



# Martin Buber: Philosopher of Dialogue

October 18–19, 2015 | Chicago, IL

A conference in commemoration of the  
fiftieth anniversary of Buber's death

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## 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*

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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.



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Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

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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**