Abstract
Haskalah and Hasidism present two vital ideological trends that shaped Jewish culture in modern Europe. Classical historiography defined these two movements as the initiators of the rift in traditional society, with Haskalah representing modernity and Hasidism promoting traditionalism. The cultural struggle between Haskalah and Hasidism was indeed dramatic and comprehensive, and it was expressed through polemics, sarcastic satire, political competition, and social tensions, which fashioned the character and self-perception of both groups.

Contemporary discourse on this cultural clash portrays more complex narratives and identifies both factions as intrinsic representatives of modernisation processes within European Jewry – also with regard to sceptical approaches, especially in the field of theosophy and its philosophical transformations. In our workshop, we will discuss whether lower forms of scepticism are superseded at some stage by mystical metaphysics or vice versa and which particular strategies are developed regarding doubt.

This workshop will present both trends and their intertwining as reflections of “multiple modernities” with all their socio-cultural and religious implications. The presentations will enquire into contesting paradigms of cultural, mystical, and religious scepticism that occasionally evolved from internal Jewish discourses into transcultural phenomena.

Convenors
• Uriel Gellman (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Universität Hamburg)
• Elke Morlok (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg/Universität Hamburg)

Participants
• Ruth von Bernuth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
• Doru Constantin Doroftei (Universität Hamburg)
• Jonathan Garb (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
• Louise Hecht (Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg)
• Rachel Manekin (University of Maryland, College Park)
• Jonathan Meir (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva)
• Gadi Sagiv (The Open University of Israel)
• Marcin Wodziński (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)

Venue
Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies (MCAS)
Jungiusstraße 11 (Entrance C)/Room C319
20355 Hamburg
Please contact MCAS for registration and further information.
maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de
Programme

Tuesday 26 July 2022

10:00–10:15  Welcome and Introduction

10:15–11:35  Panel 1
Chair: Uriel Gellman (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Universität Hamburg)
10:15–10:55  The Hasidic Books in Joseph Perl’s Library
Rachel Manekin (University of Maryland, College Park)
10:55–11:35  Hagiography, Satire, and the Rise of Modern Jewish Literature
Jonatan Meir (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva)

11:35–11:50  Coffee Break

11:50–13:10  Panel 2
Chair: Marcin Wodziński (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)
11:50–12:30  Representations of Modernity and Ritualisation
Uriel Gellman (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan/Universität Hamburg)
12:30–13:10  The Making of a Hasidic Court Fool: Hershele in Popular Yiddish Literature
Ruth von Bernuth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

13:10–14:00  Lunch Break

14:00–15:20  Panel 3
Chair: Rachel Manekin (University of Maryland, College Park)
14:00–14:40  Two Enlightenments: Jews, Poles, and Their Roads to Modernity
Marcin Wodziński (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)
14:40–15:20  Men of Implacable Character vs. Hypocritical Idlers: Peter Beer’s Assessment of Frankism and Hasidism
Louise Hecht (Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg)

18:30  Dinner (Restaurant “La Monella,” Hallerplatz 12, 20146 Hamburg)
Wednesday 27 July 2022

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<td>Panel 4</td>
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<td>Chair: Elke Morlok (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg/Universität Hamburg)</td>
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<td>10:30–11:10</td>
<td>Reconsidering Philosophical Scepticism and Hasidism</td>
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<td>Old and New Forms of Kabbalah in Haskalah and Hasidism</td>
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<td>14:30–16:30</td>
<td>Guided Tour of the “Grindel,” Hamburg’s Jewish Quarter</td>
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<td>Michael Studemund-Halévy (Universität Hamburg)</td>
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