



The Renaissance of Jewish Philosophy in America

A conference co-sponsored by
*the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton
University; The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies, The
Jewish Theological Seminary; and the Department of Religion, Princeton University*

Wednesday-Thursday, February 22-23, 2006
Senate Chamber, Whig Hall, Princeton University

In this conference, the James Madison Program, the Finkelstein Institute and the Department of Religion focus on the remarkable resurgence of constructive Jewish philosophy in America. Scholars and thinkers who have contributed to this renaissance will reflect on their work with a specific aim in mind. That aim is to ask what role the American context—broadly construed—has played in their thought. How have American ideals and realities, American philosophy and politics, influenced their work? To what extent has their intellectual agenda been shaped by the social and cultural context, including the contemporary American university?

Program

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

“Coming After:” American Jewish Thought in the light of German Judaism

Moderator: Alan Mittleman, The Jewish Theological Seminary

Leora Batnitzky, Princeton University

Martin D. Yaffe, University of North Texas

Thursday, February 23, 2006

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Covenant and Social Contract: Classical Judaism and Classical Liberalism

Moderator: Martin Kavka, Florida State University and Princeton University

David Novak, University of Toronto

Kenneth Seeskin, Northwestern University

10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pragmatism, Philosophical Analysis and Science: Influences and Interactions

Moderator: Neil Gillman, The Jewish Theological Seminary

Michael Morgan, Indiana University

Peter Ochs, University of Virginia

Norbert M. Samuelson, Arizona State University

2:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Ethics and Metaphysics: Renewing Traditions of Natural Law

Moderator: Martha Himmelfarb, Princeton University

Lenn E. Goodman, Vanderbilt University

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Assessing the American Jewish Philosophical Renaissance

Moderator: Robert P. George, Princeton University

William A. Galston, University of Maryland