

MATANEL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT

Prof. Moshe Idel
Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies at Zefat Academic College

Year: **2017-2018**

Name of the report's writer: Tanya Lyons

Function of the report's writer: Development Coordinator

Mail: tanyal@Zefat.ac.il

Phone: 972-4-692-7866

Website / Facebook address: <http://www.zefat.ac.il/>

<https://www.facebook.com/zefatacademiccollege>

Number of active participants in the program: 3

Estimated number of impacted participants: 25

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

The program is on-going and is in its third year. Professor Idel continues in his role as leading senior lecturer in the Mysticism and Spiritualities department. He continues to teach academic courses, give lectures abroad and in Israel, attend conferences and publish books and articles.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

Professor Idel's activities supported by The Matanel Foundation in 2017/2018 included:

- A senior teaching position. Professor Idel is the leading senior lecturer in the Mysticism and Spiritualities department that was established and is operating with his assistance.
- Professor Idel taught three academic courses in 2017/18:
 1. The Status of the Feminine in the Divinity in Kabbalah
 2. The Kabbalas of Safed, A
 3. The Kabbalas of Safed, B

- Professor Idel gave the following lectures abroad:
 - Moscow, November 8-10, 2017: three lectures as part of the Eshkolot series: "On Music and Kabbalah", "On Paul Celan and Kabbalah", "Kabbalah in Italy".
 - Berlin, Brandenburgian Academy, December 4 to December 6, 2017: "Religious Polemics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam" and "Polemics between Philosophers and Kabbalists".
 - Hamburg, University of Hamburg, March 12 to March 15, 2018: International Conference of four days around the Manuscript of Professor Idel's forthcoming book: Abraham Abulafia's Esotericism (de Gruyter, Berlin/New York, to be published in 2018 or 2019): "Abulafia and the Early Maimonideans: Trends, Approaches, and Skeptical Strategies".
 - Budapest, Central European University, June 24 to June 29, 2018: Summer University Course: The Dignity of Man in Western Intellectual History, Esotericism, and Art. Professor Idel taught the following classes:
 1. The Human as Potentiality to Change: From Arabic, To Jewish and Renaissance Anthropology;
 2. Theurgy: Human Imitatio Dei and the Divine Imitatio Fidei;
 3. Tiqqun: the Reparation of the Divinity by Human Actions.
- Professor Idel participated and lectured in the following academic conferences in Israel:
 - Ben Zvi Institute, November 7, 2017: Professor Idel gave a lecture at the series of the 50 years anniversary of the Institute: "On Kabbalah in Safed".
 - Hebrew University, the Scholion Center, January 15, 2018: conference on Kabbalah in Gerona.
 - Mishkenot Shananim, November 16, 2017: on Yehudah Liebes book on Lithuanian Kabbalah.
 - Ben Zvi Institute, May 29, 2018: Lecture on the new book Stories in the Zohar.

- Tel Aviv University, Department of Jewish Culture, 30 May, 2018: "The Great Transition".
- Publications: Professor Idel published the following books and articles in 2017/18:

Books:

1. *Abraham Abulafia's Esotericism* (de Gruyter, Berlin/New York, 2018 or early 2019), 450 pages.
2. *The Privileged Status of the Feminine in Theosophical-Theurgical Kabbalah*, (de Gruyter, Berlin/New York, 2018), 250 pages.
3. Professor Idel completed writing a Hebrew book and is now searching for a publisher. The book is entitled:
מלאכים שנפלו: על מיתוס יהודי קדום וגלגליו בהגות היהודית.
4. *Le Paradise dans la mystique juive*, ed. S. Tastet, Septembre 2018.
5. *Les mystiques messianiques: de la Kabbale a Hassidisme*, (Allia, Paris 2018) second edition.
6. *Catena Incantate* tr. Emma Abate (Morceliana, Brescia, 2018).
7. Professor Idel will continue working on Hallewah's *Tzafnat Pa'aneah*, and
8. *R. Moshe Cordovero's Dual Ontology*. The book is 750 pages and is being edited at the time of this report's submission.

Articles:

1. "Prophets and their Impact in the High Middle Ages: A Subculture of Franco-German Jewry," eds. J. Castano, T. Fishman, E. Kanarfogel, *Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews* (Littman, Library, Liverpool, 2018), pp. 284-337.
2. "פירושים לאלפא ביתא של מטטרון עיונים נוספים," *תרביץ*, פה (תשע"ח), עמ' 523-552.

"וחיות הנה מקובעות בסא' פירושיו של ר' נחמיה בן שלמה" קבלה, מא (תשע"ח), עמ' 3.

193-54

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

- In the year 2017/18, Professor Idel taught 3 academic courses, with a total of 70 students. This is an increase of 59% from the previous year where he taught 44 students in 3 academic courses.
- The number of conferences attended and lectures given increased
- The number of articles and books that Professor Idel published also increased
- There was greater interaction between Professor Idel's lectures and other fields on campus

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Professor Idel will continue in his role as leading senior lecturer in the Mysticism and Spiritualities department. He will teach academic courses, give lectures abroad and in Israel, attend conferences and publish books and articles. In addition, he will create a website that will present his research.

*Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as **PDF documents**)*

- Attached

*Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seems to you relevant – as **PDF document**.*

- Attached

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

- Attached