



ÖAW
Österreichische Akademie
der Wissenschaften



Jour fixe Kulturwissenschaften

Donnerstag, 12. April 2012 / 16:30 Uhr

Ort: ÖAW, Postgasse 7, „Im Stöckl“, 1. Stock, 1010 Wien

Michal Ben-Horin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

What Remains:

New Tradition and Acoustic Memory in Arnold Schoenberg's Opera

In his essay on the shofar Theodor Reik speculates on how the musical instrument of Jewish liturgy embodies the traumatic memory of murdering the ancient father. This metonymy of the 'acoustic remainder' is a powerful tool for exploring the relationships between sacred and secular rituals. In my lecture I will use this trope to examine Arnold Schoenberg's exploration of convention and aesthetic innovation, tradition and political revolution in *Moses und Aron*. However, I intend to show how Schoenberg's retelling of the biblical myth conveys and testifies to unsolved tensions and dilemmas of representation that go beyond the boundaries of his opera.