Jewish interest in the Jewish Jesus and Christianity was a small cottage industry in 19th century Europe. Most Jews who wrote about Jesus were either converts to Christianity or progressive Jews who wanted to argue that Jesus’ Jewishness made Jewish reform a religious alternative that was compatible with enlightened Christian Europe. Rabbi Elijah Soloveitchik was an exception. An ultra-Orthodox Lithuanian Jew trained in the Volozhin yeshiva and an early member of a rabbinic dynasty, Elijah Zvi Soloveitchik fell in love with Christianity while retaining fidelity to Orthodox Judaism and wrote a Hebrew commentary to the Synoptic Gospels arguing there was no intrinsic difference between Judaism and Christianity. This lecture will discuss his contribution and its relevance to contemporary conversations about Judaism and Christianity.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
6:00 PM | Smith-Buonanno 106
(Brown University, 95 Cushing St., Providence, RI)

Sponsored by The Elga K. Stulman Fund | Public welcome

Presented by Professor Shaul Magid

Shaul Magid is a professor of religious studies and the Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein Chair of Jewish Studies at Indiana University and the author of many books. His latest book Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity and the Making of Modern Judaism was published with Stanford in 2015. He is presently an NEH Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish History in New York City working on an intellectual biography of Meir Kahane, and a Kogod Senior Research Fellow at The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.