



Press Release

2018 Leopold Lucas Prize for Guy and Sarah Stroumsa

Tübingen's Protestant Theology honors religious philosophers – Junior Lucas Prize goes to theologian and physicist Jan Schole

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The religious philosophers Guy and Sarah Stroumsa received the University of Tübingen's Dr. Leopold Lucas Prize on Tuesday. Both scholars focus on the historical interconnections between religions, and the way they reflect on these religions' development. The Faculty of Protestant Theology paid tribute to the Stroumsas' internationally-recognized research focusing on the dynamics of encounters between religious traditions and institutions in the Roman Empire and in Late Antiquity in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. They have also carried out important work on philosophy and religion in the Muslim world during the Middle Ages, the jury said. "Both scholars have a special understanding of how to develop deeply analytical theses, and how to test their sustainability in academic discourse."

The €50,000 Dr. Leopold Lucas Prize honors outstanding achievements in the fields of theology, intellectual history, historical research, and philosophy. It goes to individuals who have promoted tolerance and better relations between people and nations.

This year's Lucas Prize for Junior Researchers went to Dr. des. Jan Schole (Faculty of Protestant Theology) for his work on the theological, philosophical, and physical ideas of the relationship between God, eternity, and time. The prize is endowed with 20,000 euros.



Sarah Stroumsa (born 1950) is the Alice and Jack Ormut Professor Emerita of Arabic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 2003. She taught at the Department of Arabic Language and Literature and at the Department of Jewish Thought. From 2008 to 2012 she was the first woman to serve as rector of the university. She is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, as well as of the European

Academy of Sciences and Arts. She is a laureate of the Humboldt

Research Award, and a holder of the Italian Order of Merit. Her area of academic focus includes the history of philosophical and theological thought in Arabic in the early Islamic Middle Ages, Medieval Judaeo-Arabic literature, and intellectual history of Muslims and Jews in Islamic Spain.

Photo: Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin



Guy G. Stroumsa (born 1948) is the Martin Buber Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1991-2009) and Professor Emeritus for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions at Oxford University. He is a Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich. He is a laureate of the Humboldt Research Award, and a Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite. In his research he examines religious phenomena from a comparative perspective. He is particularly interested in the dynamics of encounters between religious traditions and institutions in the Roman Empire and Late Antiquity and the crystallization of the Abrahamic traditions as a background to Islam. Photo: Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin



Jan Schole (born 1984) studied Protestant theology (first theological examination) and physics (diploma) in Hanover, Bielefeld, Tübingen and Heidelberg. He has been working as a software developer since 2016. In his thesis at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Tübingen, he developed an "eternity model" that incorporates ideas from physics and Schelling's late philosophy. Against the background of the theological discussion about the understanding of eternity and physical theories of time, he justifies the thesis that God can change between different time references: According to this, God's eternity is the power to determine and change his own relationship to time. Photo: private

The Leopold Lucas Prize pays homage to the Jewish rabbi and scholar Dr. Leopold Lucas, murdered at Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1943. The Prize was endowed by his son, Franz D. Lucas, in 1972.

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