

Dr. Meir Buzaglo

When Maimonides met Einstein

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18 Uhr c.t.

Hörsaal 301 im Wallstrakt, Franziskanergasse 1, 4. Stock

Zum Vortrag

Einstein read Maimonides late in his life, if at all, when he had already developed and expressed his views on religion and metaphysics. Nevertheless, one can easily detect that he shares several basic tenets with Maimonides. Among them are the rejection of anthropomorphism, a resistance to all kinds of superstition, the value of science, a rejection of anthropocentrism and the view that God's wisdom is expressed in the laws of nature (see Max Jammer's *Einstein and Religion: Physics and Theology*, 2002). Given these similarities, it might be fruitful to study a fundamental difference in their worldviews: Maimonides held that the universe and its character are the result of the will of God while Einstein, an adherent to Spinoza's metaphysics, was guided by the ideal that everything follows from God by necessity and had expressed it in his vision on the goal of physics. As it turns out, in his struggle against a Neo-Platonic view that the world emanated from God by necessity, Maimonides defined "the will of God" in metaphysical terms that might be translated to a view that competes with Einstein's. In my lecture I wish to articulate this controversy and examine the role that modern physics may play in this hypothetical dialogue.

Zum Vortragenden

Meir Buzaglo is a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at the Hebrew University. His publications include *The Logic of Concept Expansion* (Cambridge 2001) and *Solomon Maimon. Monism, Skepticism and Mathematics* (Pittsburgh 2002). He is also working on relations between Jewish philosophy and contemporary identity challenges in Israel (*A Language for the Faithful* 2009; *Keter Mandel and Maimonides: An Israeli Reading*, Modan 2014). Recently he studies applications of logic to theology (e.g., "Goedel's Second theorem and the Provability of God's Existence", in *Logica Universalis* 2019).