

Jewish Philosophy: Past Approaches, New Directions

McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) and King's University College (London, Ontario), April 20–22, 2009

A Conference under the Auspices of the Canada Research Chair in Modern Jewish Thought, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University; in Collaboration with the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, King's University College at the University of Western Ontario; and with Additional Funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Co-Conveners: Dana Hollander (McMaster University), Aaron W. Hughes (University of Calgary/SUNY Buffalo), Antonio Calcagno (King's University College)

Participants:

Myriam Bienenstock, Université François-Rabelais, Tours
Kalman P. Bland, Duke University
Richard A. Cohen, SUNY Buffalo
James A. Diamond, University of Waterloo
Sergei Dolgopolski, University of Kansas
Paul Franks, University of Toronto
Robert Gibbs, University of Toronto
Willi Goetschel, University of Toronto

Gyongyi Hegedus, King's University College
Aaron W. Hughes, University of Calgary/SUNY Buffalo
Martin Kavka, Florida State University
Nancy Levene, Indiana University
Benjamin Pollock, Michigan State University
Norbert Waszek, University of Paris VIII
Michael Zank, Boston University

Rationale: We convene this conference as a way to rethink some of the questions and assumptions that traditionally define the study of Jewish philosophy. Whereas the tendency has been to make the study of Jewish philosophy a part of history (be it intellectual history or the history of ideas)—to show the intellectual contexts that inspired Jews to philosophize and to focus primarily on influences and anticipations—we seek to develop and build upon new conceptual models, modes of analysis, and theoretical paradigms that can be applied to the philosophical and literary study of Jewish Philosophy.

SCHEDULE

Monday, April 20 – Deloitte Colloquium Room (Hamilton Hall 217), McMaster University

5:30 p.m. Keynote Lecture
Aaron W. Hughes, chair

Kalman P. Bland, “Liberating Imagination and Other Ends of Jewish Philosophy”

Tuesday, April 21 – Council Chambers (Gilmour Hall 111), McMaster University

10 a.m.–12 noon
Kalman P. Bland, chair

Sergey Dolgopolski, “Who Thinks in the Talmud?”

James A. Diamond, “Maimonides’ Interweave of Verse and Text: Philosophy as Midrash”

Paul Franks, Response

12:30 -1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

2-4 p.m.

Norbert Waszek, chair

Nancy Levene, "Body, Mind, Blood: Philosophical Variations on the Jewish Question"

Myriam Bienenstock, "The Historian: A 'Backward-Looking Prophet'"

Aaron W. Hughes, Response

Wednesday, April 22 (King's University College - Dante Lenardon Hall 112)

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

James A. Diamond, chair

Michael Zank, "The Heteronomy of Jewish Philosophy"

Martin Kavka, "The Place of Verification in Modern Jewish Philosophy"

Richard A. Cohen, Response

1-2 p.m. Lunch Break

2:30-4:30 p.m. Roundtable: Kalman P. Bland, Robert Gibbs, Willi Goetschel, Gyongyi Hegedus, Benjamin Pollock