

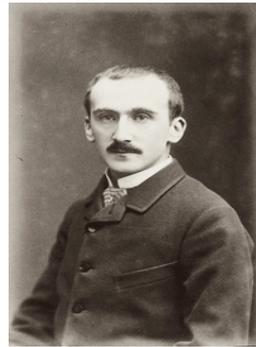
The Haifa Center for German and European Studies
The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society
The School of History

Seminar
Lecture and Open Discussion

**The concept of silence in Franz Rosenzweig
and Henri Bergson: a comparison**

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Silence is the limit of the word. The philosophy has always struggled with the power of the silence, that reduces and contains the scope of the word. In his book *The Star of Redemption* (*Der Stern der Erlösung*, 1921) Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) locates this 'opposition' between silence and word in the central relation between paganism and Creation/Revelation. The silence of paganism is the silence of the tragedy, the silence of the 'irrelation' as Rosenzweig writes: «for that is the distinctive sign of the Self, the seal of its greatness, and the mark of its weakness: it is silent. The tragic hero has only one language that is in perfect accord with him: precisely, silence» (tr. B. Galli, p. 85). On the contrary, the Creation is also creation of the 'word' and the Revelation is the opening of a dialogical form: the speech (true dialog). However, according to Rosenzweig, the silence conserves its fundamental place in the logic of speech. It is not only a limit against the word, but it is also its incessant and 'potential' spring. From Rosenzweig's point of view, this different concept of silence acquires a deeply importance into his philosophical and theological reflection. We will try to expose this different rosenzweighian vision of silence and we will attempt a comparison with the bergsonian conception of silence, especially showed in his text *Essay on the immediate data of consciousness* (*Essai sur les données immédiates de la conscience*, 1889) and in other texts in which Bergson (1859-1941) considers the problem of silence related to the limits of language.

Thursday, March 31st 2016

14:30 – 16:00

Library Auditorium [Room 146], Main Building, University of Haifa

The lecture will be held in English

For further information:

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