

## Headscarf and Veiling

Glimpses from Sumer to Islam

edited by Roswitha Del Fabbro, Frederick Mario Fales, Hannes D. Galter

# Foreword

Wolfgang Spickermann

Universität Graz, Österreich

The International Conference *Il velo femminile dall'Antico Oriente all'Islam / Kopftuch und Schleier vom Alten Orient bis zum Islam* was the last conference in this year 2020 dominated by COVID-19 that the Department of Ancient History and Classical Studies of the Institute of Classics at the University of Graz was able to hold in presence shortly before the final shutdown in spring. Under this good omen, the printed proceedings of the conference are now available, for which I would like to thank the editors. With its wide range of topics, it documents not only the international cooperation of our department with the A.C.CulturArti in Udine and the Urania in Graz over several years, but also an interdisciplinary cooperation of various disciplines in the humanities, which find their institutional basis in the Graz doctoral programme *Ancient Cultures of the Mediterranean* and above all in the International Graduate School *Resonant Self-World Relations in Ancient and Modern Socio-Religious Practices* of the University of Graz and the Max Weber Centre in Erfurt. Several members of these two associations were involved in this conference.

Only interdisciplinarity and the cooperation of diverse scholarships make it possible to deal with complex topics in a comprehensive way, because they allow for different perspectives and methodological approaches. So, in modern times the headscarf is a nearly worldwide symbol for a specific religious and political position and a central point of many public and private discussions, which makes it a very good topic for an interdisciplinary debate of international experts of different professions. Furthermore, the historical perspective is a perfect instrument to get back to the facts and to shed light on the temporal and spatial dimensions of this important theme.

With its wide range of subjects, the present volume is therefore a convincing example for discussing important themes of the political, religious and cultural debate of our days, like the 'most debated garment', always with the awareness of historical change.