

Jacob Taubes

Jacob Taubes (1923–1987), philosopher of religion and of Judaism, subversive intellectual, and the most extensively networked agent provocateur of postwar intellectual life on three continents, accepted an offer to join Berlin's Free University in 1966, founding its Institute for Judaic Studies as well as its Institute for Hermeneutics. While his regional influence should not be underestimated and while he has had a continuous impact on Berlin's and Germany's academic life, he is currently being discovered internationally as a ceaselessly provocative and highly original thinker. With the English translations of Taubes's lectures on Paul, his earliest book *Occidental Eschatology*, and the essay collection *From Cult to Culture*, Taubes has joined the echelons of the "Theory" elite. He is being read alongside Giorgio Agamben, Alain Badiou, Carl Schmitt, Walter Benjamin, Gershom Scholem, and others. His work is being hotly debated in many contexts, from political philosophy to intellectual history, from so-called post-secularism to cultural studies.

We convene this workshop as an attempt to collect these interests, but also to bundle and focus them, and to contemplate Taubes as a thinker, historical phenomenon, and exceptional intellectual in his own right.

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Organized by
Herbert Kopp-Oberstebrink and Martin Treml (ZfL,
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in cooperation with
Dana Hollander (McMaster University/ZfL)
and Arnd Wedemeyer (Duke University)

February 21–22, 2011

Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung
Schützenstr. 18
10117 Berlin

Room 303

Monday February 21, 2011

- 14.00 *Dana Hollander* (McMaster University, Hamilton/Ontario, ZfL) /
Martin Trembl (ZfL):
Begrüßung – Introduction
- 14.30 *Daniel Weidner* (ZfL):
“Zwischen Judentum und Christentum”. Jacob Taubes, Albert
Schweitzer, Gershom Scholem und ihre gegenwärtigen Leser
- Arnd Wedemeyer* (Duke University, Durham)
Malediction and *Verheißung*: Jacob Taubes’s Pauline Curses
- 16.00 Coffee Break
- 16.30 *Michael Bartos* (McMaster University, Hamilton/Ontario):
Text discussion: Two excerpts from Jacob Taubes,
Abendländische Eschatologie (1947)
- 17.30 Coffee Break
- 18.00 *Herbert Kopp-Oberstebrink* (ZfL):
Hans Blumenberg und Jacob Taubes: Korrespondenzen,
Divergenzen, Konstellationen
- Iris Nachum* (Tel Aviv University):
The Correspondence between Margherita von Brentano
and Jacob Taubes

Tuesday February 22, 2011

- 10.00 *Martin Kavka* (Florida State University, Tallahassee):
Text discussion: Jacob Taubes, “Theology and the Philosophic Critique
of Religion” (1954), and “On the Symbolic Order of Modern Democracy”
(1955)
- 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.30 *Nitzan Lebovic* (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA):
Taubes’s (End-)Time
- Christina Pareigis* (ZfL):
Beyond Law and Judgement. Susan Taubes’s Idea of a Messianic Age
in 1952 as Reflected in Her Exchange with Jacob Taubes
- 13.00 Lunch Break
- 14.00 *Amir Engel* (Stanford University):
Text discussion: Jacob Taubes, “Die Intellektuellen und die Universität”
(1963)
- 15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.30 *Gesine Palmer* (Berlin):
“Freud vermoralisiert die Psychologie”. Eine Randnotiz von
Franz Rosenzweig im Lichte der Antinomismuskonzeption von
Jacob Taubes
- Bruce Rosenstock* (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign):
Palántropos Harmonié: Schmitt and Taubes *im liebenden Streit*