


LECTURE SERIES WINTER TERM 2016/17


**SCEPTICISM AND
 ANTI-SCEPTICISM IN
 MEDIEVAL JEWISH
 PHILOSOPHY AND
 THOUGHT**

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**TUESDAYS 18:15–19:45 AT THE
 MAIMONIDES CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
 SCHLUETERSTRASSE 51 – ROOM 5060**

PROGRAMME

- 29.11.16: **ON THE ROLE OF CERTAIN AND NEAR-CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE IN MAIMONIDES' RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY**
 Charles Manekin (University of Maryland, College Park/USA)
- 06.12.16: **JEWISH AVERROISTS AGAINST KABBALAH: EXAMPLES OF SCEPTICAL STRATEGIES AND ARGUMENTATION**
 Bill Rebigier (Universität Hamburg)
- 13.12.16: **HASDAI CRESCAS' SCEPTICAL CRITIQUE OF MAIMONIDES**
 Warren Zev Harvey (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Israel)
- 20.12.16: **THE SEX LIFE OF A METAPHYSICAL SCEPTIC: PLATONIC THEMES IN GERSONIDES' COMMENTARY ON SONG OF SONGS**
 Yehuda Halper (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Israel)
- 10.01.17: **BETWEEN PHILOSOPHIC OPTIMISM AND FIDEISTIC SCEPTICISM: AN OVERVIEW OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY**
 Howard Kreisel (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva/Israel)
- 17.01.17: **HALAKHIC DOGMATISM, AGGADIC SCEPTICISM: A DUALITY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHICAL EXEGESIS**
 David Lemler (Université de Strasbourg/France)
- 24.01.17: **DOES MAIMONIDES' THEORY OF PARABLES IN THE GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED SUPPORT A SCEPTICAL READING OF THE WORK?**
 Lawrence J. Kaplan (McGill University, Montreal/Canada)
- 31.01.17: **THE PASSION FOR METAPHYSICS IN MAIMONIDES' THOUGHT: A STUDY OF THE GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED 1:31-35**
 Dov Schwartz (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Israel)
- 07.02.17: **SCEPTICISM AT THE SERVICE OF REVELATION: LOGIC AND EPISTEMOLOGY IN JUDAH HALEVI'S KUZARI**
 Ariel Malachi (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Israel)
- 14.02.17: **ANTI-SCEPTICISM WITHIN THE JEWISH AVERROIST SCHOOL**
 Racheli Haliva (Universität Hamburg)

The tension between reason and revelation has for centuries occupied Jewish philosophers who were committed, on the one hand, to defending Judaism, and, on the other hand, to remaining loyal to philosophical principles.

Maimonides is considered the most prominent Jewish religious philosopher, whose aim was to reconcile philosophy, in particular Aristotelian philosophy, with the fundamental principles of Judaism. But many other Jewish thinkers, before and after him, also struggled with this task, raising the question whether it is possible to attain this reconciliation.

The connection between philosophy and religion was often not an obvious one. As a consequence, it could serve in some cases as grounds for supporting Maimonides' project, while in others it could lead to rejection.

The lecture series "Scepticism and Anti-Scepticism in Medieval Jewish Thought" focuses on sceptical questions, methods, strategies, and approaches raised by Jewish thinkers in the Middle Ages. In the series of lectures, we wish to examine the variety of attitudes presented by these thinkers, and the latest readings of contemporary scholars concerning those attitudes.

**MAIMONIDES CENTRE
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