

## Authors

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**Beniamino Fortis** holds a PhD in Philosophy. He studied in Venice, Florence, and Berlin. His research interests are in picture theory, aesthetics, and contemporary Jewish thought. Recently, he has published his second monograph *Tertium Datur. A Reading of Rosenzweig's 'New Thinking'* (2019) and edited the collective volume *Bild und Idol. Perspektiven aus Philosophie und jüdischem Denken* (2022). His current research is focused on the topic of idolatry between Jewish studies and philosophy.

**Massimo Giuliani** (Ph.D., Hebrew University of Jerusalem) is a professor of Jewish Thought at the University of Trent; of Jewish Culture at the University of Urbino; and of Jewish Philosophy at the Italian Rabbinical College of Rome. He is on the academic boards of the Maimonides Foundation (Milan), the Rosmini Center (Rovereto), and several academic journals. Among his books: *Theological Implications of the Shoah* (Peter Lang 2002); *Il pensiero ebraico contemporaneo* [on Contemporary Jewish Thought] (Morcelliana, 2003); *Rileggere Primo Levi* [Re-reading Primo Levi] (Quodlibet 2015); *La giustizia seguirai* [Justice shalt thou follow; on ethics and halakhah] (Giuntina 2016); *La filosofia ebraica* [A History of Jewish Philosophy] (La Scuola 2017); *Le terze tavole* [on the Jewish interpretations of the Holocaust] (EDB, 2019); *Le corone della Torà* [on Jewish hermeneutics] (Giuntina, 2021); *Il conflitto teologico* [on the theological conflict between Jews and Christians] (Morcelliana 2021); *Antropologia halakhica* [on Rav J. Soloveitchik's thought] (Belforte 2022).

**Benjamin Pollock** is the Sol Rosenbloom Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Hebrew University. Since 2017 he is also the director of the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva and since fall 2020 the chair of the Department of Jewish Thought. His field of research is modern Jewish philosophy, especially in the

German context, from the Enlightenment through the 20th century. His first book, *Franz Rosenzweig and the Systematic Task of Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), was awarded the Salo W. Baron Prize for Outstanding First Book in Jewish Studies by the American Academy of Jewish Research, and the Jordan Schnitzer Award for Best Book in the Field of Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Thought 2009–2012, by the Association for Jewish Studies. His *Franz Rosenzweig's Conversions: World Denial and World Redemption* (Indiana University Press), appeared in the summer of 2014.

**Silvia Richter** studied medieval and modern history, philosophy and Jewish studies at the University of Heidelberg and the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg, where she submitted her Ph.D. thesis in 2011 on the topic “Language, Philosophy and Judaism in the Work of Emmanuel Levinas and Franz Rosenzweig” under the supervision of Prof. Ephraim Meir. In 2012 she worked as a scientific coordinator at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, France. From 2013 to 2021 she worked as a research assistant at the Guardini Chair (Guardini Professur für Religionsphilosophie und Theologische Ideengeschichte) at Humboldt University of Berlin. Since January 2022 she is scientific coordinator at the Martin Buber Chair at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main. Furthermore, in the summer semester 2024, she holds the deputy professorship for Jewish Philosophy at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg.

**Ellen Rinner** studied art history, modern German philology, and philosophy at Freie Universität and Humboldt Universität in Berlin and at Sorbonne Université in Paris. From 2018 to 2022, she was a research assistant at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg and a member of the research group “The Ban on Images and Theory of Art” (“Bilderverbot und Theorie der Kunst”). Since 2022, she has been a research assistant at the Chair for Transcultural History of Judaism at the Department for Cultural History and Theory at Humboldt Universität. Her forthcoming dissertation focuses on the influence of Jewish cultural traditions on Aby Warburg's Kulturwissenschaft.

**Christoph Schmidt** is born in Helsinki/Finland, grew up in Cologne/Germany and finished Jesuit School in St. Blasien. Since 1977 he lives in Jerusalem, where he finished his studies in Judaism, Comparative Literature and Philosophy with a PhD thesis on Adorno's “Hermeneutics of Shock”. Since 1994 he is teaching first at the Department for German literature, since 2005 he is

associate professor and teaching as well at the departments of philosophy and comparative religion, since 2015 as full professor. Schmidt's publications deal with the problem of political theology in the context of Jewish, Christian and secular modernity. Forthcoming is his book on "The Two Bodies of the Subject – Political Theology between Feuerbach and Kierkegaard".

**Mario Cosimo Schmidt** studied composition, music theory, social sciences and philosophy in Leipzig and Paris. He lives in Leipzig as a composer, music theorist and publicist and is lecturer for music theory at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien in Hannover and the Hochschule for Music in Nuremberg. His theoretical works are mainly dedicated to questions about the philosophy of music, aesthetics, critical theory and Judaism. Numerous articles about these topics were published. In addition, he also works as a composer and sound artist. Several compositions for all kinds of instrumentation were premiered. He was Fellow at the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk and the Selma Stern Zentrum Berlin.

**Lars Tittmar** studied philosophy and sociology at the University of Hamburg and the Humboldt-Universität Berlin. From 2018 to 2022 he was a research assistant at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies in Berlin and a member of the research group "The Ban on Images and Theory of Art" ("Bilderverbot und Theorie der Kunst"). In 2023 he was a research fellow at the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center in Jerusalem. His research interests are Frankfurt School Critical Theory, social philosophy, philosophy of history, utopian thinking, aesthetics and the work of Jean Améry. He did his doctorate research in philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin and his forthcoming dissertation is focusing on the relation between utopian thinking and the ban on images in the philosophy of Ernst Bloch, Walter Benjamin and Theodor W. Adorno.

**Michael Zank** is professor of religion, Jewish studies, and medieval studies at Boston University, where he directed the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies from 2013 to 2022, and teaches courses in the sacred literature, history, and philosophy of the Abrahamic religions. He is the author, among others, of a brief history of Jerusalem (2018) and *Jüdische Religionsphilosophie als Apologie des Mosaismus* (2016). His current research centers on Maimonides and his modern readers, esp. Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, and Leo Strauss.

