THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Volume 2: The Modern Era

This second volume of The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy provides a comprehensive overview of Jewish philosophy from the seventeenth century to the present day. Written by a distinguished group of experts in the field, its chapters examine how Jewish thinking was modified in its encounter with modern Europe and America and challenge long-standing assumptions about the nature and purpose of modern Jewish philosophy. The volume also treats modern Jewish philosophy's continuities with premodern texts and thinkers, the relationship between philosophy and theology, the ritual and political life of the people of Israel, and the ways in which classic modern philosophical categories help or hinder Jewish self-articulation. These chapters offer readers a multifaceted understanding of the Jewish philosophical enterprise in the modern period.

Martin Kavka is Associate Professor of Religion at Florida State University. He is the author of Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy (2004), which was awarded the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in Philosophy and Jewish Thought by the Association for Jewish Studies in 2008.

Zachary Braiterman is Associate Professor of Religion at Syracuse University. He is the author of (God) After Auschwitz: Tradition and Change in Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought (1998) and The Shape of Revelation: Aesthetics and Modern Jewish Thought (2007).

David Novak holds the J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies as Professor of the Study of Religion and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is the author of fifteen books in Jewish philosophy, including In Defense of Religious Liberty (2009), which contains lectures given while he was the Charles E. Test Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Princeton University.
The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy

This series examines the rich tradition of Jewish philosophy from antiquity to the present day. Its volumes bring together distinguished experts in their respective fields to provide a comprehensive overview of the diverse philosophers and currents of thought that contributed to Jewish thought. Their essays are organized by topic, yet they also provide a strong sense of the historical and geographical contexts that shaped Jewish thought on subjects as diverse as logic, epistemology, metaphysics, feminism, Zionism, and aesthetics. Each volume includes an editor’s introduction and a bibliography of selected sources. Together, these volumes offer readers a multifaceted understanding of the Jewish philosophical enterprise.

Books in the Series

The *Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy, Volume 1: From Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century* edited by Steven Nadler and T. M. Rudavsky

The *Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy, Volume 2: The Modern Era* edited by Martin Kavka, Zachary Braiterman, and David Novak
The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy

Volume 2: The Modern Era

Editors

MARTIN KAVKA
Florida State University

ZACHARY BRAITERMAN
Syracuse University

DAVID NOVAK
University of Toronto
## CONTENTS

*Contributors*  
page xi  

*Acknowledgments*  
xxiii  

Introduction  
1  

**I  Judaism’s Encounter with Modernity**  

1  Enlightenment  
WILLI GOETSCHEL  
35  

2  The Spirit of Jewish History  
SAMUEL MOYN  
75  

3  Phenomenology  
MARTIN KAVKA  
97  

4  America  
KEN KOLTUN-FROMM  
128  

5  Feminism and Gender  
HAVA TIROSH-SAMUELSON  
154  

**II  Retrieving Tradition**  

6  Scripture and Text  
PETER OCHS  
193  

7  Medieval Jewish Philosophers in Modern Jewish Philosophy  
AARON W. HUGHES  
224
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jewish Enlightenment Beyond Western Europe</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adam Shear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hasidism, Mitnagdism, and Contemporary American Judaism</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaul Magid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Modern Jewish Philosophical Theology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>God: Divine Transcendence</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aryeh Botwinick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>God: Divine Immanence</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gregory Kaplan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Creation</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Novak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Revelation</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Randi Rashkover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Redemption</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norbert M. Samuelson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Providence: Agencies of Redemption</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael L. Morgan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Jewish Peoplehood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Reflections on the Challenges Confronting the Philosophy</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of Halakhah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avi Sagi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Liturgy</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steven Kepnes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jews Alongside Non-Jews</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shmuel Trigano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents ix

19 Political Theory: Beyond Sovereignty? 579
LEORA BATNITZKY

20 Zionism 606
ZACHARY BRAITERMAN

V Issues in Modern Jewish Philosophy

21 Reason as a Paradigm in Jewish Philosophy 637
KENNETH SEE SKIN

22 Imagination and the Theolatrous Impulse: Configuring God in Modern Jewish Thought 663
ELLIO T R. WOLFSON

23 Justice 704
MICHAEL ZANK

24 Virtue 739
DOV NELKIN

25 Aesthetics and Art 759
ASHER D. BIE MANN

26 Interpretation, Modernity, and the Philosophy of Judaism 780
JONATHAN W. MALINO

Bibliography 817
Index 871
CONTRIBUTORS

Leora Batnitzky
Department of Religion
Princeton University

Asher D. Biemann
Department of Religious Studies
University of Virginia

Aryeh Botwinick
Department of Political Science
Temple University

Zachary Braiterman
Department of Religion
Syracuse University

Willi Goetschel
Department of German and
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto

Aaron W. Hughes
Department of History
University of Buffalo

Gregory Kaplan
Department of Religious Studies
Rice University

Martin Kavka
Department of Religion
Florida State University

Steven Kepnes
Department of Religion
Colgate University

Ken Koltun-Fromm
Department of Religion
Haverford College

Shaul Magid
Department of Religious Studies
Indiana University, Bloomington

Jonathan W. Malino
Department of Philosophy
Guilford College

Michael L. Morgan
Department of Philosophy
Indiana University, Bloomington

Samuel Moyn
Department of History
Columbia University

Dov Nelkin
Judaics Faculty
The Abraham Joshua Heschel School

David Novak
Department for the Study of Religion
and Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
Contributors

Peter Ochs
Department of Religious Studies
University of Virginia

Randi Rashkover
Department of Religious Studies
George Mason University

Avi Sagi
Department of Philosophy
Bar-Ilan University

Norbert M. Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Kenneth Seeskin
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University

Adam Shear
Department of Religious Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Avi Sagi
Department of Philosophy
Bar-Ilan University

Norbert M. Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Kenneth Seeskin
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University

Adam Shear
Department of Religious Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Avi Sagi
Department of Philosophy
Bar-Ilan University

Norbert M. Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Kenneth Seeskin
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University

Adam Shear
Department of Religious Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Avi Sagi
Department of Philosophy
Bar-Ilan University

Norbert M. Samuelson
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Arizona State University

Kenneth Seeskin
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University

Eliott R. Wolfson
Department for Hebrew and Judaic Studies
New York University

Michael Zank
Department of Religion
Boston University
This volume has been a very long time in gestation, even by the standards of edited volumes in the humanities. Our deepest thanks go to the contributors for their patience and for writing material that was worth the wait. We would also like to thank the following past and present members of the staff of Cambridge University Press for soliciting this volume and helping to shepherd it to completion: Andy Beck, Faith Black, Shari Chappell, Alison Rogers, Bonnie Lee, Jason Przybylski, Emily Spangler, Beatrice Rehl, and Helen Wheeler. We are especially indebted to Becca Cain for her copyediting and indexing skills, which are nonpareil, and her handling of our editorial queries with dispatch and grace. Finally, thanks to Susan Minnerly and the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida State University for assistance at the final stages of preparation of this manuscript.

Note: On occasion in quotations, transliterations from the Hebrew have been silently altered for the sake of uniformity.