

Jewish Theology in the Context of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue



A Virtual Symposium | Monday, May 12th – Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

Symposium Goals and Questions

In the spring of 2025, the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies will host a special online symposium on contemporary Jewish theology in the context of Catholic-Jewish dialogue. Over the last decade, some Jewish scholars have begun to highlight the importance of theology and reflect on the possibilities opened by the ongoing dialogue between Catholics and Jews. For example, Jewish scholars involved in Catholic-Jewish dialogue have engaged in an increasingly frank discussion and evaluation of different interpretative traditions and historical approaches in Jewish thought. They have engaged Jewish texts with explicit attention to the implications for Israel's relationship with other people and religions, and whether these implications should guide hermeneutical approaches to certain texts. In addition, some scholars have deepened their engagement of Christian doctrines.

In light of these developments, the conference will feature Jewish theological reflections on central categories in rabbinic Judaism as well as fundamental Christian doctrines. For example, some important categories in rabbinic thought (e.g. *avodah zarah*, *brit*) can have a crucial impact on the relationship between Jews and Judaism and non-Jews. Does the contemporary historical situation allow or even demand a new articulation of the non-Jew, and categories of idolatry and covenant? How can the multivocality in biblical texts serve as a resource for constructing positive images of the other and other religions? The conference will also include Jewish theological reflection on some fundamental Christian doctrines. Is the Jewish concept of God diametrically opposed to the Christian concept of the Trinity? Does our current context enable

or even require a reading of the other's theological texts that articulates resonances as well as differences?

In an effort to advance fruitful reflection on theological questions, this symposium will provide a space for Jewish scholars to discuss constructive proposals in contemporary Jewish theology with Catholic theologians. Following the model of the spring 2021 CCJS symposium, "Catholic Theologies of Jews and Judaism and the Challenge of Theological Dialogue," a group of scholars will meet virtually, present their writings, and receive critical, constructive feedback in a spirit of friendship.

List of Participants

Alan Brill, Seton Hall University

Aaron Canty, Saint Xavier University

Holly Taylor Coolman, Providence College

Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Benedictine University

Kevin Hughes, Villanova University

Tzvi Novick, University of Notre Dame

Eugene Korn, Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation

David Maayan, Saint Leo University

Christian Rutishauser, The University of Lucerne

Devorah Schoenfeld, Loyola University Chicago

Anthony Sciglitano, Seton Hall University

Malka Simkovich, Editor-in-Chief, Jewish Publication Society

Artwork on page one is entitled "Ki Mitzion Tetze Torah" by Yoram Raanan.