

**The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel**  
invites you to the 2019-2020 research lecture series  
“New Technologies and Divine Prerogatives”

**New Technologies and Divine Prerogatives:  
Moral, Spiritual and Legal Considerations**

**Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn**

Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation (CJCUC)

**Thursday, 19 December 2019 at 8:00 P.M.**

**At THE STUDIUM THEOLOGICUM SALESIANUM, Rh Shmuel Hanagid 26**

As the Academic Director of CJCUC in Jerusalem and the founding editor of *Meorot: A Forum for Modern Orthodox Discourse* Rabbi Dr. Korn will investigate key questions deriving from the use of new technology. Such inquiry has been on the table, arguably, since the controversial article by Bill Joy, the co-founder and former chief scientist at Sun Microsystems, in the *Wired Magazine* “Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us” (April 2000). This essay warns that growing advances in genetic engineering and nanotechnology would bring risks to humanity. It argued that intelligent robots would replace humanity in the relatively near future. On moral grounds, *the author supports and promotes the idea of abandonment of genetics, nanotechnology and robotic technologies, instead of going into a race between negative uses of the technology and defense against those negative uses.* That attitude of broad relinquishment was criticized by technologists, such as Ray Kurzweil, who advocates *fine-grained relinquishment and ethical guidelines* (Bill Joy, *Wikipedia*). Since that debate inquiries into the impact of modern technologies and search for moral guidelines seek to draw from the Jewish and Christian traditions. How then, in that context, to represent *moral, spiritual and ethical considerations?*

The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel thanks the Studium Theologicum Salesianum for kindly offering its lecture facilities.

Please join us for light refreshments from 7.30 P.M.

**The next lectures in the series will be 23/01/20; 20/02; 26/03; 30/04; Retreat: 28/05.**