



Universität Hamburg

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ספקנות

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies
JEWISH SCEPTICISM

TSIPPI KAUFFMAN

HASSIDISM AND GENDER: SHADES OF SCEPTICISM

LECTURE SERIES:
**FEMINISM &
SCEPTICISM**

Tsippi Kauffman is a faculty member of the Department of Jewish Thought at Bar-Ilan University, specialising in Hassidism and Kabbalah. She is the author of *In All Your Ways Know Him: The Concept of God and Avodah be-Gashmiyut in the Early Stages of Hassidism* (Hebrew).



Did the Hassidic movement's revolution of the Jewish world include women? We will examine the case of Temer'l Sonenberg-Bergson, a patron of Polish tsaddikim. Using feminist criticism of religion studies, I will demonstrate the implications of the patriarchal approach to setting the boundaries of religious phenomena – in this instance, the question of whether this extraordinary woman may properly be called a *hasida*. A review of several Hassidic stories will show how Temer'l expressed her Hassidism and how she was viewed within Hassidic circles as a sort of hermaphro-dite, with scepticism towards both her femininity and her religiosity.

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18:15–19:45

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