"The Bodies of God in Hebrew Scripture, Jewish Tradition, and Christianity"
Prof. Benjamin D. Sommer, Ph.D.

Dr. Sommer will draw upon his recent research for a new book detailing the impact of certain Near Eastern perceptions of divinity on several books of the Bible, particularly Genesis, Exodus, Hosea and Isaiah. These Near Eastern perceptions had important impact on ideas found in Jewish mysticism and in early Christianity (especially on the Trinity). Awareness of this connection suggests that Jewish objections to some aspects of Christian theology--especially the Trinity--require thorough re-examination.

Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer joined the Jewish Theological Seminary of America faculty as professor of Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages in July 2008. Previously, he served as director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies at Northwestern University, where he had taught since 1994. Dr. Sommer's research focuses on the history of Israelite religion, literary analysis of the Bible, and biblical theology. Dr. Sommer recently completed his second book, *The Bodies of God in Ancient Israel and Its World*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press. It addresses perceptions of divine embodiment in ancient Israel, Canaan, and Mesopotamia, and how these perceptions reappear in later Jewish philosophy and mysticism.

Monday
February 23, 2009

4:00 p.m. - Lecture
5:00 p.m. - Reception

Catholic Theological Union
5416 S. Cornell Ave., Chicago
Assembly Hall Second Floor
Complimentary parking

Information: bernardincenter@ctu.edu 773.371.5432