

MICHAEL A. ROSENTHAL
Curriculum Vitae

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Professor & Department Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of Washington
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., *The University of Chicago*, Department of Philosophy, 1996.

M.A., *The University of Chicago*, Department of Philosophy, 1988.

The Hebrew University, Department of Jewish Thought, 1986-87.

B.A., *Stanford University*, Department of Philosophy, with Distinction and Honors in the Humanities, 1986.

DISSERTATION

“Spinoza in the Republican Tradition: Virtue and Fortune in the Ethics and the Political Works.”
Directed by Professor Daniel Garber. Readers: Edwin Curley and Daniel Brudney.
Received Honors from the Department. Submitted to The University of Chicago,
December 1996.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION and COMPETENCE

AOS: History of Early Modern Philosophy (Descartes through Kant), Ethics, Political Philosophy, Modern Jewish Philosophy.

AOC: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Contemporary French Philosophy.

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Professor, Department of Philosophy and Member of the Jewish Studies Program, *University of Washington* (9/12-present); Member of the Jewish Studies Program (9/12-present)

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, *University of Washington* (9/03-9/2012).

Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, *University of Washington* (2002-03).

Associate Professor of Philosophy, *Grinnell College* (5/02-9/2003).

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *Grinnell College* (8/96-2002).

Visiting Scholar, *Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington* (8/99-6/00).

Instructor of Philosophy, *Grinnell College* (8/95-7/96).

Lecturer in Philosophy, *University of Delaware* (8/94-7/95).

Instructor, *The University of Chicago* (9/88-6/91).

BOOKS

Edited Volumes:

Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide, eds. Yitzhak Y. Melamed and Michael A. Rosenthal. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (2010).

Inventions of the Imagination: Romanticism and Beyond, eds. Richard T. Gray, Nicholas Halmi, Gary J. Handwerk, Michael A. Rosenthal, and Klaus Vieweg. Seattle: University of Washington Press (2011).

ARTICLES Published or Forthcoming:

“Spinoza’s Political Philosophy,” in Oxford Handbook of Spinoza, ed. Michael della Rocca, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Politics and Ethics in Spinoza: The Problem of Normativity,” in The Ethics of Spinoza’s Ethics, eds. Matt Kisner and Andrew Youpa, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“The Siren Song of Revolution: Spinoza on the Art of Political Change,” in Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal, Volume 34, No. 1, 111-132.

“Art and Politics of the Desert: German Exiles in California and the Biblical *Bilderverbot*,” in New German Critique, Issue 118, Volume 40, Number 1 (Winter 2013), 43-64.

“Spinoza” in Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Religion, revised second edition, ed. Chad Meister and Paul Copan, London: Routledge, 2013, 150-160.

“Why Spinoza is Intolerant of Atheists: God and the Limits of Early Modern Liberalism.” Review of Metaphysics, volume 65, June 2012, 813-839.

“Benjamin’s Wager on Modernity: Gambling and the *Arcades Project*.” The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory, Issue 87: 3 (2012), 261-278.

“Spinoza’s Monism and Jewish Philosophy,” in Light against Darkness: Dualism in Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the Contemporary World, eds. Armin Lange, Eric M. Meyers, Bennie H. Reynolds, and Randall G. Styers, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (supplement series to the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*), 2011.

“Introduction” to Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide, ed. Yitzhak Melamed and Michael Rosenthal, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

“Miracles, Wonder, and the State in Spinoza’s *Theological-Political Treatise*” in Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide, ed. Yitzhak Melamed and Michael Rosenthal, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

“Spinoza’s Philosophy of Religion,” in History of Western Philosophy of Religion, ed.. Graham Oppy and Nick Trakakis, Chesham, UK: Acumen Publishing, 2009.

“Spinoza and the Crisis of Liberalism in Weimar Germany,” Hebraic Political Studies, volume 3:1 (Winter 2008), 94-112.

“Spinoza and the Philosophy of History,” in Interpreting Spinoza, ed. Charles Huenemann, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, chapter 6, 111-127.

“Spinoza on Why the Sovereign Can Command Men’s Tongues But Not Their Minds,” Nomos volume XLVIII, “Toleration and Its Limits,” ed. Melissa S. Williams and Jeremy Waldron, New York: NYU Press, 2008, 54-77.

“Spinoza, History, and Jewish Modernity” in Philosophers and the Hebrew Bible, eds. Charles H. Manekin and Robert Eisen, Bethesda: University of Maryland Press, 2008, 113-132.

Translated in Hungarian as: “Történelem és zsidó modernitás Spinozánál,” in Világosság (XLVI) 2004/5, 105-118. Also appeared in: Politikai teológia - történeti perspektíván: Filozófia, politika, teológia a XVII-XVIII. században, Budapest: Tudástársadalom Alapítvány, 2006, 201-224.

“The ‘Black, Scabby Brazilian:’ Some Thoughts on Race and Early Modern Philosophy,”

Philosophy & Social Criticism, volume 31 (2), 2005, 211-221.

“Persuasive Passions: Rhetoric and the Interpretation of Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise,” Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, volume 85, 2003, 249-268.

“Spinoza’s Republican Argument for Tolerance,” Journal of Political Philosophy, volume 11 (3), September 2003, 320-337.

“Spinoza’s Dogmas of Universal Faith and the Problem of Religion,” Philosophy and Theology, volume 13 (1), 2001, 53-72.

“Tolerance as a Virtue in Spinoza’s Ethics,” Journal of the History of Philosophy, volume 34 (4), October 2001, 535-557.

“Tolerance and the Right to Resist in Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise: The Problem of Christ’s Disciples,” in Piety, Peace, and the Freedom to Philosophize, Paul Bagley, ed., Kluwer Academic Press, 1999, 111-132.

“Two Collective Action Problems in Spinoza’s Social Contract Theory,” History of Philosophy Quarterly, volume 15 (4), October 1998, 389-409.

“Why Spinoza Chose the Hebrews: The Exemplary Function of Prophecy in the Theological-Political Treatise,” in History of Political Thought, volume XVIII (1), Summer 1997, 207-241.
Reprinted in: (1) Jewish Themes in Spinoza’s Philosophy, eds. Lenn Goodman and Heidi Ravven, State University of New York Press: 2002, 225-260; and also in (2) Spinoza, International Critical Library of Philosophy, eds. Yirmiyahu Yovel and Gideon Segal, Ashgate Academic Publishers: 2002; and (3) Spinoza. Critical assessments, ed. Genevieve Lloyd, Routledge, London-New York, 2001, vol. III, part XII.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of Spinoza and the Politics of Renaturalization, Hasana Sharp, University of Chicago Press 2011, for Review of Metaphysics, forthcoming.

Review of A Book Forged in Hell: Spinoza’s Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age, Steven Nadler, Princeton University Press, 2011, for Journal of the History of Philosophy 51.1 (2013): 129-130.

Review of Spinoza’s Theologico-political Treatise: Exploring the Will of God, Theo Verbeek, Ashgate 2002, for Journal of the History of Philosophy, Volume 45, Issue 2 (April 2007).

Review of Philosophy and the Passions: Toward a History of Human Nature, Michel Meyer,

Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000, for Philosophy in Review, Volume 22, No. 1, February 2002, 64-5.

Review of Beyond the Persecuting Society: Religious Toleration Before the Enlightenment, John Christian Laursen and Cary J. Nederman, eds., University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998, for The European Legacy, Volume 7, No. 1, 143-144.

Review of Spinoza, Liberalism, and the Question of Jewish Identity, by Steven B. Smith, Yale University Press, 1997, for Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, Volume 81 (1999), No. 3, 341-343.

Review of Giambattista Vico: Imagination and Historical Knowledge, by Cecilia Miller, St. Martin's Press, 1993, for Philosophy in Review, Volume XVII, No. 2, April 1997.

PAPERS PRESENTED (Selected):

“Spinoza on Circumcision and Ceremonies: Religion in a Cosmopolitan Society” at a conference on “Cosmopolitanism, Human Rights and Religion in Postsecular Societies,” at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, May 31, 2013.

“Spinoza on Circumcision and Ceremonies” at a conference on “Spinoza and the Theological-Political Complex,” at the University of Toronto, October 21, 2012.

“The Siren Song of Revolution: Spinoza on the Art of Political Change” at the Hannah Arendt/Reiner Schürmann Symposium in Political Philosophy at the New School for Social Research, New York City, May 4-5, 2012; also presented at the “Workshop on Spinoza,” at the University of Sydney, August 31, 2012.

“Politics and Ethics in Spinoza: The Problem of Normativity,” at a conference on “The Ethics of Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” at Texas A&M University, October 1, 2011; Also presented at the University of Queensland, September 14, 2012.

“Spinoza on Rights and Cosmopolitanism” at University of Frankfurt, May 8, 2011.

“Art and Politics of the Desert: German Exiles in California and the Biblical *Bilderverbot*,” at Department of Germanics, University of Washington, April 15, 2011. Also presented at “Political Fictions” Conference, University of Sydney, September 6, 2012; and at Monash University, Australian Centre for Jewish Studies, September 12, 2012.

“Would Spinoza Tolerate Atheists?” at Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 1, 2011; and at the University of Utrecht, May 9, 2011.

“Spinoza on the Idea of Progress,” at the conference on “Strukturgeschichte oder Entwicklungslogik? Spinoza und das Denken von Geschichte,” University of Halle-Wittenberg, sponsored by the Spinoza Gesellschaft, the Seminar for Philosophy, and the Interdisciplinary Center for Research in the European Enlightenment, September 17, 2010. Also presented at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, September 23, 2010, and at the University of Ghent, May 11, 2011.

“Hans Jonas and the Problem of a Jewish Philosophy of Life,” at the Tikvah Workshop in the Department of Religious Studies, Princeton University, December 14, 2009 and a revised version at a conference on Hans Jonas, Princeton University, June 13-14, 2010.

“‘Das Ethos der hebräischen Propheten’: The Philosophical Debate in Germany about the Jewish Religion and Nation during the First World War, and its Aftermath,” at Forschungskolleg für Humanwissenschaften (Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities), Bad Homburg, Germany, September 16, 2009.

“Art and Politics of the Desert: German Exiles in California and the Biblical *Bilderverbot*,” at the NEH Seminar, “German Exiles in California,” Stanford University, July 27, 2009.

“The Rationalist Debate over Wonder and the Ground of Moral Obligation in Kant,” at the APA Pacific Division Meeting, Invited Session on “The Government of the Passions,” Vancouver, BC, April 11, 2009.

“Miracles, Wonder, and the State in Spinoza’s *Theological-Political Treatise*” at Boston University, Department of Philosophy, Benedict Lectures, December 5, 2008.

“Between *Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft*: The Jewish Nation and the Idea of Biblical Science in Weimar Germany” at the Conference on Political Hebraism, Princeton University, September 9, 2008.

“Spinoza on Wonder and Politics,” at the mini-conference on Spinoza’s psychology at the APA Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, March 22, 2008.

“Comments on Andrew Youpa,” at the APA Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, March 20, 2008.

RESEARCH AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS (Selected)

NEH Summer Seminar Stipend for participation in “Walter Benjamin’s Later Writings: The Arcades Project and Commodity Culture,” at UC-Irvine, Summer 2011.

Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Goethe University, Bad Homburg, Germany, Fellowship (with support from the Cluster of Excellence, “The Formation of Normative Orders”), Summer 2009.

NEH Summer Seminar Stipend for participation in “German Exile Culture in California: European Traditions and American Modernity,” at Stanford University, Summer 2009.

Princeton University Tikvah Project in Jewish Thought Working Group on Hans Jonas, 2009-10.

DAAD Grant for German Language Study, 2005.

NEH Summer Seminar Stipend for participation in “Descartes and His Contemporaries: Scholastics and *Novatores*” at Virginia Tech University, Summer 2000.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 1999.

Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship in the College, The University of Chicago, 1993.

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1987-91.

Israel Government Scholarship, for study at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1986-87.

LANGUAGES

French - reading and speaking knowledge.

Latin - reading knowledge.

Hebrew - reading and speaking knowledge.

German – reading and speaking knowledge.

Dutch - completed first level intensive course at Leiden University.