

PRESS RELEASE

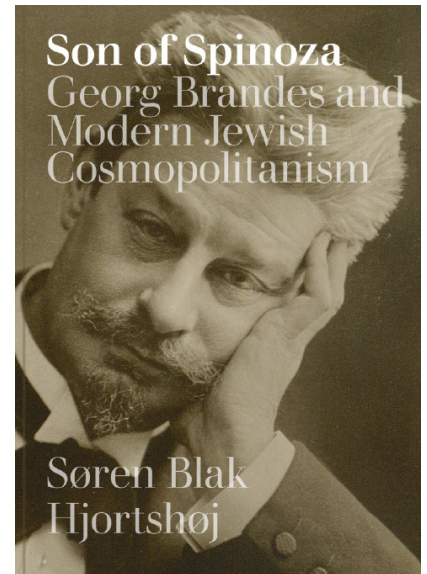
Son of Spinoza

Son of Spinoza sheds light on the interconnectedness between Jewishness and cosmopolitanism in the oeuvre of the Danish-Jewish intellectual Georg Brandes (1842-1927). Today, the historical tradition of interconnecting these concepts has largely been forgotten, although the construction of a somewhat synonymous relation between them became a key structuring element of modern antisemitism and later Nazi ideology. In this context, Georg Brandes—his writing and practice—stands as a crucial European cosmopolitan archive, due to the great influence he enjoyed throughout the European continent.

Son of Spinoza challenges the presentation of Brandes in previous research as a so-called assimilated Jew who distanced himself from Jewishness, instead recognizing Brandes' own self-identification as a Spinozist cosmopolitan and his depiction of himself and other modern Jews as 'sons of Spinoza'.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Søren Blak Hjortshøj, PhD, holds a Postdoc position at Université de Strasbourg where he, as a part of the project "Aesthetics of Protestantism in Northern Europe", is researching the protestant aesthetics and utopias of the Nordic welfare state in Modern Breakthrough literature. As a PhD fellow at Roskilde University, he contributed to the research project "Identifying Jews and Jewishness, 1783-1939". *Son of Spinoza* is a reworking of his dissertation.



SON OF SPINOZA GEORG BRANDES AND MODERN JEWISH COSMOPOLITANISM

Søren Blak Hjortshøj

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CONTACT

Søren Blak Hjortshøj

hjortshoj@unistra.fr

+45 25 32 19 25

Aarhus University Press
Finlandsgade 29
8200 Aarhus N, Denmark
unipress@unipress.au.dk
+45 53 55 05 42
unipress.dk