Special Issue

Jewish Thought in Times of Crisis

Message from the Guest Editors

This issue will examine encounters between Jewish thought and crisis (with both terms being broadly defined), exploring ways in which Jewish thinkers have generated, navigated, and overcome crises and ruptures. The issue will explore earlier encounters between crisis and Jewish thought in diverse historical contexts while also foregrounding interactions between Jewish thought and current states of crisis in public health, racial justice, democracy, contingent labor, academia, and beyond. By focusing on the concept and very real presence of crisis, we aim to expand the scope of traditional approaches in the field by bringing new projects, perspectives, and voices into conversation with one another. It is the goal of this special issue to address developments, breakdowns, and conflicts in Jewish thought—in how the field constructs itself, how its figures (both prominent and less well-known) have responded to past times of crisis, and how present researchers may reshape its contours by demanding that the canon speak to contemporary urgent concerns.

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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