m) from BBS and Genesis 200
AppLex-4: All extant instances of נַעַת in BBS .......................................... 204
List of Charts

AppLex-5: Instances of the word ראשי in the Book of Ben Sira ..................... 205
AppLex-6: Words related to fool (כסיל) in the Book of Ben Sira ..................... 207
AppLex-7: Spoken vs. written contexts, proverb-related words in BBS ............. 208
AppLex-8: Ben Sira’s writing activities: The roots כותב and ספר .................... 209
AppLex-9: Concepts linked with honor in the Book of Ben Sira ..................... 210
AppLex-10: Words for slander in BBS and Sirach .................................... 211
AppLex-11: Gendered use of roots קנה, קנן, and קנא ............................... 212
AppLex-12: The name שםון ........................................................................ 213
AppLex-14: Modifiers for אשה in the Book of Ben Sira ............................. 215
Chart A2-1: “The oppressed-man’s cry for help” BBS 35:21–26 .................. 217
Chart A2-7: “My son, in a time of tumult” BBS 4:20–28 ......................... 218
Chart A2-8: “Listen, children …” BBS 41:15c–42:1d ................................. 219
Chart A2-9: “However, for these matters …” BBS 42:1e–8 ................................ 220
Chart A2-10: BBS 44:1–6, from “Praise of the Fathers” ............................ 221
Chart A2-11: “Any wound, not like a heart’s wound” BBS 25:13–26:3 .... 222
Chart A3-1: “Wisdom has taught her sons” BBS 4:11–19 ......................... 223
Chart A3-2: “…you will reach Wisdom” BBS 6:18–31 .............................. 224
Chart A3-4: “Happy the person …”BBS 14:20–15:8 .................................. 225
Chart A3-5: “I was a young man …” BBS 51:13–30 ................................. 227
Chart A4-1: “… honors his mother” Sirach 3:1–6, BBS 3:6b–16 .................. 231
Chart A4-3: “Do not give him rulership in his youth” BBS 30:11–13 ........ 232
Chart A4-4: “Do not yearn for… worthless youths” BBS 16:1–4 .................. 234
Chart A4-5: “Son and wife, friend and companion” BBS 33:20–30 ........ 235
Chart A4-8: “Do not exchange a friend for a price” BBS 7:18–26 ............ 236
Chart A4-9: “Do not make jealous…” BBS 9:1–9 ..................................... 237
Chart A4-10: “Do not reject an old friend” BBS 9:10–16 .......................... 239
Chart A4-14: Double translation, poetic fragment BBS 38:24–27 .............. 240
Chart A4-15a: “Do not bring every man to a house” BBS 11:29–31 .......... 241
Chart A4-15b: “Let me declare Your name” BBS 51:1–2 .......................... 241
Chart A4-16: “A daughter is a deceptive treasure …” BBS 42:9–14 ........... 242
Chart A5-1: “Do not say ‘my transgression …’” BBS 15:11–20 .................. 247
Chart A5-6: “Any food the throat eats” BBS 36:18–26 ............................ 248
Chart A5-7: “The source of every deed …” BBS 37:16–26 .......................... 250
Chart A5-11: “Grace of a wife pleases her husband” BBS 26:13–17 ........... 252