

Hilary Term 2025

Ethical Reading Seminar:

Obscurity



Thursday 10:00–12:00 Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Week 1: 23 January

Paul Franks (Yale)

'Published and Yet Not Published': The German Idealist Struggle to Overcome the Obscurity of Philosophy

Week 2: 30 January

Christoph Markschies (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften/Humboldt-Universität)

Obscurity as driving force in Origen's Bible Philology and

Interpretation

Week 3: 6 February

Avigail Manekin (Hebrew University)

Obscure Words and Pseudo-Scripts in Ancient Jewish Magical

Texts

Week 4: 13 February

Lea Niccolai (Cambridge)

Neoplatonic unknowns and the limits of logos

Week 5: 20 February Frank Griffel (LMH)

Is There More to Causality than Correlation? Discussions About Evident and Obscure Causal Connections in Pre-Modern Islamic Philosophy and Theology

THEOLOGY

RELIGION

OXFORD

AND

CLASSICS

Week 6: 27 February

Giulia Maltagliati (Cambridge)

Trying Obscurity in Forensic Oratory: Between Rhetoric and

Philology

Week 7: 6 March

Avishai Bar-Asher (Hebrew University)

Formatting the Book of Formation (Sefer Yeşirah):

How Textual Restoration Illuminates the Obscurity of the Major

Treatise of Jewish Mysticism

Week 8: 13 March

Felix Christen (Zürich)

Obscurity and the Time of Writing: Towards an Ethics of Philology in

Schleiermacher, Nietzsche, and Szondi