Between Honour and Authenticity: Zionism as Theodor Herzl’s Life Project

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Derek Penslar is a comparative historian with interests in the relationships between modern Israel and diaspora Jewish societies, global nationalist movements, European colonialism, and post-colonial states. His books include Shylock’s Children: Economics and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe (2001), Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective (2007), and Jews and the Military: A History (2013).

In 1895, Zionism became the latest manifestation of Theodor Herzl’s ongoing project to attain both honour and authenticity. The very act of striving towards these two affective states, overlapping yet at times contradictory, fueled Herzl’s Zionist passion and sustained him through the nine years during which he irrevocably transformed the Jewish world.

Reception: 5 pm, Lecture: 5:30 pm
Warren Room, 295 Boalt Hall
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