

Participants

Dr. Małgorzata Bakalarz-Duverger, Center for Jewish History, New York | **Prof. Dr. Hasia R. Diner**, New York University, New York | **Prof. Dr. Judith Friedlander**, Hunter College, New York | **Rabbi Dr. Matthew J. Kaufman**, Independent Scholar, Toronto | **Geoffrey Levin**, New York University, New York | **Dr. des. Imanuel Clemens Schmidt**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig/New York University, New York | **Prof. Dr. Esther Schor**, Princeton University, Princeton | **Dr. Avi Shilon**, New York University, New York | **Prof. Dr. Michael Steiner**, California State University, Fullerton | **Prof. Dr. David Weinfeld**, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond

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The One and the Many

New Research on Horace M. Kallen

Symposium

Taub Center, New York

November 10th, 2019

Venue

Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University
14A Washington Mews
New York, NY 10003

Contact and Registration

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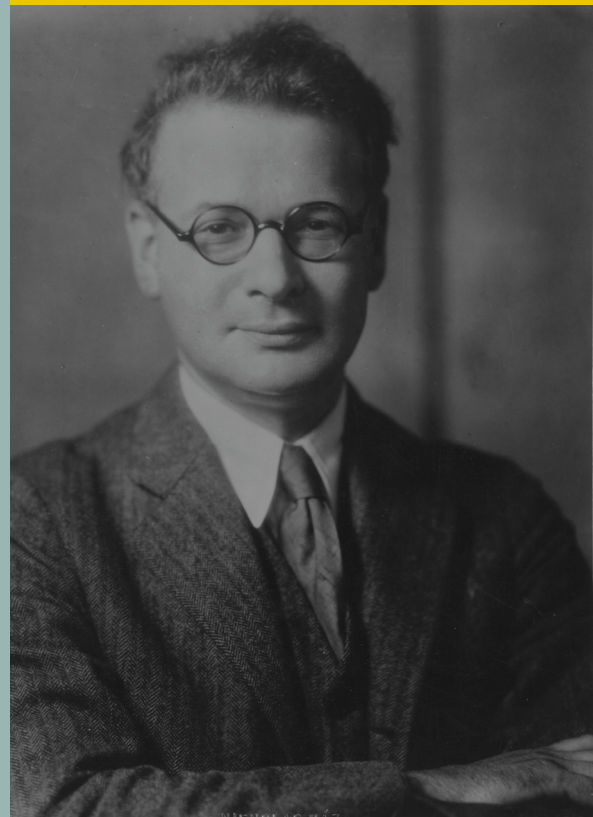
Taub Center for Israel Studies

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Topic

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, Horace Meyer Kallen (1882–1974) developed the philosophy and social theory of Cultural Pluralism. With this concept, he opposed nativist currents and the notion of an American melting pot that implied assimilation. In his essays, Kallen encouraged the maintenance of cultural difference among the various ethnic groups in the United States. It was the harmonious interplay of each particular culture that, according to Kallen, would perform what he understood as the idea of America.

Born in Bernstadt in Silesia (now Bierutów in southwestern Poland), Kallen immigrated to Boston with his family at the age of five. He studied at Harvard and worked closely with, among others, William James, George Santayana, and Barrett Wendell. From 1911 until 1918, Kallen taught at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and, for more than five decades (1919–1973), at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

Alongside his work popularizing Cultural Pluralism, Horace Kallen is best known as an eminent thinker of American Zionism and for his concept of “Hebraism,” a pivotal articulation of secular American Jewish self-understanding. Kallen applied his pluralist ideas to a multitude of fields in numerous writings and institutional engagements. He devoted himself to adult and Jewish education, to questions of labor and consumerism, and in the 1940s and 1950s reformulated Cultural Pluralism as “Secularism,” America’s civil religion.

This symposium assembles recent research and current projects on Kallen and addresses new approaches to his biography, ideas, and institutional activities, as well as their respective historical contexts. Moreover, it constitutes a working discussion on desiderata and renders visible Kallen’s diverse intellectual engagement in pivotal aspects of twentieth-century American Jewish history.

Program

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 **Avi Shilon**
Welcome
Immanuel Clemens Schmidt
Introduction
Hasia R. Diner
Considering a Century of Horace Kallen and the Ideal of Pluralism
- 10.30 **Michael Steiner**
An Easterner in the Hinterlands:
Horace Kallen and the Midwestern Birth
of Cultural Pluralism, 1911–1918
Esther Schor
Citing the Source:
Horace Kallen, George Washington, and the
Borah Affair (1934–1935)
Chair: Judith Friedlander
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 **Immanuel Clemens Schmidt**
Pluralism as Civil Religion:
On Kallen’s Sources of “Secularism”
Matthew J. Kaufman
A Jewish Embrace of Secularism as Faith:
Horace Kallen, Mordecai Kaplan, and Jewish
Education
Chair: Geoffrey Levin
- 14.30 Coffee Break
- 14.45 **David Weinfeld**
Friendship and Family:
Two Nodes of Kallen’s Cultural Pluralism
Chair: Małgorzata Bakalarz-Duverger
- 15.30 **Joint Discussion**