



The Department of Russian and Slavic Studies (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
invites you to the guest lecture

History and Philosophy of History of Matvey Kagan

Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Birth of Immanuel Kant

(the lecture will be given in Russian)

By Ilya Dvorkin

Monday, March 11 (1 Adar), 13:00-14:30

Mt. Scopus, Library, Media 31

The intellectual revolution that took place in the small Belarusian town, or more precisely, the Jewish town of Nevel, in 1918 became known to the world only many decades later. In some of its aspects, it is still unknown. That year, Mikhail Bakhtin and his friends moved from Petrograd to escape the hunger and chaos of the revolution. At the same time, the young philosopher Matvey Kagan, a student of Hermann Cohen, was deported from Germany and settled in his hometown. Nevel was transformed into a powerful cultural center, later dubbed "Russian Marburg". While Bakhtin's work became one of the most important intellectual events of the 20th century, destiny of Kagan's research is more complex. While still in Germany, he decided to devote himself to creating a philosophy of history based on Cohen's ideas. However, he was known only among his closest friends, and in 1924 he completely stopped studying philosophy, for which the conditions in the Soviet Union were, to put it mildly, not suitable. The texts written by the 1920s became known only in 2004 published M. Kagan's book "On the Course Kagan at the end of the 20th and early 21st due to the fact that he was the teacher



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Bakhtin. However, Kagan is no less an interesting figure and no less profound thinker than Bakhtin. The study of his own philosophy is extremely difficult due to the originality and complexity of his texts. Despite all the difficulties, studying Matvey Kagan's philosophy of history is absolutely necessary. He combined Russian, German, and Jewish culture of the early 20th century and built a powerful philosopher. The lecture will present new materials on the history of the Nevel school, discuss the relationship between the philosophical foundations of Bakhtin and Kagan, and, most importantly, introduce a general interpretation of Kagan's philosophy of history.



Ilya Dvorkin, philosopher, researcher of the philosophy of dialogue, the philosophy of Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Mikhail Bakhtin, founder and first rector of St. Petersburg Jewish University.