Scepticism in Spinoza and the Project of Critique

Julie R. Klein

Spinoza famously opposes political rebellion, or what we would call “revolution,” on the grounds that it reproduces, and may even worsen, just the conditions it was intended to replace. Yet Spinoza’s theoretical and practical philosophy is marked by philosophical rebellion and conceptual revolution: he invites, even demands, that we criticise and move beyond our usual horizons, lest we reproduce old problems. In this talk, Julie Klein will consider Spinoza’s relation to scepticism and his practice of critique as a philosophical strategy. She will focus particularly on his account of the freedom to philosophise in order to clarify his view of what makes philosophising possible.

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