The Legacy of the Hochschule in the U.S. and Canada

Felix Steilen

Description: Felix’s presentation follows former Hochschule members to North America. The school’s material legacy is closely tied to the fate of the books in its library and its intellectual legacy is inseparable from the lives of its teachers and students. The U.S. and Canada became a haven for former Hochschule staff who fled persecution and who were able to continue teaching at various existing institutions. Emil Fackenheim, Leo Strauss, Abraham Heschel, Alexander Guttmann and Fritz Bamberger are the names of some better-known exiles who were able to continue their work overseas. Here, the Hochschule’s intellectual legacy also includes former American visiting students such as Jacob Radar Marcus, who became a leading historian of modern Judaism.

Dr. Felix Steilen received his DPhil from Humboldt-Universität in 2019 on The Representation of Historical Reality in Theories of Society. He was a visiting graduate student in the New School for Social Research, NYC (2008–2009); in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago (2014–2015), as well as a Minerva Fellow at Tel Aviv University (2016–2019) and a Postdoc at Goethe University Frankfurt (2019–2020). Dr. Steilen received the Marie Curie Fellowship for “The Theorem of Secularization in the Long 19th Century” at the Freie Universität Berlin (2020–2022) and was a guest researcher at Freie Universität Berlin (2022–2023). He was a lecturer for European history at the University of Notre Dame in Berlin (2022) and has been a lecturer for the German Intellectual Tradition at New York University, Berlin since 2020.