

### MATANEL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT

**Prof. Moshe Idel**

**Matanel Chair for Kabbalah Studies at Zefat Academic College**

Year: **2018-2019**

Name of the report's writer: Tamar Goldin

Function of the report's writer: Development Coordinator

Mail: tamarg@zefat.ac.il

Phone: 972-4-692-7866

Website / Facebook address: <https://www.zefat.ac.il/english-site/english-generic-content-page/> , <https://www.facebook.com/ZefatAcademicGlobal/>

*Number of active participants in the program:* 3 (Professor Idel, Dr. Marianna Ruah-Midbar Shapiro – Head of the Mysticism and Spirituality Department, Ms. Hodaya Elgali – Department Secretary)

*Estimated number of impacted participants:* 35 students participating in the courses Prof. Idel teaches at ZAC.

*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 fourth 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 2018/2019 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 four academic courses in 2018/19:
  1. The Myth of Fallen Angels in Jewish Thought (12 students)
  2. Colors in the Kabbalah (5 students)
  3. The History of Prophetic Kabbalah (15 students)
  4. Hasidism and its Religious Background (3 students)

### Lectures:

- Professor Idel gave the following lectures abroad:
  - Rice University, Houston: "Solomon Schechter, Avraham Yehoshua Heschel and Alexander Altmann – Scholars of Jewish Mysticism in America" (October 2018)
  - Bard College, New York: Symposium - Conserving Active Matter: History, Session IV: Traditions (1 November 2018) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=42&v=tRJGEXZINaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=42&v=tRJGEXZINaY)
  - Yeshiva University, New York: "The Great Transition" (19 November 2018)
  - Sapienza University of Rome, Italy: Sabbateanism In Italy, "The Visit of R. Nathan of Gaza to Italy" (21 January 2019) - [https://news.uniroma1.it/sites/default/files/apm\\_files/Sabbateanism%20in%20Italy%20and%20its%20Mediterranean%20Context.%20International%20Conference%2C%20Rome%20January%2020-22%202019.pdf](https://news.uniroma1.it/sites/default/files/apm_files/Sabbateanism%20in%20Italy%20and%20its%20Mediterranean%20Context.%20International%20Conference%2C%20Rome%20January%2020-22%202019.pdf)
  - Terra Iudaica Conference, Romania: "Bukovina Hasidism" (7 April 2019)
- Professor Idel participated and lectured in the following academic conferences in Israel:
  - The Open University of Israel: Symposium in honor of Ram Ben Shalom's book: Provençal Jewry, Renaissance in the Shadow of the Church (July 2018) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eGjJbplZp4&t=2s>
  - Beer Sheva University: Lecture on Bracha Zak's Book (27 November 2018)
  - The National Library of Israel, Jerusalem: "Kiryat Sefer – Chronicles: Scholars of Kabbalah in the Pages of Kiryat Sefer" (26 February 2019) - <https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/library/events/EventsCalendar/Pages/kiryat-sefer-26-2-19.aspx>
  - Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities: The 4th annual multidisciplinary conference in the natural sciences and the humanities: The journeys of Abraham Abulafia and the distribution of Kabbalah (February 2019) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4LSqu3lr\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4LSqu3lr_8)
  - The National Library of Israel, Jerusalem: "Borges and Kabbalah" (5 March 2019)

- The Hebrew University, Institute for Advanced Studies: "Kabbalah and Logic" (13 March 2019)
  - Tel Aviv University, School of Jewish Studies and Archeology, Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud: The Spiritual Biography of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai - Discussion of the textual elements of the Zohar (April 2019) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tecuXqtUP5g>
  - Tel Aviv University: "Abraham Abulafia: the Apotheosis of a Banned Kabbalist in Meah Shearim" (28 May 2019) - [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities\\_en.tau.ac.il/files/media\\_server/The%20Stephen%20Roth%20Institute%20-%20New%20Site/Events/Judaism%20and%20Heresy%20-%202027-28.5.2019.pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/The%20Stephen%20Roth%20Institute%20-%20New%20Site/Events/Judaism%20and%20Heresy%20-%202027-28.5.2019.pdf)
  - Tel Aviv University, a Conference on the question "Are the Humanities in Decline?": "Humanities – Where Are We Going?" (17 June 2019) - [http://college.clb.ac.il/uploads/%D7%93%D7%A2%D7%99%D7%9B%D7%AA%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%97\(1\).pdf](http://college.clb.ac.il/uploads/%D7%93%D7%A2%D7%99%D7%9B%D7%AA%20%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%97(1).pdf)
  - Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities: Conference on the Wisdom of Combining Letters (24 June 2019) - [https://hebrew-language.huji.ac.il/sites/default/files/hebrew/files/hzmnh\\_lyrv\\_gbvrvt\\_brshr.pdf](https://hebrew-language.huji.ac.il/sites/default/files/hebrew/files/hzmnh_lyrv_gbvrvt_brshr.pdf)
- Publications: Professor Idel published the following books and articles in 2018/19:

### Books:

- M. Idel, The Privileged Divine Feminine in Kabbala (de Gruyter, Berlin, Boston, 2018).
- M. Idel, Catene incantate, tecniche e rituali nella mistica ebraica trs. E. Abbate – M. Motolesse (Morceliana, Brescia, 2019).
- M. Idel, Experientia mistica la Abraham Abulafia tr. Maria-Magdalena Angelescu, (Polirom, Iasi, 2019).
- M. Idel, Golem- an Augmented Edition (Ktav, New York, 2019).

### Articles:

- M. Idel, "Prophets and their impact in the High Middle Ages, A Subculture of Franco-German Jewry," in eds. J. Castano – T. Fishman, E. Kanarfogel, Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews (Littman Library, Liverpool University Press, 2018), pp. 285-337

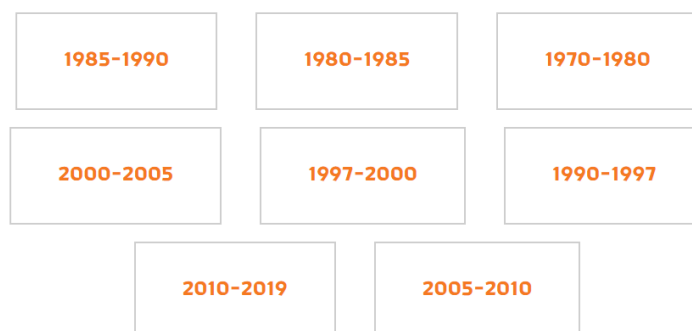
- M. Idel, "Rationalizations of Religion in Medieval Jewish Thought," in eds. Y. Friedmann – Ch. Maschrkies, Rationalization in Religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, (Berlin, 2019), pp. 45- 62.
- M. Idel, "Sefer Raziel ha-Mal'akh, New Inquiries," in ed. E. Abbate, L' eredita di Salomone, (Giuntina, Firenze, 2019), pp. 143-168.

*Professor Idel's Website is under construction, and the following steps have been taken:*

- At a meeting at Zefat Academic College, the first steps of the work on the website were discussed. It was decided to establish a full archive of Prof. Idel's research projects, according to years of activity (picture of the initial format of the Virtual Archive attached below).
- The homepage of the site was submitted to Prof. Idel for approval.
- Links were made to videotaped lectures.
- Prof. Idel decided on the format of the sources and files that will appear on the site. The list was developed in a demo version of the site.
- Prof. Idel's assistant started collecting materials and formulating a work method.
- First articles were added to the database. In the meantime, at the initial stage we are working on the articles in English, the bilingual version of the site there will be access to articles in English and Hebrew.
- The first 60 articles, most of them in English and some in Hebrew, are currently being uploaded to the website.
- Dozens of articles are currently in the process of being located, collected and scanned to be uploaded to the website.

The initial format of the Virtual Archive:

### ביבליוגרפיה



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

- In 2018/19, Professor Idel taught 4 academic courses in Zefat Academic College, with a total of 35 students.
- The number of courses taught by Professor Idel increased.
- The number of lectures abroad increased.
- The number of lectures in Israel increased.

*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, his website will be launched.

Zefat Academic College plans to establish a new online course on the subject of Zefat's Kabbalah, which will be taught by Professor Idel.

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

Please find attached the Financial Report

*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**.*

Please find attached photos from Prof. Idel's class "The Myth of Fallen Angels in Jewish Thought".

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.

This year a short clip is unavailable, however - following Prof. Idel's request - we attached links to YouTube videos of 4 of his lectures given this year (please find the links at the "Lectures" section above).