Martin Buber: Philosopher of Dialogue
October 18–19, 2015 | Chicago, IL
A conference in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Buber’s death

Sunday, October 18 | Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

1 pm – 1:20 pm Opening Remarks
Dean P. Bell, Provost and Vice President, Spertus Institute
Paul Mendes-Flohr, University of Chicago Divinity School

1:25 pm – 2:25 pm Opening Keynote Address
Michael Fishbane, University of Chicago Divinity School: Authenticity and Spiritual Resistance: Martin Buber and Biblical Hermeneutics

2:25 pm – 2:50 pm Coffee Break

2:50 pm – 4:20 pm Session 1: Buber’s Dialogues with Hasidism
Chair: Na’ama Rokem, University of Chicago
David Biale, University of California at Davis: The Buber-Scholem Controversy Revisited
Sam Berrin Shonkoff, University of Chicago Divinity School: Sacramental Existence and Religious Truth in Buber’s Representation of Hasidism

4:30 pm – 6 pm Session 2: Receptions of Buber’s Social Thought
Chair: Orit Bashkin, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Sarah Scott, Manhattan College: Imagination and Moral Judgment: A Defense of Buber’s ‘Aestheticism’
Samuel Brody, University of Kansas: The Hard and the Soft: Moments in Buber’s Reception as a Political Thinker

This conference is sponsored by the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, the University of Chicago Divinity School, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the History of Judaism Area Club, the Martin Marty Center for the Study of Religion, the Norman Wait Harris Fund, and Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership.

It is the 2015 Norman Asher Memorial Program.

Spertus Institute is a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.
Monday, October 19 | Swift Hall, University of Chicago

9 pm – 10:30 am  
Session 3:  
Buber's Dialogues with Christianity  
Chair: Kristine A. Culp, University of Chicago Divinity School  
W. Clark Gilpin, University of Chicago Divinity School: ‘Companionable Being:’  
American Theologians Engage Martin Buber  
Shaul Magid, Indiana University: Buber's Baal Shem Tov Jesus:  
The Symmetry between Jesus and the Besht in Martin Buber's Thought

10:30 am – 10:45 am  
Coffee Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm  
Session 4:  
Biblical Hermeneutics and Religious Thought  
Chair: Toshihiro Horikawa, Jewish Studies, University of Heidelberg  
Claire Sufrin, Northwestern University: Buber, the Bible, and Hebrew Humanism:  
Finding a Usable Past  
Steven Kepnes, Colgate University: Buber as Theologian

12:50 pm – 1:30 pm  
Lunch Break

1:30 pm – 3 pm  
Session 5:  
Dialogue in Contemporary Thought  
Moderator: Paul Mendes-Flohr, University of Chicago Divinity School  
Panelists: Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago  
Hans Joas, University of Chicago

3 pm – 3:15 pm  
Coffee Break

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm  
Session 6:  
Buber and Political Thought  
Chair: Eric Santner, University of Chicago  
Randi Rashkover, George Mason University: Buber, Political Representationalism  
and the Prophetic: An Hegelian Critique  
Michael Löwy, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris:  
Martin Buber's Socialism

4:45 pm – 5 pm  
Coffee Break

5 pm – 6 pm  
Closing Keynote Address  
Introduction: James T. Robinson, University of Chicago Divinity School  
Elliot R. Wolfson, University of California at Santa Barbara: Theolatry and the Making-Present  
of the Nonrepresentable: Undoing (A)Theism in Eckhart and Buber

6 pm – 6:30 pm  
Closing Remarks  
Paul Mendes-Flohr, University of Chicago Divinity School

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Reception