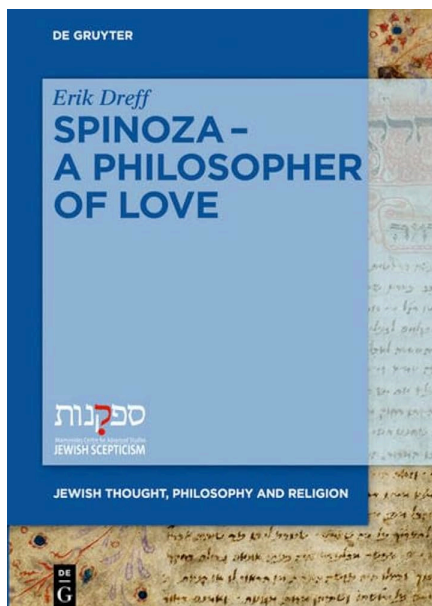


Episode 20: Erik Dreff

Exploring the Depths of Spinoza: Intellectual Love, Pantheism, and Morality

Erik Dreff is a lecturer in philosophy and religious studies at Rutgers University, where he specializes in Jewish philosophy and the works of Baruch Spinoza. With a research focus on the concept of the "intellectual love of God" (amor dei intellectualis) in Spinoza, Erik explores how this profound notion shapes Spinoza's views on ethics, politics, religion, and metaphysics. His work delves into the medieval Jewish sources of Spinoza's ideas, examining how these early influences informed Spinoza's approach to universal questions of love, morality, and the nature of God.

Erik is currently engaged in several research projects that highlight his deep commitment to understanding the evolution of Jewish thought and its intersection with broader philosophical themes. Among these are his forthcoming book, *Spinoza: A Philosopher of Love* (De Gruyter Press), which examines Spinoza's unique views on love and its implications across human knowledge and ethical conduct.



Another major project focuses on the concept of love in post-rabbinic Jewish thought, tracing how Jewish philosophers after the rabbinic period interpreted and integrated love as both a human and divine attribute. Additionally, Erik is developing a series of papers exploring "Time as an Attribute of God" in Spinoza's work and investigating the esoteric elements in the thought of 14th-century Jewish philosopher Hasdai Crescas.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Erik is an avid outdoorsman and a dedicated family man. He enjoys cooking meals from diverse culinary traditions, hiking through nature trails, and embarking on canoeing adventures. In his downtime, Erik treasures the moments spent with his children, sharing his love for the natural world and a curiosity for life's deeper questions.

Websites and Links

- [Rutgers University Faculty Page for Erik Dreff](#)
- [Erik Dreff's Book- Spinoza- A Philosopher of Love](#)