

“The Ethics of Communal, Business and Political Leadership and the Ethics of Decision-Making”

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Dates: From Sept 12 till Sept 23 2016
- Details: Sept 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, then 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Schedule: 7:30 - 10:30 am.

Place: Universidad del Pacífico (Auditorio I – 103)

Abstract:

Based on sources from the Bible and teachings from Jewish tradition, this seminar aims at exploring ethical issues related to leadership and decision-making. Whether we focus on communities, businesses or political entities, being able to lead and make decisions are at the essence of being a success; yet bring with them difficult ethical concerns. What are the required qualities of a leader to decide and not to divide, to lead and to listen but not overpower? What are the processes involved in our ability to make decisions that will affect, not only the future of a business or of a political structure, but also the lives others? What is our legitimacy in elevating ourselves, as leaders, to make decisions that will affect others? Is there a model of leadership that is at the same time ethical but yet not disconnected from the harsh competitive reality of our world? While addressing these issues through the shared reading of Jewish and rabbinic texts, this seminar, participatory in its nature, will enable the participants to discuss the truly universal aspects of these ethical concerns.

I. The Ethics and Leadership

- 1 - Introduction
 - A. Wisdom and pitfalls of leadership – a rabbinic introduction
 - B. Political and Business leadership – a rapid survey of well-known quotes
 - C. What is an “inspired” Jewish Leadership
- 2 - I - Gleaning is Biblical Leadership
 - A. Noah as a “non leader” – righteousness is not leadership
 - B. Abraham and the kings of Sodom: The ethical price of leadership
 - C. Abraham and the “wife-sister”: misjudging your enemies
- 2 - II - Bible and Leadership: The Required Qualities
 - A. Exodus 18: Moses and Jethro
 - B. Deuteronomy 1: Judging between your brothers
- 2 - III - Moses as Flawed Leader?
 - A. Moses and the Egyptian man: Leadership and Justice
 - B. Moses unable to lead the people in the Promised Land
 - C. Moses and Korah: two opposite views of leadership
 - D. Eldad and Medad testing the leadership skills of Moses and Joshua
- 2 - IV - Prophets and leadership
 - A. Jonas: Too narrow mind to be a leader
 - B. Isaiah and Jeremiah: Spiritual and political leadership from a religious perspective
- 3 - Classical Rabbinic Experiences in Leadership
 - A. Talmudic stories and teachings: resilience, majority rule and beyond the requirement of the law
 - B. A Maimonidean view: Compassionate leadership in time of crisis.
 - C. Don Issac Abravanel, as financier and political leader in the XV Century
- 4 - Contemporary Rabbinic Critical View on leadership
 - A. S.R Hirsch: Leading a community in time of unprecedented changes
 - B. Law, Authority and Leadership: When facing modernity
 - C. An Efficient way to implement changes: Leibowitz and Scholem on rabbinic methods of leadership.
- 5 - Levinas and Leadership
 - A. Towards a responsible leadership

II. The Ethics of Decision Making

1 - Introduction

- A. Making decisions. A political perspective

2 - Bible

- A. Do or do not follow the majority?
- B. Decision-making and subjectivity: the case of the Kohanim ruling on purity and impurity

3 - Talmud

- A. Decision-making in case of life and death
- B. Decision-making and the problem of "truth" versus "majority"
- C. Decision-making and the unanimous verdict.
- D. Seven considerations in Rabbinic decision making

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5 – Levinas and Leadership

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3 – Talmud

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