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ספקנות

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies
JEWISH SCEPTICISM

MAIMONIDES LECTURE ON SCEPTICISM

TUESDAY
13 AUGUST 2024
16:00

Leibniz on Infinity and Perfection

Anat Schechtman (University of Texas at Austin)

Contrary to the view of his contemporary, John Locke—and to our own post-Cantorian one—Leibniz insists that “true” or “absolute” infinity is not a quantitative notion: whereas quantities are characterized (*inter alia*) by having parts, he claims that the “true infinite is not at all found in a whole composed of parts,” but that it is rather simple and “more basic” than composed things. Instead, it is a metaphysical notion closely tied to maximal perfection, whereas finitude is tied to imperfection and limitation. The purpose in this talk is to unpack and evaluate this Leibnizian position against the foil of its more familiar quantitative rival.

Anat Schechtman is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin.

VENUE

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Please contact MCAS for
further information
and registration.

Contact

maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de

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