

Workshop at the Catholic Academy of Berlin

Illuminations from Aquinas and Maimonides and Meanings Today

June 11–12, 2025

Venue and Accommodation

Katholische Akademie in Berlin (Third Floor)
Hannoversche Str. 5
10115 Berlin

Katholische Akademie in Berlin e.V.
www.katholische-akademie-berlin.de



KATHOLISCHE AKADEMIE
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Program

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

3:00 pm	Welcome Reception & Introduction Marcia Pally, New York University/Humboldt University of Berlin Patrick Zoll SJ, Munich School of Philosophy Stephan Steiner, Katholische Akademie Berlin	11:30 am	Coffee break
3:30 pm	Panel I <i>The Earliest Christian Reception of Maimonides: Exegesis and the Christian-Jewish Debate in Toledo</i> Lucy Pick, University of Chicago <i>Divine Naming in the alia lectura attributed to Aquinas</i> Mark Johnson, Marquette University <i>Hans Blumenberg on Maimonides and Aquinas: A Previously Unpublished Lecture</i> Omer Michaelis, Tel Aviv University	12:00 am	<i>Animal Suffering From Rabbi Moses to Aquinas and Beyond</i> James Dominic Rooney OP, Hong Kong Baptist University <i>Maimonides on Angels: The Strange Case of the Cherub</i> James Diamond, University of Waterloo
5:45 pm	Coffee break	1:30 pm	Lunch
6:00 pm	Public Evening Debate <i>Maimonides on the State, Divine Law, and Individual Perfection</i> Josef Stern, University of Chicago <i>Thomas Aquinas on the State, the Church, and Idolatry</i> Barbara Hallensleben, University of Fribourg Chair: Marcia Pally, New York University/Humboldt University of Berlin	2:30 pm	Panel III <i>Virtue, Grace and the Law of Sin: Limitations of Acquired Virtue in Aquinas</i> Angela Knobel, University of Dallas <i>Maimonides and Aquinas on the Different Types of Law</i> Howard Kreisel, Ben-Gurion University
8:00 pm	Joint dinner for the conference participants	4:00 pm	Coffee break
		4:30 pm	<i>What does it save? And who is saved? Maimonides and Thomas Aquinas in dialogue</i> Marienza Benedetto, University of Bari <i>The Definition of Belief in Medieval Jewish Philosophy</i> Shalom Sadik, Ben-Gurion University
		6:00 pm	Light Supper
		7:00 pm	Public Evening Debate <i>From Fear to Love: Philosophy and Self-Transformation in Maimonides</i> Moshe Halbertal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem <i>Transformed by Knowledge: How Catherine of Siena Put Thomas Aquinas's Theology into Action</i> Christina J. Van Dyke, Columbia University Chair: Felix Körner SJ, Humboldt University of Berlin

Thursday, June 12, 2025

9:15 am	Panel II <i>Rethinking Some Pre-Modern Reasoning on Knowing God and Divine Transcendence</i> Richard Taylor, Marquette University <i>Can We Know the Essence of a Simple God? Thomas Aquinas's Critique of Maimonides in De potentia</i> Patrick Zoll SJ, Munich School of Philosophy <i>Maimonides and Aquinas on the Mercy of Creation</i> John O'Callaghan, Notre Dame University	8:30 pm	Public Reception & Farewell
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