

Hermann Cohen was a leading figure and an inspirational source for a whole generation of German-Jewish thinkers from the late 19th to the early 20th century. Cohen's epistemology – his critical idealism – has been crucial not only for other members of the Marburg School such as Paul Natorp and Ernst Cassirer, but for anyone convinced, as Cohen was, that pure thought is pure because its origin is entirely within itself. Starting from his epistemology – the idea as hypothesis – Cohen devises an ethics where moral progress occurs within the horizon of messianism.

Messianism and messianic temporality are cornerstones not only of Cohen's ethics and philosophy of religion, but also for authors such as Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, Gershom Scholem, and Walter Benjamin. Although they were at times harshly critical of Cohen's work, they still considered it fruitful and influential: Hermann Cohen was for them «the faithful guide, [...] the one who by far surpassed in spiritual power all the other German professors of philosophy of his generation»—just to quote another representative of that same generation, Leo Strauss. Even today, Cohen's legacy is anything but exhausted: new impulses for the 21st century are constantly growing in its track.

Organizers:

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo, Università degli Studi di Roma Tre; Dipartimento di Filosofia e Scienze dell'Educazione, Università degli Studi di Torino (PRIN 2010-2011 "La riflessione morale di fronte al *mind/body problem*"); Hermann-Cohen-Gesellschaft, Zürich

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Università degli Studi di Roma Tre
Università degli Studi di Torino
Hermann-Cohen-Gesellschaft



Critical Idealism and Messianism From Hermann Cohen to Walter Benjamin and beyond

19-20 October 2015

Aula Matassi

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo
Università degli Studi di Roma Tre
Via Ostiense 234, Roma

Monday, October 19, 2015

9.30 **Welcome and Greetings:** Paolo D'Angelo, Reinier Munk

Chair: Reinier Munk

10.00 Tamara Tagliacozzo (Università di Roma Tre, Italy): **Experience and Infinite Task. Walter Benjamin and Hermann Cohen**

Coffee

11.00 Giacomo Marramao (Università di Roma Tre, Italy): **Prophetische Erfahrung und messianische Konstellation: ein Vergleich zwischen Cohen und Benjamin**

11.45 Jack Bemporad (Center for Interreligious Understanding, USA): **The Topic of Suffering in the Midrash, as interpreted by Henry Slonimsky**

12.30 *Lunch*

Chair: Andrea Poma

14.30 Damiano Roberi (Università di Torino, Italy): **The Uncertainty of the Sphinx: Nature as Threshold in Benjamin's Reflections**

15.00 Peter Fenves (Northwestern University, USA): **Toward Messianic Nature: Experience, Thought, Experiment in Cohen and Benjamin**

Coffee

16.00 Roy Dar-Amir (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel): **Aufgabe and Revolution: Thinking (about) History in Cohen and Benjamin**

16.30 Renate Schindler (Berlin, Germany): **Hermann Cohen im Konfliktfeld von Politik, Geschichte und Messianismus: Zur Aktualität der kulturphilosophischen und erkenntnislogischen Reichweite der Idee des ewigen Friedens**

17.00 Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky (Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany): **Critique of State Violence in Benjamin and Hermann Cohen**

18.00 *Mitgliederversammlung der Hermann-Cohen-Gesellschaft*

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Chair: Irene Kajon

9.30 Ezio Gamba (Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy): **Messianism in Art. Jewish and Christian Religious Art in Cohen's Thought**

10.00 Iveta Leitane (Bonn University, visiting faculty, Germany/ Center for Judaic Studies, Riga, Latvia): **Samuel Atlas (1889 - 1978) and the Modal Reinterpretation of Hermann Cohen's Understanding of Messianism**

Coffee

10.45 Julia Ng (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK): **Acts of Time: Cohen and Benjamin on Mathematics and History**

11.30 Fabrizio Desideri (Università di Firenze, Italy): **Messianica ratio. Affinities and Differences in Cohen and Benjamin's Messianic Rationalism**

12.30 *Lunch*

Chair: Tamara Tagliacozzo

14.15 Irene Kajon (Sapienza - Università di Roma, Italy): **Paradoxa in Messianic Idea. The Influence of Cohen on Scholem's Concept of Messianism**

15.00 Bruno Moroncini (Università di Salerno, Italy): **How to Write History? Messianism and Historiography in Walter Benjamin**

Coffee

16.00 Reinier Munk (President of the HCG; VU Amsterdam, Netherlands): **Benjamin's Cohen**

Participants: Daniela Angelucci, Luca Bertolino, Dario Gentili, Gianna Gigliotti, Paolo D'Angelo, Francesca Iannelli, Massimo Palma, Marco Piazza, Irene Abigail Piccinini, Mauro Ponzi, Rico Sneller, Elettra Stimilli, Paolo Vinci, Christian Wiese