



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies

JEWISH SCEPTICISM

16-19 JULY 2024

# INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SCEPTICISM IN PHILOSOPHY, JUDAISM, AND CULTURE

Keynote Lecture by **Emidio Spinelli**  
Tuesday, July 16, at 5 pm

with LECTURES by:

Diego Machuca

Giuseppe Veltri

Adi Louria Hayon

and READING CLASSES by:

Annalisa Coliva

Daniel Boyarin

Danielle Drori

Michael Della Rocca

Yehuda Halper

Hemdat Kislev

Venue

**Maimonides Centre for  
Advanced Studies**

Please contact MCAS for registration  
and further information.

[maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de)

Picture: Hamburg, The Hamburg State and University Library Carl von Ossietzky, Cod. hebr. 280a, 1r

Funded by



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation



**Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

## PHILOSOPHY

- 09:00      LECTURE  
**Diego Machuca**  
*The Significance of Scepticism in Philosophy*
- 10:30      COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00      READING CLASS  
**Michael Della Rocca**  
*Epistemological and Conceptual Scepticism*
- 12:30      LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30      READING CLASS  
**Annalisa Coliva**  
*Wittgenstein's response to Humean and Cartesian Scepticism in "On Certainty"*
- 15:00      COFFEE BREAK

Thursday, 18 July 2024

## JUDAISM

- 09:00      LECTURE  
**Giuseppe Veltri**  
*The Significance of Scepticism in Judaism*
- 10:30                      COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00      READING CLASS  
**Yehuda Halper**  
*What can a Human Know of God? Predication, Negative, Theology, and Dialectical Claims in Maimonides and his Followers*
- 12:30                      LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30      READING CLASS  
**Daniel Boyarin**  
*Midrash against Theology: Hazalic Scepticism*
- 15:00                      COFFEE BREAK
- 15:30      SOCIAL EVENT  
Guided Tour: Jewish Cemetery Hamburg-Altona

**Friday, 19 July 2024**

**CULTURE**

09:00

LECTURE

**Adi Louria-Hayon**

*The Significance of Scepticism in Culture*

10:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:00

READING CLASS

**Danielle Drori**

*The Significance of Scepticism in Jewish Culture: Sigmund Freud's Case*

12:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30

READING CLASS

**Hemdat Kieslev**

*Scepticism and the Analysis of Modern Art: Reading "Piet Mondrian, New York City" by Yve-Alain Bois*

15:00

COFFEE BREAK

**Saturday, 20 July 2024**

*SHABBAT PAUSE*

**Sunday, 21 July 2024**

10:00      SOCIAL EVENT  
Boat Tour

17:00      OPENING of the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SCEPTICISM IN PHILOSOPHY,  
JUDAISM, AND CULTURE**

Keynote Lecture by **GIUSEPPE VELTRI**

## Reading Materials

### PHILOSOPHY — Wednesday, 17 July 2024

Michael Della Rocca

Descartes, Meditation 1, Meditation 3 especially the beginning AT 7:36, CSM 2: 25)  
Descartes, two passages from the 7th replies: AT 7: 460, 546 (CSM 2: 309, 373)

Spinoza, *Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect*, especially sections 1-13, 35, 47-48  
Spinoza, *Descartes' Principles of Philosophy*, Prolegomenon (G I 141-149; Curley 1: 231-38  
Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part 1, especially the definitions and axioms, 1p11d2, 1p15s  
Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part 2, especially 2p43, 2p43s, 2p49s.  
Spinoza, Letter 50 (G 4: 238-41, Curley 2: 406-07).

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, sections 4 and 7  
Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, 1.3.3, 1.3.14.14, 1.4.7.5

Annalisa Coliva

Wittgenstein, L., *On Certainty*, pp. 1-192, 340-383, 676.  
Coliva, A. - Pritchard, D., *Skepticism*, chapters 1, 4, and pp. 145-154.

### JUDAISM — Thursday, 18 July 2024

Yehuda Halper

Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, I.52, I.58, I.61.  
Samuel ibn Tibbon, *Explanation of Unusual Terms in Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed*.

Daniel Boyarin

*Handout prepared by the lecturer.*

## CULTURE — Friday, 19 July 2024

Adi Louria-Hayon

Pasolini, P. P., *La Ricotta*, short film available on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz8tOMYGWWo>

Danielle Drori

Freud, S., “A Case of Obsessional Neurosis.” *passim*.  
Hinshelwood, R. “Researching Subjectivity: Single-case Studies and Psychoanalytic Knowledge.”

Hemdat Kieslev

Bois, Y.-A., “Piet Mondrian, *New York City*.” In *Painting as Model*, pp. 157-183.