

Netanel Dagan and David Sabato
**The Duality of the Offender's Confession in Jewish
Penal Law: Between Divine and Human Law**

The article aims to enlighten the duality of those sentenced to capital punishment in Jewish law. The article offers three contributions. First, it discusses the implementation of the law's violence in Jewish law. Second, it explores the complexity and the meaning of confession in Jewish law. Third, it discusses the relations between nomos and narrative in Jewish law. The article shows that the offender's confession has a redemptive function which serves the offender by preparing him for the next world as part of an inclusive process. At the same time, it serves the court by reinforcing its legal and normative legitimacy. This duality exposes continuity and change from the biblical model of confession learned from the Achan story in the book of Joshua. The Jewish legal reading exposes the complexity and tensions that using the offender's confession may raise for the legitimacy of the penal process. The article concludes with possible theoretical and policy implications for modern penal law regarding the relations between the stages of sentencing and implementation of the punishment.