

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:
Year: 2020-2021

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: Matanel- Bar Ilan Forum for the Study of French Jewish thought

Year of activity: 2

Name of the report's writer: Prof. Hanoch Ben- Pazi

Function of the report's writer: Chair of Matanel Bar –Ilan Forum and former Chair Department of Jewish Philosophy

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Website / Facebook address of the organization:

Number of active participants in the program:21

Estimated number of impacted participants:21

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

The Forum promotes the research of scholars of French Jewish thought with relation to continental (as opposed to analytical) philosophy.

The Forum serves as a central venue in Israel for promoting French Jewish Thought. Additionally, it encourages a refreshing philosophical discourse that emerged after the Holocaust and fosters interest and motivation in cultural renewal and Jewish identity together with religious or cultural commitment.

Bar-Ilan University is grateful to the Matanel Foundation for enabling us to create a concentrated research group, which builds new discourse within Jewish Philosophy.

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

- 1) **Fellows:** This year the Foundation supported two post-doctoral fellows (Dr. Tzivya Frank Vigoda and Dr. Batsheva Bartman) as well as five doctoral students (Shaul Wachstock, Yael Cherniak, Ben Landau, Nicolini Cosimo Cohen, and Hadas Chaya Halevi.)
- 2) **Research:** The following additional researchers joined the forum (they are not receiving scholarships from the Foundation): Dr. Michael Ben Admon, Jacques Bentata, Dr. Yaniv Mezuman, Gale Chana Seraro, Hila Pladot, Nimrod Ginosar. Rotem Bachar and Pnina Lengberg
- 3) **Courses.** A cluster of courses devoted to French Jewish Thought was created within the framework of the University's Basic Studies program as well as courses that are taught in French for the benefit of students who have recently immigrated to Israel. We see the goal of these courses to integrate French Jewish discourse into Israeli Jewish identity.
- 4) **Steering Committee:** A steering committee comprised of Prof. David Benun, Prof. Efraim Meir, Dr. Miriam Feldman Kaye, Dr. Meirav Carmelli, Dr. Avner Dinur and Prof. Hanoch Ben-Pazi was established and will oversee the activities of the Forum.
- 5) **Guest Lecturers:** During the course of the year, the Forum hosted the following guest lecturers: Prof. Eddie Rubricht (Aix En Provence), Dr. Shmuel Vigoda (Herzog College).
- 6) **Annual Conference.** The annual conference, held on zoom, was devoted to the memory and legacy of David Brezis who recently passed away. Brezis was originally scheduled to speak at the conference. The Brezis family was represented at the conference by Leah Zehavi Brezis and Michal Brezis. The speakers at the conference included: Prof. Zeev Harvey, Prof. Betty Roitman, Prof. Michal Govrin, Dr. Dan Jaffee, Prof. David Benun and Prof. Hanoch Ben-Pazi. The conference master of ceremonies was Dr. Tzviya Frank Vigoda.

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

The forum adopted a new format that allows the fellows more opportunity and space to present their research and further the discourse. This new template has proved very successful and was well received by the forum members.

Unfortunately, this year, the forum was operating under the cloud of the Covid-19 pandemic and we needed to transition from face-to-face meetings to online- zoom meetings and sessions. The zoom format proved both helpful and difficult as the personal intervention was greatly missed. We had hoped that the end of the year meeting would be held in its normal format but the new wave of corona began just when we the meeting was scheduled. We were able, under the Ministry of Health guidelines, to hold the meeting outdoors.

In consultation with Dr. Ami Boganim, we have requested to change the allocation of this year's conference budget in favor of publishing a compilation of articles dedicated to Éliane Amado Levy-Valensi.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

- 1) In the current year, we would like to hold a conference dedicated to the teachings of Manito and to create an in-depth philosophical and cultural study, which will allow insight into the gothic potential of Manito's works.
- 2) A steering committee for the annual conference will be established which will provide a platform for both doctoral students and veteran researchers.
- 3) We hope to create a format which would balance between the continuing fellows and those that just joining the forum and the research arena.
- 4) We are exploring the possibility of awarding only one post-doctoral fellowship and at the same time increasing the number of doctoral fellows.
- 5) The forum will continuously rethink new ways to foster and develop additional research avenues and achieve even greater heights.

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

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

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.