

# WHAT JEWS THINK

## A ZOOM SERIES

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No fee for HPCT-CAE members; nonmember - \$18 donation requested

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**Thursday, February 8 @8:30 PM**

Dr. Eugene Sheppard, Brandeis University

**Theodor Herzl's Political Zionism**

***in an Age of Empire, Nationalism, and the Problem of Anti-Semitism***



In this session, we will revisit the origins and development of Theodor Herzl's particular Jewish nationalist vision which emphasized the need for some minimal structure of Jewish sovereignty located within one particular space. The context of central Europe at the end of the 19th century will be placed as a backdrop as we gauge Herzl's attempt to struggle with questions of nationalism, Western cultural aspirations, and the challenges faced by (1) an ever deepening entanglement of religious, cultural, political, and racial forms of modern antisemitism; (2) an insistence on preserving or resuscitating a modern sense of Jewish honor and dignity.

*EUGENE R. SHEPPARD is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought, Associate Director of the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, and associate editor of the Tauber Institute Series with Brandeis University Press. He and Samuel Moyn (Yale University) are managing editors of the multi-volume "Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought" from Brandeis University Press. Professor Sheppard is currently writing a book that examines the life, writings, and reception of Valeriu Marcu (1899-1942), a German language popular historical writer, essayist, and publicist of Romanian Jewish origin. This study follows Marcu's shifting political and intellectual orientation from that of a young revolutionary socialist politico (collaborating with Lenin, Trotsky, and Bella Kuhn) and German communist into an increasingly anti-communist and popular writer during the course of the 1920s and 1930s. Marcu's historical sketches, profiles, and more extended book length historical studies traced and expressed the origins of the present and unfolding horizon of the future. Sheppard sees Marcu's peculiar style of writing as expressing political and philosophical modes of Hegelian realism, a model of self-conscious skepticism regarding forms of naive and/or nefarious idealism.*

## THE REST OF THE SERIES

- Thursday, February 29 @8:30 PM **Rabbi Dr. Haim Rechnittzer, Hebrew Union College - "What is Judaism? – The Dispute between Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig"**
- Thursday, March 14 @8:30 PM **Dr. Michah Gottlieb, New York University - "A Rabbinic Debate about Slavery on the Eve of the Civil War"**
- Thursday, April 11 @8:30 PM **Dr. Andrea Dara Cooper, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - "Jewish Philosophy and Feminism"**
- Thursday, May 9 @8:30 PM **Dr. Shira Billet, Jewish Theological Seminary - "How Jewish Philosophers Think about Troubling Traditions"**



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