

Conversion, Intermarriage, and Jewish Identity

EDITED BY

Adam Mintz and Marc D. Stern

Robert S. Hirt, Series Editor

THE MICHAEL SCHARF PUBLICATION TRUST
OF THE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY PRESS
NEW YORK



KTAV PUBLISHING
URIM PUBLICATIONS

Contents

Contributors	ix
Series Editor's Preface	xiii
Editors' Introduction	xv
<i>Adam Mintz and Marc D. Stern</i>	

PART I: Inter marriage

1. Inter marriage in the Early Modern Period	3
<i>Judith Bleich</i>	
2. Diagnosing Challenges to Contemporary Modern Orthodox Families	47
<i>Sylvia Barack Fishman</i>	
3. Inter marriage and Jewish Communal Policy: Challenges to Orthodoxy	65
<i>Steven Bayme</i>	

PART II: Conversion in the State of Israel

4. From "Who Is a Jew" to "Who Should Be a Jew": The Current Debates on <i>Giyur</i> in Israel	109
<i>Arye Edrei</i>	
5. <i>Giyur</i> in the Context of National Identity	151
<i>Chaim I. Waxman</i>	

PART III : History of Geirut

6. Conversion to Judaism in Tannaitic Halakhah	189
<i>Lawrence H. Schiffman</i>	
7. Approaches to Conversion in Medieval European Rabbinic Literature: From Ashkenaz to Sefarad	217
<i>Ephraim Kanarfogel</i>	

PART IV: Current Contemporary Halakhic Approaches to Geirut

8. Modern-day Ashkenazi Psak regarding the Nullification of Conversion	261
<i>Yosef Zvi Rimon</i>	

9. Sephardic Approaches to Conversion	293
<i>Richard Hidary</i>	
10. Geirus Procedures and Standards Network	329
<i>Yosef Blau</i>	
Appendix A	335
Appendix B	345
11. The Contemporary Rabbinat and Conversion	347
<i>Benjamin J. Samuels</i>	
PART V: The Theological Foundations of Jewish Identity	
12. "If You Were A Human Being" A Thought Experiment	385
<i>Shalom Carmy</i>	
PART VI: Orthodox Responses to New Paradigms of Jewishness	
13. American Orthodox Responses to Inter-marriage	409
<i>Jonathan D. Sarna</i>	
14. The Jewish People – A Yawning Definitional Gap	427
<i>Marc D. Stern</i>	
15. Actually Jewish: How Young American Jews See Their Status and How Orthodox Rabbis Respond	453
<i>Yehuda Sarna</i>	
List of Participants	479
Index	483