Editorial

This Yearbook presents some results of the research done at the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies – Jewish Scepticism in its second academic year 2016-17. The contributions collected in this volume show the broad scope of the Centre’s main topic, that is, scepticism. First and foremost, scepticism is a philosophical tradition beginning in antiquity and persisting into the present. Sceptical elements, concepts, methodologies and strategies are present also in philology, political thought, religion, and, generally, in culture and language. This variety and abundance of sceptical topics and methods are mirrored in the present Yearbook.

The aim of the Yearbook is to document the research, activities, and events that were accomplished at the Maimonides Centre. It is divided into three parts: articles, lectures, and reports.

The section of articles, subject to a double-blind peer review, offers a broad range of topics and approaches and follows a chronological order. They reflect the interests of the fellows, which range from classical sceptic topics such as the suspension of judgment, Sextus Empiricus’ logic, the principle of non-contradiction, and critiques of dogmatism to new insights in specialized areas of the history of philosophy and religion such as sceptical strategies in anti-Kabbalistic tendencies, sceptical references in Petrarch, the Italian academies, and Luzzatto’s *Socrates*.

One of the main features of the Maimonides Centre is the many lectures given not only by the fellows but also by other distinguished scholars from all over the world. The second part of our Yearbook displays a few of these inspiring moments. We are very happy to publish the opening lecture held by Josef Stern in October 2015. We also highlight the papers presented at the workshop ‘Jewish-Christian Polemics in the Middle Ages and in the Early Modern Period’ and two lectures given by Jonathan Garb and Wilhelm Schmidt-Biggemann as part of our ongoing lecture series on scepticism.

The last part of the Yearbook consists of reports including an annotated listing of the Centre’s activities and events, a summary of two Sceptical Ateliers, and, finally, a bibliographical report of the Centre’s librarian. The Centre’s new event series, introduced for the first time in 2017, takes the form of the Sceptical Atelier. The Sceptical Atelier is designed as a discussion forum, in which specialists from diverse fields contribute to the understanding of a certain topic or historical phenomenon. Thus, the participants will not have prepared a particular talk or paper, but will rather have studied the object of common enquiry in advance so as to share their notes and thoughts about it in the joint discussion. Detailed reports on the ateliers on Salomon Maimon’s *Lebensgeschichte* and on Simone Luzzatto’s *Socrates* are presented in the third section.

We owe many thanks for the excellent language editing by Katharine Handel. In addition, we are thankful to Rachel Aumiller who also revised parts of this volume. We would also like to acknowledge the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for the gen-
erous financial support that made the creation of the Centre possible, to the Board of Trustees for their supervisory role, the advisory board for their help and assistance in selecting the fellows, and the President of the Universität Hamburg, Dieter Lenzen, the Chancellor, Martin Hecht, the Dean of the faculty, Oliver Huck, and the head of the Philosophy department, Benjamin Schnieder for their active presence in maintaining an international centre to its high standard.

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