



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

ספקנות

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies
JEWISH SCEPTICISM

PARTICIPANTS

- **BLAKE DUTTON** (LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO)
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CONVENORS

- **STEPHAN SCHMID** (UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG)
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David Hume is famous for having combined questions of religion and scepticism. But the dialectic between religion and scepticism goes back to the ancient sceptics' critique of the gods and in the Middle Ages it comes to embrace a rich variety of classical epistemological and metaphysical questions reconfigured in light of the medieval philosophical/theological context. How can knowledge be acquired—by direct intuition, human reasoning, and/or divine revelation? How is knowledge in metaphysics and theology possible? And if it turns out that such knowledge cannot be possessed by us, how should one act: by denying the claims as Academic sceptics are said to have argued, by embracing them despite, or because of, their lack of rational justification as fideists recommend, or by simply suspending judgment to free oneself from the conflict between religion and philosophy as Pyrrhonists would have reacted?

In this workshop, we propose to explore parallels and discrepancies between three of the greatest philosophers in the three faiths to have canvassed this rich and inadequately studied territory between religion and scepticism leading to an even wider range of questions from atomism and causation to knowledge and the self: Abū Ḥāmid Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ghazālī (c. 1058-1111), Moses Maimonides (c. 1135-1204), and David Hume (1711-1776). Although we make no claims of influence among these three thinkers, there are striking and sometimes uncanny moments of convergence and divergence in their arguments and strategies, whose mutual investigation can serve to illuminate the thought of each.

WORKSHOP SCEPTICISM AND RELIGION IN AL-GHAZĀLĪ, MAIMONIDES, AND HUME

NOVEMBER 7–8, 2017

**MAIMONIDES CENTRE
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES**

SEMINAR ROOM 5060
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The event is open to the public, with
advance registration via e-mail:
maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de

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