

# MATANEL FOUNDATION

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Program:** *Matanel-Bar Ilan Forum for the Study of French Jewish Thought*

**Year:** 2019-2022

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Matanel Foundation for your years of support, to detail the progress of our program and to respectfully request your continued support so that we may see this program develop and flourish with greater successes and accomplishments.**

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: 1-3 (cumulative)

Name of 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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Phones: 03-5318421

Website / Facebook address of the organization: N/A

Number of active participants in the program: 27

Estimated number of impacted participants: 150+

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

In 2019, when the Matanel Forum was established at Bar-Ilan University, its goal was to bring French Jewish Thought to Israel through significant, academic discourse. In just two and a half years, the Forum has achieved that goal and many others. In this short time, the Forum has already had considerable influence in the field, so much so that external parties reach out to us for our expertise and academic collaboration. Postdoctoral fellows seek out our program specifically to host their research. In fact, this upcoming August, the Forum will be represented at the World Congress of Jewish Studies taking place at Hebrew University; for the first time, the Matanel fellows will present their research to the entire audience of participants. Internally, the impact of the Forum has been felt in the additional courses

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

Through the duration of the program, we have encountered many challenges – the global pandemic, not least of them – yet, we have diligently persevered to accomplish a great many achievements. The Forum meets every three weeks to discuss innovative ideas with guests from Israel and abroad. In 2019, the Forum hosted 5 PhD students, 2 postdoctoral fellows and 16 participants in 10 meetings. In 2020, there were 2 PhD students, 2 postdoctoral fellows and 19 participants in 10 meetings. This year, we have 7 PhD students and 20 participants in, what is on track to be total of 10 meetings.

Additionally, we hosted a very successful conference on Éliane Amado Levy-Valensi in 2019, from which we have collected articles and are in the process of publishing a book. This year, our conference will focus on Rav Yehuda Leon Ashkenazi (Manitou), on the anniversary of what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Not including the conference participants, we have reached a total of 73 direct participants. In addition to the three new courses, each with 2-30 students and led by a Matanel Fellow, we estimate our reach is well beyond 150 people in just over two years.

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

The success of this project is proven first and foremost by the numbers of participants and the numbers of students registered in courses. It is no small feat to introduce three new core courses in the Helene and Paul Shulman School for Basic Jewish Studies. It is even more exceptional proof of our reputation and esteem that these classes – taught by Matanel post-doc and PhD fellows, in French – have enrolled a full roster of 20-30 students each. Additionally, 2-4 related courses have been integrated into the Department of Jewish Philosophy taught by faculty members: Prof. Hanoach Ben Pazi, Prof. David Banon, Professor Emeritus Efraim Meir and Dr. Miriam Feldmann Kaye.

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

In the coming three years, it is imperative that we continue to develop this program. The foundation has been set and now it is time to build. The Forum has solidified its name and reputation for serious academic work in Jewish philosophy, specifically French Jewish Thought, throughout Israel, and it is time now to expand our programming, ensuring Bar-Ilan's place as the hub of all French Jewish Thought in the country. It is our hope that people will delve into issues of Israeli society through the lens of French Jewish Thought, that this philosophy will be ingrained into the consciousness of Israeli society. Furthermore, we have begun the planning phase for a podcast that we hope to develop over the coming year.

**As such, we respectfully request the continued generous support of the Matanel Foundation in the amount of \$65,000 per year for three years.**

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

See attached

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**.

In the attached photos and documents, you will see flyers for the Forum, an invitation for the Conference and a Save-the-Date for the upcoming Conference, group photos from the sessions, a “kol koreh” advertisement for the Manitou conference, as well as an advertisement to join the Matanel Forum program.

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. **N/A**