

Lecture Room: 01A03
Centrum für Nah- und Mitteloststudien
Deutschhausstr. 12, Marburg

Registration fees not required

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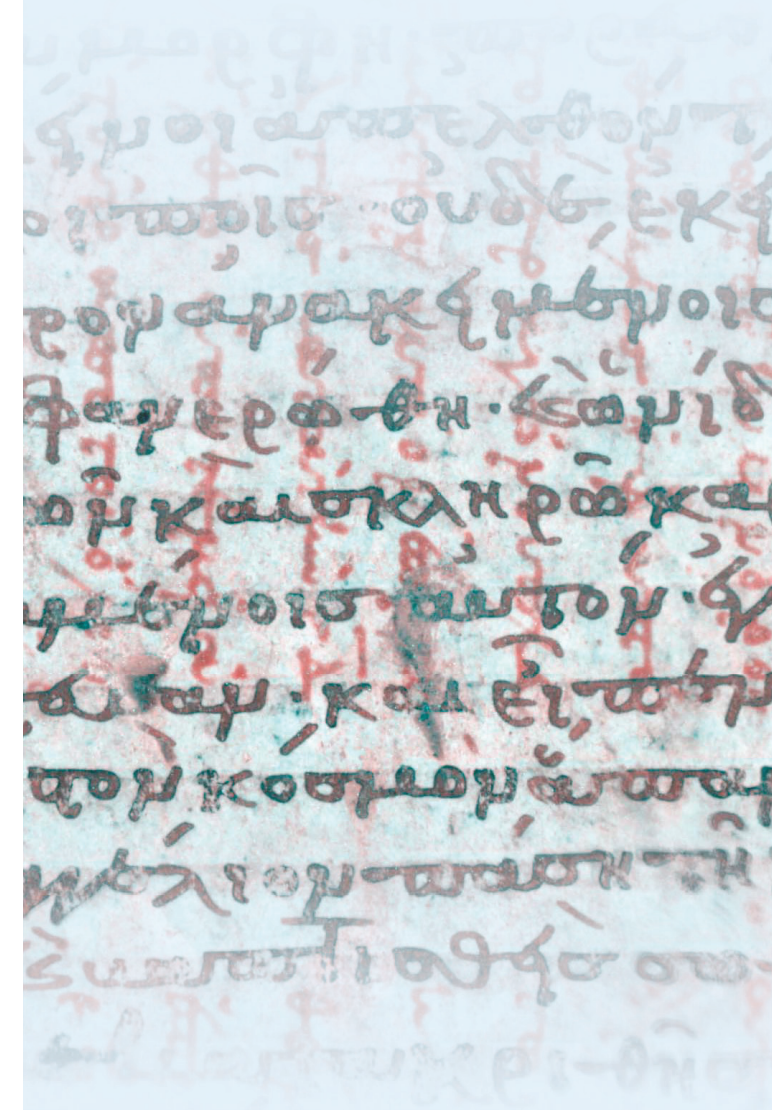
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URSULA-KUHLMANN-FONDS

Reading between the Lines Leo Strauss and the History of Early Modern Philosophy



MARBURGER ARCHIV • KANT UND DIE AUFKLÄRUNG
International Conference
July 19-20, 2013

Since its publication in 1952, Leo Strauss's *Persecution and the Art of Writing* has stirred considerable controversy, particularly among historians concerned with early modern philosophy. On the one hand, several scholars share his view that it would be inadequate to generally take at face value the explicit message of texts which were composed in an era in which severe sanctions were imposed on those who entertained deviating views. 'Reading between the lines' therefore seems to be the appropriate hermeneutical approach. On the other hand, the risks of such an interpretative maxim are more than obvious, as it might come up to an unlimited license to ascribe heterodox doctrines to early modern philosophers whose manifest teachings were in harmony with the orthodox positions of their time. The speakers of the conference will both address these methodological issues and discuss paradigmatic cases of authors who might indeed be candidates for a Straussian 'reading between the lines': Hobbes, Spinoza, and Bayle.

Conference Programme

Friday, July 19, 2013

9:00

Winfried Schröder: *Introduction*

Leo Strauss's hermeneutics

9:30

Thomas Meyer: *How to write exoteric and esoteric philosophy? Leo Strauss's journey from Spinoza via Maimonides to Xenophon, Aristophanes, and Plato*

10:15 Coffee break

10:45

Adrian Blau: *The irrelevance of (Straussian) hermeneutics*

Dietrich Schotte: *Straussian interpretations vs. Strauss's interpretations*

13:00 Lunch

Case studies: Hobbes, Spinoza, Bayle and Toland

15:00

Jonathan Israel: *Leo Strauss, Spinoza and the Radical Enlightenment*

Antony McKenna: *Pierre Bayle and the red herring*

16:00 Coffee break

17:00

Gianni Paganini: *The art of rewriting. Hobbes's search for the »the first cause of causes«*

Aloysius Martinich: *Leo Strauss's Olympian interpretation of Thomas Hobbes*

Saturday, July 20, 2013

10:00

John Christian Laursen: *Spinoza and the morality of writing between the lines, or, to put it another way, lying*

Edwin Curley: *Reading between the lines in the Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*

12:00 Lunch

14:30

Excursion to Kirchhain, Leo Strauss's birthplace