



The Central European University
Jewish Studies Project

AND

The Historical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

cordially invite you to a lecture by

Steven E. Aschheim

Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Icons Beyond the Border:

Why do we Love (Hate) Theodor Adorno, Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, Franz Rosenzweig, Gershom Scholem and Leo Strauss....?

Tuesday, October 2 at 6 p.m.

Popper Room, Monument Building

This lecture seeks to grasp a rather astonishing phenomenon. As time recedes, the popularity of an iconoclastic group of Weimar German-Jewish intellectuals (Theodor Adorno, Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, Franz Rosenzweig, Gershom Scholem and Leo Strauss) within Western academic and intellectual culture, has become ever greater and, indeed, attained almost cult status. What explains this surprising phenomenon? This talk will attempt to analyse how and why this particular German-Jewish intellectual legacy continues to so strongly permeate Western thought and sensibility.

Steven E. Aschheim holds the Vigevani Chair of European Studies at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem where he has taught Cultural and Intellectual History in the Department of History since 1982. He has also taught at the University of Maryland, Reed College and the Free University in Berlin. During September-October 2005 he was appointed the Max Kade Visiting Scholar of German Studies at Columbia University, New York. He will also be a guest lecturer in summer 2007 at the Central European University, Budapest. He has spent sabbaticals in Berkeley, the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton and in 2002-3 was the first Mosse Exchange Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is married and has three children (and two granddaughters!).

He is the author of *Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German-Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1982); *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany, 1890-1990* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992; also translated into German as *Nietzsche und die Deutschen: Karriere eines Kults* (Metzler 2000) and to appear in Hebrew in 2008; *Culture and Catastrophe: German and Jewish Confrontations with National Socialism and Other Crises* (New York: New York University Press, 1996); *In Times of Crisis: Essays on European Culture, Germans and Jews* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2001); *Scholem, Arendt, Klemperer: Intimate Chronicles in Turbulent Times* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001; also translated into Italian). He is also the editor of the conference volume, *Hannah Arendt in Jerusalem* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001) which has just appeared in Hebrew (in February 2007). His new book entitled *Beyond the Border: The German-Jewish Legacy Abroad* (Princeton University Press), was also published in February 2007.