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**Representing the Unrepresentable:
Exploring the Intersection of Gender and Trauma in Biblical and Contemporary
Trauma Narratives**

During my time at the The Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies, HU, I will be working on a monograph that seeks to explore the intersection of gender and trauma in biblical and contemporary trauma narratives. This monograph will draw upon some of the interesting developments in the field of contemporary literary theory that specifically address the gendering of trauma and the way it is represented in contemporary trauma narratives. These insights will be brought into conversation with some of the ongoing conversations in feminist, postcolonial and queer interpretation that have been exploring important themes such as a focus on the body, ongoing forms of injustice due to systemic forms of violence and the abuse of power. Trauma hermeneutics is particularly well suited to explore the representation of gender in the Hebrew Bible given the fact that in many biblical texts female bodies throughout the canon can be said to be bodies in pain.

In addition, a central feature of *Representing the Unrepresentable* is that it will bring the trauma narratives from the Hebrew Bible into conversation with contemporary trauma narratives. Such a transdisciplinary engagement is valuable given the way in which theoretical perspectives from contemporary trauma literature may help to unlock new insights in biblical narrative. Moreover, the intersection of trauma and gender in contemporary trauma narratives also may serve the function of filling in the gaps in biblical trauma narratives, specifically when it comes to women's experience that typically is overlooked in the male-authored literature that constitutes the biblical tradition. Finally, trauma narratives in the form of novels have the benefit of offering an effective entry point for contemporary readers less familiar, or perhaps even apprehensive towards biblical texts. Conversely, to read contemporary trauma narratives alongside biblical trauma narratives may also expand contemporary readers' vision, perhaps introducing them to interesting novels that yield fresh insights into often painful topics. Thus, to read biblical trauma narratives together with some contemporary examples of trauma narratives constitutes a creative encounter that may draw readers in, so creating the space for moral reflection.