



Karl Marx (1867)

IICAS European Lecture Series

"The Unfamiliar Karl Marx"

Jonathan Sperber

Curators' Professor of History
University of Missouri

**Tuesday,
January 14, 2014**

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Seuss Room, Geisel
Library

Register at:
<http://iicas.ucsd.edu>

Event information:
iicas-events@ucsd.edu or
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Department of History,
Judaic Studies
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"*Karl Marx: A
Nineteenth-Century
Life*" will be available
for purchase, cash or
check accepted

There is an image of Karl Marx, with which we are all familiar: the bearded prophet, peering keenly into the future, the man who formulated the doctrines that became the basis for communist regimes. Whether perceiving Marx favorably as the proponent of human emancipation from capitalist bondage or in hostile fashion as the sinister thinker laying the groundwork for totalitarian rule, this familiar Karl Marx is both our contemporary and a twentieth-century icon. Sperber will turn away from this contemporary context and show Marx in the world of his own nineteenth-century lifetime. He will do this by considering four unfamiliar elements of Marx's life, ideas, and political activities. Two of these elements involve parts of Marx's life that seem very far from his familiar image: Marx as a journalist and Marx as a Protestant. The other two, Marx as economist and Marx as revolutionary, might be more expected, but when considering their nineteenth-century goals and formulations, will appear rather different from the usual understandings. At the end, Sperber will compare this unfamiliar Karl Marx of the nineteenth-century with the familiar image of Marx prevalent today and in the recent past.

Jonathan Sperber was born and grew up in New York City. He received his B.A. at Cornell, and attended graduate school at the University of Chicago where he received his Ph.D. in 1980 under the direction of Leonard Krieger. Since 1984, he has been at the University of Missouri, since 2003 as Curators' Professor of History. Sperber's scholarship has focused on the social and political history of nineteenth-century Europe, especially the German-speaking world, including books on popular religion, the 1848 revolutions, voters and elections, and property, family and the law. The biography, *Karl Marx: A Nineteenth-Century Life* (NY: W.W. Norton/Horace Liveright, 2013) is his first foray into trade publishing, and writing for a general educated public. He has been very gratified by the response to the book, both in this country and across the world.