

PETER ELI GORDON

Professor of History
Department of History
Harvard University

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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, appointed permanent member of the Faculty, July 2005

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor in the Social Sciences, History and Social Studies,
Harvard University, since July, 2004
Assistant Professor, Department of History and Social Studies,
Harvard University, Fall, 2000 through June, 2004
Williams College, Department of Religion, Spring, 1999 (declined)
Princeton Society of Fellows, Council of the Humanities,
Princeton University, 1998-2000
Visiting Lecturer, Department of History,
University of California at Berkeley, Spring, 1998, and Summer, 1998
Visiting Lecturer, Department of History,
University of California at Davis, Spring, 1997

EDUCATION

Ph.D. The University of California at Berkeley, Modern European History, Fall, 1997.
M.A. The University of California at Berkeley, Spring, 1992.
B.A. The University of Chicago, first year; then Reed College, Fall, 1984 to Spring, 1988.

BOOKS & BOOK AWARDS

Rosenzweig and Heidegger: Between Judaism and German Philosophy
The University of California Press, Hardcover 2003; Paper 2005.

- *Morris D. Forkosch Prize, Best Book in Intellectual History*, 2003
by *The Journal of the History of Ideas*
- *Salo W. Baron Prize, Best Book in Jewish Studies*, 2003
by The American Academy for Jewish Research
- *Goldstein-Goren Prize, Best Book in Jewish Thought in Three Years*, 2004
by Ben-Gurion University, Israel
- *Koret Foundation Publication Prize*, 2002.

Continental Divide: Heidegger, Cassirer, Davos
Harvard University Press (forthcoming, spring 2010)

The Cambridge Companion to Modern Jewish Philosophy. Co-Editor, with Michael Morgan.
Cambridge University Press, 2007

The Modernist Imagination: Intellectual History and Critical Theory. Essays in Honor of Martin Jay. Co-Editor, with Breckman, et al.
Berghahn Books, 2008

Weimar Thought: A Critical History, Editor.
Princeton University Press (forthcoming, 2009)

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Displaced: Phenomenology and Belonging in Heidegger and Levinas” in *Between Levinas and Heidegger*, John Drabinski and Eric Nelson, eds. Contemporary Continental Philosophy series (ed. Dennis Schmidt). SUNY (forthcoming)
- “German Idealism and German Liberalism in the 1920s: The Case of Ernst Cassirer”
The Weimar Moment: Political Theology, Liberalism, and the Law, Rudy Koshar, ed. (forthcoming)
- “The Place of the Sacred in the Absence of God: Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*”
Journal of the History of Ideas. Vol. 69, No. 4 (October, 2008), 647-673.
- “The Artwork Beyond Itself: Adorno, Beethoven, and Late-Style”
in *The Modernist Imagination: Essays in Intellectual History and Critical Theory in Honor of Martin Jay*
(Berghahn Books, 2008)
- “The Slipping Away of Beings as a Whole: Heidegger, Jaspers, and the Persistence of Metaphysics” in *Situating Existentialism*.
Jonathan Judaken and Robert Bernasconi, eds. (Columbia University Press, forthcoming)
- “Neo-Kantianism and the Politics of Enlightenment” *Philosophical Forum*. Vol. 39, No. 2. (2008), pp. 223-238
- “Fidelity as Heresy: Levinas, Heidegger, and the Crisis of the Transcendental Ego”
in *Heidegger’s Jewish Students*, Samuel Fleischacker, Ed. (Duchesne, 2008)
- “The Concept of the Unpolitical: German Jewish Thought and Weimar Political Theology”
Social Research. Special Issue, Hannah Arendt’s Centenary: Political and Philosophic Perspectives (Part I)
Guest coedited by Jerome Kohn, Volume 74, Number 3 (Fall 2007); also in *Hannah Arendt: 100 Jahre* (Germany, 2007)
- “Hammer without a Master: French Phenomenology and the Origins of Deconstruction (or, How Derrida read Heidegger)” in *Histories of Postmodernism*, Mark Bevir, et al., Eds. (Routledge, 2007)
- “Franz Rosenzweig and the Philosophy of Jewish Existence”
in *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Jewish Thought*, Morgan and Gordon, Eds.
(Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- “Redemption-in-the-World: Authenticity and Existence in Rosenzweig and Heidegger”
in *Franz Rosenzweig Internationale Kongreß* (Freiburg: Karl Alber Verlag, 2006)
- “Out from *Huis Clos*: Sartre, Levinas, and the Debate over Jewish Authenticity”
Journal of Romance Studies. Special Issue: *Sartre et ses autres*. Vol. 6, 1 (Spring/Summer, 2006)
- “Science, Realism, and the Unworlding of the World” in *The Blackwell Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism*, Mark Wrathall and Hubert Dreyfus, Eds. (Blackwell, 2006)
- “Response to My Critics” *Jewish Quarterly Review*, Volume 96, Number 3 (Summer 2006), pp. 413-422.
- “Myth and Modernity: Cassirer’s Critique of Heidegger”
Jonathan Skolnik and Peter Gordon, Eds. Special Issue: Secularization and Disenchantment, *New German Critique* (2005)
- “L’athéisme comme événement: l’anti-fondationalisme de Heidegger” (in French)
Heidegger, le danger et la promesse. Publications of the International Colloquium, Strasbourg, 2004
(Paris: Editions KIME, 2005)
- “Continental Divide: Heidegger and Cassirer at Davos, 1929—An Allegory of Intellectual History”
Modern Intellectual History (La Vopa, Capper, and Phillipson, eds., Cambridge UP.)
Vol. I, N. 2, (August, 2004), pp.1-30.
- “Between Logic and History: Three Recent books on Heidegger (Review-Essay).”
German Society and Politics, Issue 61, Volume 19, No. 4 (Winter, 2001), 97-115.
- “Rosenzweig Redux: The Reception of German-Jewish Thought”
Jewish Social Studies, Volume 8, N. 1 (Fall, 2001), 1-57.
- “Rosenzweig and Heidegger: Translation, Ontology, and the Anxiety of Affiliation”
New German Critique, Special Issue Co-editor (Spring-Summer, 1999), 113-148.
- “Science, Finitude, and Infinity: Neo-Kantianism and the Birth of Existentialism”
Jewish Social Studies, Gedenkschrift for Amos Funkenstein. Volume 6, N. 1. (Spring, 2000), 30-53.

“The Erotics of Negative Theology: Maimonides on Apprehension”
Jewish Studies Quarterly, Volume 2, Number 1 (1995), 1-38.

BOOK REVIEWS

Thomas Meyer, *Ernst Cassirer*. Hamburg: Ellert & Richter, 2007.
AJS Review (Fall-Winter, 2008)

Heidegger and the Greeks: Interpretive Essays. Drey A. Hyland and John P. Manoussakis, eds.
Studies in Continental Thought (Indiana University Press, 2006).
Published in: *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, fall, 2007

Zarader, Marlène, *The Unthought Debt: Heidegger and the Hebraic Heritage*, Bettina Bergo, Translator, Stanford University Press, 2006; Published online: *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
website address: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=7683>

“Comments on Jerrold Seigel, *The Idea of the Self*” (Roundtable)
Modern Intellectual History, August, 2006

“Self-Authorizing Modernity (Review Essay); Terry Pinkard, *German Philosophy, 1760-1860*; Frederick Beiser, *German Idealism, The Struggle Against Subjectivism, 1781-1801*
History and Theory, Volume 44, Number 1 (February, 2005), 121-137.

David Myers, *Resisting History: Historicism and its Discontents in German-Jewish Thought*,
Jewish Quarterly Review (Autumn, 2005)

“Heidegger’s Concept of Truth (Dahlstrom)” (Review). *The European Legacy, Toward New Paradigms*
Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, Volume 9, Number 3.

“Painting History: Two Recent Books on Anselm Kiefer (Saltzman, Arasse)” (Review).
German Politics and Society, Issue 65, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Winter, 2002), 119-126

“Safranski’s Heidegger: Notes on the Philosophical Ramifications of Biography” (Review).
Qui Parle, Volume 10, Number 2 (Spring/Summer, 1997), 101-118

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Psychoanalysis”, “Walter Benjamin”, “Sigmund Freud” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture*.
Judith Baskin, Steven Zipperstein, et al., eds. (Cambridge UP, forthcoming)

FELLOWSHIPS & RECENT AWARDS

Posen Foundation Grant for Jewish Secularism, 2008-10

Favorite Professor, *Harvard College Yearbook*, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009

Hoopes Prize, Advisor to Senior Thesis (Alexander Bevilacqua, History), 2007

Clark Fund for Faculty Research Support, Summer 2007

Joseph R. Levinson Award for Undergraduate Teaching, Finalist, 2007

Phi Beta Kappa Award for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University, 2005

Hoopes Prize, Advisor to Senior Thesis (Leora Halperin, History), 2005

Hoopes Prize, Advisor to Senior Thesis (David Plunkett, Social Studies), 2004

Joseph R. Levinson Award for Undergraduate Teaching, Finalist, 2005

Morris D. Forkosch Prize for Best Book in Intellectual History, by *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, 2003-04.

Goldstein-Goren Prize for Best Book in Jewish Philosophy of last three years, 2004, by the Goldstein-Goren Center for Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, 2004.

Salo W. Baron Prize, Best First Book in Jewish History, *Academy for Jewish Research*, 2004

Koret Foundation, Publications Program Subsidy Award, 3,000 toward publication, 2002-03.

Clark Fund for Faculty Research Support, Harvard University, 2002-05.

Princeton Society of Fellows, Princeton University, 1998-2001.

Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities, Research Fellow, 1996-97.

Hans Rosenberg Research Grant (Berlin), UC Berkeley, Department of History, Spring, 1996.

Deutsche Akademische Austausch-Dienst, Goethe Institute Fellow, Summer, 1991.

Regents-Intern Fellow, UC Berkeley, 1990-1995.

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1990-1995.

SELECTED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

“Cassirer, Political Theology, and the Myth of the State” Remarque Institute, New York University, February, 2009

“Judaism and Demythologization: Ernst Cassirer’s *Myth of the State* in the Context of Political Theology”
UCLA, Center for Jewish Studies, May, 2008

“The Place of Judaism in the Narrative of Secularization,” paper at conference, “Sovereigns and Subjects: Jewish Thought and Experience in the Twentieth Century,” University of Washington, Seattle, February, 2008.

Respondent and Chair, “New Directions in Weimar Intellectual History” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January, 2008

Participant, Kandersteg Seminar, Intellectual History and Political Theory (Organized by the Remarque Center, New York University), Kandersteg, Switzerland, Fall, 2007

“What is a Context?” Organizer and Presenter for public event at the *Center for European Studies*, with Peter L. Galison, Stephen Greenblatt, Steven Shapin, David Blackbourn, Ann Blair, and Peter Godfrey-Smith, *The Center for European Studies*, Spring, 2007

“Luis Bunuel’s *The Exterminating Angel*” Introduction and Screening of Bunuel’s film to the *Undergraduate Board of the Center for European Studies*, Spring, 2007

“The Idea of the Sacred in the Absence of God” Public Conversation with Prof. Sean Kelly (Philosophy, Harvard), for the *Undergraduate Humanities Council*, Harvard University, Spring, 2007

“The Concept of the Unpolitical: German Jewish Thought and Weimar Political Theology” (Berlin) *Hannah Arendt: 100 Jahre*. Fall, 2006.

“Levinas and Sartre” Harvard University, Conference, *Sartre et ses autres*
Organizing Committee with Susan Suleiman, Alice Jardine, et al., Spring, 2005.

“Levinas, Heidegger, and the Crisis of Phenomenology” University of Illinois, Chicago,
Heidegger and the Jews (Conference), Sam Fleischacker and Sander Gilman, Organizers.
(Papers from this conference to be published), November 4-5, 2004.

Participant, *German Jews beyond the Emigre Synthesis: Towards a New Paradigm? (Roundtable)*, Peter Gordon, Samuel Moyn, Till van Rahden, Leora Bantizky, Michael Steinberg, David Sorkin, Moshe Zimmerman.
Rethinking Cultural and Intellectual History, Mosse Elmau Conference, Germany, July 12-14, 2004.

“Erlösung-in-der-Welt: Eigentlichkeit und Existenz bei Rosenzweig und Heidegger”
Public Address, International Colloquium on Franz Rosenzweig, Kassel, Germany, Spring, 2004.
(Papers from this conference to be published in 2005.)

“Two Kinds of Aufklärungskritik: Cassirer and the Frankfurt School”
International Meeting of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, UCLA, 4 August, 2003.

“Ataraxia and Utopia: Rosenzweig’s Concept of the Unpolitical”
Strasbourg, *International Colloquy on Franz Rosenzweig*, June 1-3, 2003.

“Hebraism and Hellenism: Rosenzweig and Strauss”
UCLA, Second Annual Conference on the Impact of Jewish Thought on European Civilization
June 1-3, 2003.

“Rosenzweig’s Nietzschean Judaism” Keynote Address
UCLA, First Annual Conference on the Impact of Jewish Thought on European Civilization

Day One: 'Jacques Derrida: The Last and Least of the Jews,' with M. Derrida.

Day Two: 'Franz Rosenzweig and Political Theology,' April 28-9, 2002.

"Trauma as First Philosophy: Levinas, Heidegger, Rosenzweig"

Paper presented as opening address for The Levinas Research Seminar, Third Annual Meeting
The Center for European Studies, May 5 and 6, 2002.

"Between Judaism and Modernism: Franz Rosenzweig and Weimar Political Theology"

Paper presented by invitation at Cornell University, Dept. of History, April 4, 2002.

"Chicago Workshop on Franz Rosenzweig and Revelation" (participant, no formal paper)

Invited by Eric Santner and Paul-Mendes-Flohr, February 28, March 1, 2002.

"Franz Rosenzweig and Weimar Political Theology" Paper presented Brandeis University

Jewish Studies Colloquium, December, 2001.

"Rosenzweig Contra Postmodernism" Paper at Association of Jewish Studies

Washington, D.C., December, 2001.

"The Fate of Judaism in German Philosophy: Franz Rosenzweig Reconsidered"

Paper delivered at The Center for European Studies, October 25, 2001.

"Germans and Jews Reconsidered: The Rise of Weimar Illiberalism"

Paper delivered at Currier House, Senior Faculty Dinner, April 5, 2001.

"The Invention of Jewish Difference: The Hegelian Grounds of Particularism in Rosenzweig's

Philosophy" Paper delivered on panel on Modern Jewish Thought, Association for Jewish
Studies, Boston, December, 2000.

"Redemption and Transcendence: Rosenzweig's *Star* in the Shadow of Heidegger."

Paper delivered on panel session, "Re-Thinking Rosenzweig"
Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December, 1999.

"Heidegger and Hebraism: Franz Rosenzweig in the German Philosophical Horizon"

Near Eastern and Jewish Studies, Brandeis University, January, 1999.

"The Hebrew Bible in the German Horizon: Metaphysics and the Task of Translation"

for Professor Seidman, "The Politics of Biblical Translation"
Seminar, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, April, 1997.

"Hitler's Willing Executioners" with William Hagen, Christhard Hoffmann and Harriet Murav

Panel discussion, UC Davis, April, 1997.

"Facing the Forest Ridge: The Hebrew Bible in the German Horizon"

Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley, March, 1997.

"Goethe and the Jewish Graveyard: On Memory and the Meaning of Ruins"

Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1996.

"Franz Rosenzweig and the Re-reading of Critical Idealism"

for Professor Biale, "The Thought of Amos Funkenstein"
Seminar, Graduate Theological Union, November, 1996.

"Introductory Lecture: Early-Modern Jewish History from the Marranos to the Haskalah"

for Professor Hesse, "Religion and Ethnicity in Early-Modern Europe"
UC Berkeley, September, 1996.

"Rosenzweig's Paralysis: Life Against Philosophy"

Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley, December, 1995.

COURSES TAUGHT AT HARVARD

History 1479: Intellectuals and Auschwitz (Research Seminar), Spring, 2008

History 2471/History of Science 271: Heidegger and Technology (Graduate Seminar, co-taught with Peter
L. Galison), Fall, 2007

History 1472: Epistemic Regimes (Seminar), Fall 2006

History 1470: Modern European Intellectual History Since Nietzsche (Lecture Survey)
Spring, 2002; Fall, 2004; Fall, 2006; Spring 2008

History 1473: Emmanuel Levinas, Fall, 2004

History 10b: Modern European History, General Survey, Harvard, Spring, 2004; and Spring 2005

Social Studies 10: Introduction to Social Studies, Committee for Degrees in Social Studies,
Harvard, 2000-01 & 2001-02.

History 1470a: Modern European Intellectual History, Part I (Lecture Survey),
'The Modern Subject, from Descartes to Kierkegaard,' Harvard, Autumn, 2001.

History 1470b: Modern European Intellectual History, Part II (Lecture Survey),
'Subject and Structure, Nietzsche and since,' Harvard, Spring, 2002, Fall, 2003.

History 1485: Weimar Intellectuals (Seminar), Harvard, Autumn, 2000.

History 1476: The Frankfurt School (Seminar), Harvard, Spring, 2001, 2004.

History 1471: The Thought of Martin Heidegger (Lecture/Seminar), Harvard, Fall, 2003; and Spring, 2007

PRINCETON POSTDOCTORAL TEACHING, SEMINARS & LECTURES, UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

German 306: The Thought of Martin Heidegger: Ontology, Language, and Politics
Department of German, Princeton University, Autumn 1999.

Humanities 205-206: Classical Foundations of Western Civilization
The Council of the Humanities, Princeton University, 1998-2000.

Humanities 218-219: Modern Humanities, Philosophy and Literature
The Council of the Humanities, Princeton University, 1998-2000.

UC BERKELEY: POSTDOCTORAL VISITING LECTURESHIPS (UNDERGRADUATE SURVEYS)

History 5: Survey in Modern European History, from the Renaissance to the Present
Lecture Course, Intensive, 6 Weeks, UC Berkeley, Summer Session, 1998.

History 163B: Modern European Intellectual History, Nietzsche to Postmodernism
Lecture Course, UC Berkeley, Spring Semester, 1998.

OTHER AWARDS & HONORS, GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE

Commencement Speaker for History Doctorates, May 1998.

Benjamin Goor Prize for Best Graduate Essay, University of California, Spring 1994.

Distinctive Performance, Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, Autumn 1993.
Exam Committee: Late Modern Europe, Major: Martin Jay, Gerald Feldman;
Jewish History, Minor: Amos Funkenstein, David Biale; Philosophy, Outside Field: Hans Sluga.

Benjamin Goor Prize for Best Graduate Essay, University of California, Spring, 1993.

Graduate History Seminar Prize, Academic Year, 1992-93.

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, University of California at Berkeley, Autumn, 1990 onward.

Phi Beta Kappa, Reed College, 1988.

Class of '21 Award for Excellence and Creativity, Reed College, 1988.

President's Letter of Commendation for Excellence in History, Reed College, 1987.

Honored Presentation of Senior Thesis, before Reed College Board of Trustees, 1988.

LANGUAGE ABILITY

German (proficient), French (proficient), Hebrew & Russian (reading ability).

JOURNAL AND PRESS CONSULTING

New German Critique, Contributing Editor

The Journal of the History of Ideas, Editorial Board

Modern Intellectual History, Editorial Board

History and Theory, Referee

Jewish Social Studies, Referee

Jewish Philosophy and Thought, Referee

Koret Foundation Publications Prize, Judge

Referee for the following presses: Cambridge University Press, Harvard University Press, Cornell University Press, Brandeis University Press, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Princeton University Press, etc.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

American Historical Association, Member

Leo Baeck Institute, Member

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Member

Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual and Cultural History, Harvard and Boston Area, Co-Coordinator,
Funding from the Center for European Studies, 2001 and ongoing.

Modern European Intellectual History New York Area Colloquia, Participant
With Jerrold Seigel, Richard Wolin, Anson Rabinbach, et al. (ongoing)

Working Group for German-Jewish Culture, Chair, 1992 through 1994
Funded by the Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Harvard Hillel Faculty Fellow, 2004, ongoing

FOR FURTHER REFERENCE:

Professor Martin Jay, Department of History, Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley
(510) 642-7218; martjay@socrates.berkeley.edu

Professor Hans Sluga, Department of Philosophy, Moses Hall, UC Berkeley
(510) 642-7234; sluga@uclink.4.berkeley.edu

Professor Thomas W. Laqueur, Department of History, Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley
(510) 549-2170; tlaqueur@library.berkeley.edu