

JEWISH SEMINAR SERIES

ON THE RESEARCH-TEACHING NEXUS

HISTORICAL CRITICISM & MODERN QUESTIONS: WRITING ABOUT THE BINDING OF ISAAC

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9
4:00-5:15 PM
VIA ZOOM**

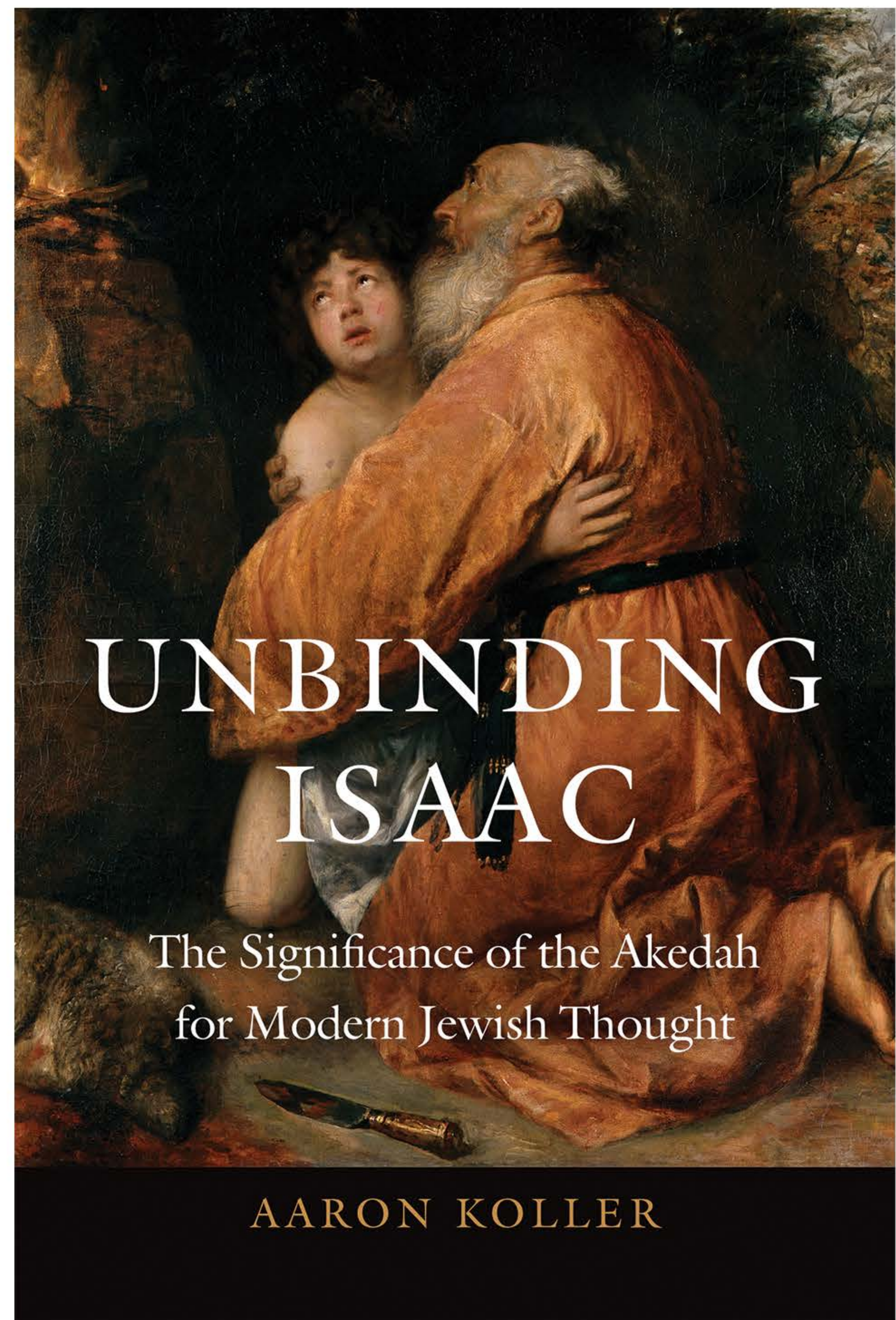
The first meeting of the Spring 2021 Jewish Studies Seminar Series on the Research-Teaching Nexus will discuss the new book *Unbinding Isaac: The Significance of the Akedah for Modern Jewish Thought* (2020) by Professor Aaron Koller of Yeshiva University. In *Unbinding Isaac*, Koller critiques how modern religious thinkers have interpreted the binding of Isaac and offers an alternative reading of the biblical text. This seminar will discuss why biblicists in particular should be willing to dive deep into a text's interpretive history, and how philology can be helpful for ethics. And as the idea for the book came from classroom teaching, we will also discuss how teaching can inform research, and not only vice versa.

In particular, Dr. Aaron Koller will share some ideas of how our knowledge of the ancient Near East constrains and constructs a reading of the Binding of Isaac, and how that creates an ethical dialogue involving Kierkegaard, Maimonides, and the ancient Phoenicians. Koller will argue that a historically grounded reading yields the conclusion that the story is, after all, against child sacrifice, but in a complicated and interesting way.

The TIJS Seminar Series is intended for Emory faculty and students only.

**Click below to register:
<https://tinyurl.com/unbindingisaac>**

Aaron J. Koller is a professor of Near Eastern studies at Yeshiva University and chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College.



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FOR JEWISH STUDIES