Aaron Segal is the Michael and Bella Guggenheim Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His primary areas of research are metaphysics, philosophy of religion, and analytic Jewish philosophy. Segal received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, and was an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Yeshiva University, before moving to the Hebrew University.

His work in metaphysics has clustered around three main areas. He’s written a series of articles on the question of monism and pluralism, over the course of which he argues that we face a stark choice between a robust monism on the one hand and an extremely radical form of pluralism on the other hand. This gave rise to his current project, funded by the Israel Science Foundation, on the systematicity of metaphysics, and of philosophy more broadly. The project attempts to vindicate the nineteenth century idealist attitude to philosophy, which was holistic and systematic, as opposed to the atomistic and piecemeal approach that came to dominate twentieth century analytic philosophy. Segal seeks to show that philosophy is intrinsically systematic, and that this has rather significant implications for how properly to do philosophy (by scrutinizing and filling out historically developed systems) and for what we can know in philosophy (very little). His third metaphysical project centers on the question of what we human beings are, ontologically speaking. He’s co-authored a forthcoming book, Are We Made of Matter? (Routledge), in which he defends a negative answer to the question in the title.

In philosophy of religion, Segal has published on, among other topics, immortality, epistemology of religion, and the divine/creature relation. In Jewish philosophy specifically, he has worked to bring it into conversation with contemporary analytic philosophy. He has published on the philosophy of halakha, theological inquiry, and faith, and on historical figures such as Maimonides and Crescas. Segal co-edited two collections that helped to cement analytic Jewish philosophy as a field, co-founded the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism, and co-directed a multi-year large scale project on the theme, “Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation”.

He has received grants and awards from numerous organizations, including the Ammonius Foundation, the Israel Council of Higher Education, the John Templeton Foundation, the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, and the American Philosophical Association.