

SOCIALITY IN MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND GERMAN IDEALISM

June 6—June 9, 2021

A conference organized by Shira Billet & Paul Franks



The year 2021 stands at the midpoint of several centenary years of groundbreaking works of modern Jewish philosophy that marked the moment when the intersubjective relationship between the self and the other and its parallel divine-human relationship, arguably the centerpiece of twentieth-century Jewish philosophy, first emerged in that field, with Cohen's *Religion of Reason out of the Sources of Judaism* (1919), Rosenzweig's *The Star of Redemption* (1921), and Buber's *I and Thou* (1923). The year 2021 is an ideal moment to reexamine that tradition, and to consider its debt to and critique of philosophical uses of sociality in the German Idealist tradition. The conference aims both to expand the canon of modern Jewish philosophy and to expand the discussion of sociality in both modern Jewish philosophy and German Idealism beyond the dominance of the intersubjective dyad.

Sunday, June 6

10:00AM

Introduction to Conference

Paul Franks (Yale)

Comment on Moritz Daniel Oppenheim's "Die Heimkehr des Freiwilligen"

(conference image)

Shira Billet (Yale)

Welcoming Remarks

Maurice Samuels (Yale)

10:25AM—KEYNOTE

Chair: *Samuel Moyn (Yale)*

KEYNOTE LECTURE:

Michael L. Morgan (Indiana)

"The Second-Person and Twentieth Century Jewish Philosophy: Between Continental and Analytic Philosophy."

Response: *Vivian Liska (Antwerp)*

12:00PM—BREAK

12:30PM

Introductions

1:00PM—3:00PM

Panel #1: Beyond the Western European Canon

Chair: *Marci Shore (Yale)*

"The Forgotten Branch: Jewish Philosophy and German Idealism in Eastern Europe"

Isaac Slater (Hamburg)

"God Appears as an Adjective, Not a Noun: Nachman Krochmal, German Idealism, and the Jewish Body Politic"

Elias R. Sacks (Colorado-Boulder)

"Between Nietzsche and R. Kook: A Self-affirming Theory of Divine-human Relationship"

Ghila Amati (Oxford)

Monday, June 7

10:20AM

Introductory Remarks

10:30AM—12:00PM

Panel #2: Ethics and Human Sociality in Mendelssohn

Chair: *David Sorkin (Yale)*

"Transcending Intersubjectivity: Mendelssohn's Non-reciprocal view of Human Sociality"

Yuval Kreminitzer (Hebrew)

"A Dead Weight on the Intellect's Wings': Deontology and Virtue in Mendelssohn, and Contemporary Moral Challenges"

Sarah Zager (Yale)

12:05PM—1:35PM

Panel #3: Sociality in Hermann Cohen

Chair: *Jordan Katz (Yale)*

"To Think the Other as You: the Rationalistic Notion of Dialogue and Sociality in Hermann Cohen's Ethics of Pure Will"

Roy Amir (Potsdam)

"An Academic Center of One's Own: Identity Formation and Minority Culture in Hermann Cohen and Ibrahim Kendi"

Mark Kaplowitz (Christian Brothers)

1:35PM—BREAK

2:00PM—3:30PM

Panel #4: Sociality in Theology & Politics in Rosenzweig

Chair: *Karin Nisenbaum (Boston)*

"Subjectivity as Intersubjectivity and Human Love as Divine Love: Franz Rosenzweig's The Star of Redemption and the Post-Kantian Theological Return to Luther"

Daniel M. Herskowitz (Wolfson, Oxford)

"The Neo-Kantian dimension of Jewish Theocracy"

Itamar Ben-Ami (Hebrew)

Tuesday, June 8

10:00AM

Reflections & Discussion

Molly Farneth (Haverford)

Alex Ozar (Yale)

10:40AM—KEYNOTE

Chair: *Hugo Havranek (Yale)*

KEYNOTE LECTURE:

Michelle Kosch (Johns Hopkins)

"Recognition after Fichte"

Response: *Frederick C. Beiser (Syracuse)*

12:05PM—BREAK

12:30PM—2:00PM

Panel #5: Conversation and Communicability in Rosenzweig

Chair: *Nancy Levene (Yale)*

"The Conversation of Humanity': Rosenzweig on the Secret(s) of Biblical Narrative"

Benjamin Pollock (Hebrew)

"Not good enough. Communicability, Intersubjectivity and Art in Hegel and Rosenzweig"

Antonios Kalatzis (Humbolt)

2:00PM—3:30PM

Panel #6: Beyond Human Sociality: Anti-Sociality, and Sociality Outside the Human Realm

Chair: *Eliyahu Stern (Yale)*

"Sociality as opposed to what? Rosenzweig and Anti-/Sociality"

Larisa Reznik (Pomona)

"Dialogue without words, sociality without humans: Martin Buber talks to things"

Dustin Atlas (Queen's)

Wednesday, June 9

10:15AM

Introductory Remarks

10:20AM—11:50AM

Panel #7: New Dimensions of Sociality in Buber

Chair: *Shira Billet (Yale)*

"A Religious Sensibility: Neo-Kantianism in Buber's Interpretation of Judaism"

William Plevan (Gratz)

"The 'Exemplary It': A New Understanding of Sociality in I and Thou"

Evyatar Varman (Hebrew)

11:55AM—1:25PM

Panel #8: Sociality and Critical Theory

Chair: *Paul North (Yale)*

"Challenging the Sociality of Reason: An Encounter between the New Jewish Hegel and Adorno's Negative Dialectics"

Randi L. Rashkover (William & Mary)

"Productive Exchange: Re-Integrating the Sociality of Money into the Narrative of Modern Jewish Thought"

Samuel Hayim Brody (Kansas)

1:25PM—BREAK

1:50PM

Reflections & Discussion

Yonatan Y. Brafman (Tufts)

3:00PM

Farewell!

This Conference is free and open to the public

Registration is required

<https://yale.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluc-qprzgpEtau3fbcmyZyeVypsKSIKny1>

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