

Curriculum Vitae

KENNETH R. SEESKIN

Personal

Born: March 6, 1947
Married; two children
Address: Department of Philosophy
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Academic Training

B.A. Northwestern Univ., 1968 (Highest Distinction)
M.Phil. Yale University, 1971
Ph.D. Yale University, 1972

Employment

Assistant Professor, Northwestern 1972-78
Associate Professor, Northwestern, 1978-1988
Professor, 1988
Chair, Dept. of Philosophy, 1981-1997, 2005-
Director, Jewish Studies Program, 1987-1993
Director, Center for the Writing Arts, 1996-2002

Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa
Danforth Fellow 1968-1972
Tew Prize in the Humanities, Yale, 1969
Cooper Prize in Greek Philosophy, Yale, 1972
Arts and Sciences Award for Outstanding Teaching, 1975
Arts and Sciences Commencement Speaker, 1990
E. Leroy Hall Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1992
Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence, 1995-
1998
Koldyke Teaching Professor, 2000-2002
Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies, University of

Toronto, 2001
Koret Jewish Book Award, 2001
John Evans Professor, 2005

Books Intended for Scholarly Audiences

Editor, Cambridge Companion to Maimonides (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Maimonides on the Origin of the World (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Autonomy in Jewish Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Searching for a Distant God: The Legacy of Maimonides (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000). Winner: Koret Jewish Book Award, 2001.

Jewish Philosophy in a Secular Age (Albany: SUNY Press, 1990)

Dialogue and Discovery: A Study in Socratic Method (Albany: SUNY Press, 1987)

Books Intended for General Audiences

No Other Gods: The Modern Struggle Against Idolatry (West Orange, N.J.: Behrman House, 1995)

Maimonides: A Guide for Today's Perplexed (West Orange, N.J.: Behrman House, 1991). Hebrew translation: HaRambam: Moreh Derekh Le-Nevukhei Zemanenu, (Haifa University Press, 2000).

Articles and Chapters in Anthologies:

1. "Many-Valued Logic and Future Contingencies," Logique et Analyse 56 (1971): 759-73.

2. "Some Remarks on Truth and Bivalence," Logique et Analyse 65-66 (1974): 101-109.

3. "Platonism, Mysticism, and Madness," The Monist 59 (1976): 576-86.
4. "Courage and Knowledge: A Perspective on the Socratic Paradox," Southern Journal of Philosophy 14 (1976): 511-21.
5. "Moral Necessity," New Scholasticism 51 (1977): 90-101.
6. "The Comedy of the Gods in the Iliad," Philosophy and Literature 1 (1977): 395-406.
7. "Is Existence a Perfection?--A Case Study in the Philosophy of Leibniz," Idealistic Studies 8 (1978): 124-35.
8. "Formalization and Platonic Scholarship," Metaphilosophy 9 (1978): 242-51.
9. "Leibniz and Transcendental Idealism," Man and World 11 (1978): 96-106.
10. "Genuine Appeals to Conscience," Journal of Value Inquiry 12 (1978): 96-106.
11. "Never Speculate, Never Explain: The State of Contemporary Philosophy," The American Scholar 49 (1979-80): 19-33.
12. "The Reality of Radical Evil," Judaism 28 (1980): 440-53.
13. "Is the Apology of Socrates a Parody?" Philosophy and Literature 6 (1982): 94-105.
14. "The Perfection of God and the Presence of Evil," Judaism 31 (1982): 202-10.
15. "Socratic Philosophy and the Dialogue Form," Philosophy and Literature 8 (1984): 181-94.
16. "Job and the Problem of Evil," Philosophy and Literature 11 (1987): 226-41. Reprinted in The Jewish Philosophy Reader, edited by Frank, Leaman, and Manekin (London and New York: Routledge, 2000), pp. 66-73.
17. "Meno 86c-89a: A Mathematical Image of Philosophic Inquiry," in Brian Hendly, ed. Plato, Time, and Education: Essays in Honor of Robert S. Brumbaugh, edited by B. Hendly (Albany: SUNY Press, 1987), pp. 25-42.

18. "What Philosophy Can and Cannot Say about Evil," in Echoes from the Holocaust, edited by Rosenberg and Myers (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1988), pp. 91-104. Reprinted in A Holocaust Reader, edited by Michael Morgan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).
19. "Coming to Terms with Failure: A Philosophical Dilemma," in Writing and the Holocaust, edited by Berel Lang (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1988), pp. 110-21. Reprinted in A Holocaust Reader, edited by Michael Morgan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).
20. "Jewish Philosophy in the 1980's," Modern Judaism 11 (1991), pp. 157-72.
21. "Poverty and Sincerity in the Apology," Philosophy and Literature 16 (1992): 128-33.
22. "The Rational Theology of Steven S. Schwarzschild," Modern Judaism 12 (1992): 277-86.
23. "Vlastos on Elenchus and Mathematics," Ancient Philosophy 13 (1993): 37-53.
24. "Jewish neo-Kantianism: Hermann Cohen," in Routledge History of Jewish Philosophy, edited by D. Frank and O. Leaman, ed. History of Jewish Philosophy (London: Routledge, 1997), pp. 786-98.
25. "Maimonides' Conception of Philosophy," in Leo Strauss and Judaism, edited by David Novak (Lanham, MY.: 1996), pp. 87-110.
26. "How to Read Religion of Reason," Introduction to the Second English edition of Hermann Cohen's Religion of Reason out of the Sources of Judaism (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 21-42.
27. "Holiness as a Moral Ideal," Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy 5 (1996): 191-203.
28. "Of Dialogues and Seeds," Philosophy and Literature 21 (1977): 167-78.
29. "Maimonides and Neo-Platonism," in The Perennial Tradition of NeoPlatonism, edited by John Cleary (Leuven: University Press, 1977), pp. 458-68.
30. "Maimonides and Aquinas on Creation," Medioevo: Rivista di storia della filosofia medievale 23 (1997): 453-472.

31. "Jewish Philosophy in the Wake of Mendelssohn and Kant," in Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2000.
32. "Sanctity and Silence: The Religious Significance of Maimonides' Negative Theology," American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly 76 (2002): 7-24.
33. "Maimonides' Sense of History," Journal of Jewish History 2004 (18): 129-145.
34. "Modern Jewish Philosophy" Oxford Guide to Modern Judaism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 303-313.
35. "Recent Work on Spinoza," Jewish Quarterly Review, forthcoming
36. "Moses ben Maimon," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/maimonides/>), 9,500 words.

Work in Progress

"Autonomy and Authority," Cambridge Companion to Modern Jewish Thought

"The Greek Legacy," Cambridge Companion to Jewish Philosophy

"Arguing from Ignorance: Maimonides and Spinoza on God and Contingency"

Reviews and Notes

1. Review of Plato by J.C.B.Gosling, Journal of Philosophy 72 (1975): 221-24 (with R. E. Allen).
2. Review of Aristotle's Posterior Analytics by Hippocrates G. Apostle, Apeiron 17 (1983): 70-72.
3. Review of Plato and Heidegger by H. G.Wolz, Journal of the History of Philosophy 21 (1983): 556-57.
4. Review of Musings on the Meno by J. E. Thomas, Ancient Philosophy 3 (1983): 216-19.

5. Review of The Philosopher in Plato's Statesman by Mitchell Miller, Ancient Philosophy 4 (1984): 234-37.
6. "Reply to Nadler," Philosophy and Literature 9 (1985): 201-2.
7. Review of Evil and the Morality of God, by R. Schulweis, Judaism 35 (1986): 117-19.
8. Review of Socratic Education in Plato's Early Dialogues, by H. Teloh, Review of Metaphysics.
9. Review of The Virtue of Faith by Robert Adams, Ethics 99 (1988): 184-85
10. Review of Lectures and Essays, by Jacob Klein, Archiv fur Geschichte der Philosophie 71 (1989): 250-52.
11. "Telling the Artist from the Art," Sh'ma 20 (1990): 60-62.
12. Review of Philosopher Kings by C.D.C. Reeve, Nous 26 (1992): 140-43.
13. Review of The Art of Plato, by R. B. Rutherford, Journal of the History of Philosophy 35 (1997): 457-58.

Representative Papers and Addresses

1. Comment on Joseph Owens' "Form as Cause of Being," Marquette University, 1978.
2. Chair, "The pursuit of Misreadings," International Association for Philosophy and Literature, Evanston, 1982.
3. Chair, "Donagan on the History of Philosophy," Illinois Philosophical Association, Normal, Ill., 1983.
4. "Hypothetical reasoning at Meno 86c-87c," American Philosophical Association, Los Angeles, Cal., 1984.
5. Comment on E. Halper, "Being qua Being in Metaphysics Gamma," American Philosophical Association, Chicago, Ill., 1985.
6. "Philosophy as Art: The Socratic Dialogues," Illinois Wesleyan University, 1985.

7. "Power as an Ideal in Plato and Nietzsche," University of the South, 1985.
8. "Kant and Jewish Philosophy," American Academy of Religion, Los Angeles, Cal., 1985.
9. "Spinoza on Miracles," American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Go., 1986.
10. "Virtue and Mathematics in the Meno," University of Kentucky, 1990.
11. "Maimonides' Conception of Philosophy," University of Toronto, 1991.
12. "The Rational Theology of Steven S. Schwarzschild," Washington University (St. Louis), 1991.
13. "Though Shalt Love . . ." Klutznick Memorial Lecture, Chicago, Ill. 1993.
14. "Maimonides' Conception of Philosophy," University of Virginia, 1993.
15. "The Paradox of Monotheism," University of Georgia, 1994.
16. "Maimonides and Neo-Platonism," St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland, 1995.
17. "Feminist Perspectives on Jewish Philosophy," Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mas., 1995.
18. "Jewish Philosophy--A Persuasive Definition," American Philosophical Association, New York, N.Y., 1995.
19. "Searching for God Among the Idols," University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Min., 1997.
20. "Spinoza and Judaism," American Philosophical Association, Philadelphia, PA., 1997.
21. "Maimonides, Spinoza, and the Problem of Creation," Miami University (Oxford, Ohio), 1998.
22. "Hermann Cohen on Idol Worship," University of Zurich, 1998.
23. "Maimonides' Critique of Popular Religion," University of Tennessee, 1998.

24. "Maimonides and Aquinas on Creation," University of Pisa, 1999.
25. "Maimonides on Divine Names," University of Padua, 1999.
26. "Why Idolatry is Alive and Well," University of Kentucky, 1999
27. "Hermann Cohen and the Problem of Autonomy: The Origin of I and Thou," Indiana University, 1999.
28. "Maimonides and Spinoza on Causality" University of Chicago, 2000.
29. "Physicians of the Soul," IALMH, Sienna, Italy, 2000.
30. "Plotinus on the Eternality of Matter," Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, 2000.
31. "Is Judaism Really Monotheistic?" "The Beginning of the Torah," "Sin and Repentance: A Jewish Perspective," University of Toronto, 2001.
32. "Jewish Rationalism," American Philosophical Association, Minneapolis, 2001.
33. "Hermann Cohen and the Jewish-German Symbiosis," University of Sussex, England, 2001.
34. "Author Meets Critics," Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., 2001.
35. "Ethics and Creation", Vanderbilt University, 2002.
36. "From Genesis 1 to the Big Bang," Spertus College, 2002.
37. "Is the God of the Philosophers a Being than Which No Greater Can Be Conceived?" European Association for Jewish Studies, Amsterdam, 2002.
38. "Is God Totally Unknowable," Washington University (St. Louis), 2003.
39. "Maimonides and Spinoza on the Nature of Causality," University of Toronto, 2003.
40. "What Maimonides Can Teach Us About Bible Interpretation," University of Maryland, 2003.
41. "Maimonides and Spinoza on the Structure of Causality," Marquette University, February 2004.

42. "Maimonides and Hermann Cohen on Messianism," New York University, March 2004.
43. "Maimonides and Kant on the Status of Metaphysics," Arizona State University, November 2004.
44. "Maimonides' Doubts About Astronomy," Boston Area Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science, Boston University, November 2004.
45. "Maimonides' Leadership," Florida International University, December 2004.
46. "Feminism As Seen From the Standpoint of Traditional Philosophy," Association for Jewish Studies, December 2004.
47. "Arguing from Ignorance: Maimonides and Spinoza on God and Contingency," University of Pisa, Italy, December 2005.
48. "Covenant and Social Contract," Princeton, February 2006.

University Service

CAS Promotion and Tenure Committee, 1978-80; Chair, 1978-79.
CAS Budget Committee, 1989-91; 1998-2001.
Program Review Council, 1988-90.
Modern Language Coordinating Committee, Chair, 1989-90.
CAS Strategic Planning Committee, 1990-91.
Search Committee for a Director of Program in African Studies, Chair, 1993.
Committee on Religious Life, 1997.
Committee on Athletics and Recreation, 2000; Chair: 2001--