

Talmud as Epistemic Decolonization

Emmanuel Levinas, philosopher of the Other, founder of postmodern ethics, has been criticized by postcolonial thinkers for his Eurocentrism. Elad Lapidot will argue in his talk that, inasmuch as this critique is justified with respect to Levinas's early work, in his later work Levinas himself became aware of the problem and carried out a decolonial turn. The talk will identify the main motifs and meanings of this turn, arguing that Levinas's most significant challenge to European epistemology lies in the development of thinking that does not proceed through philosophy, but through what Levinas called "talmudic readings". Lapidot will explain in what sense the turn to the rabbinic corpus and discipline of the Talmud can be described as epistemological decolonization.

Presented by:

Prof Elad Lapidot

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Elad Lapidot is Professor for Jewish Thought at the University of Lille, France. He has taught philosophy, Jewish thought and Talmud at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and the Humboldt Universität and Freie Universität in Berlin. His work is guided by questions concerning the relation between knowledge and politics. Among his publications: *Jews Out of the Question. A Critique of Anti-Anti-Semitism* (SUNY Press, 2020), Hebrew translation with introduction and commentary (with R. Bar) of Hegel's *Phänomenologie des Geistes*, Vol. 1 (Resling Publishing, 2020), *Heidegger and Jewish Thought. Difficult Others*, edited with M. Brumlik (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018).



Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2024

Time: 13H00 – 14H00

Venue: ONLINE VIA MSTEAMS

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