

# Workshop

## Abravanel Latinus. An Untold Story.

### Jewish Texts, Christian *Dissertationes*, and other Hebraic Writings

The Hebrew-Jewish tradition captivated early modern European intellectuals, fueling Christian Hebraism, a phenomenon that emerged in the sixteenth century. Jewish theological, mystical, and philological texts became essential tools, complementing the Christian tradition and expanding scholarly methods. This shift towards Jewish post-biblical sources is a key marker of early modernity, illuminating the complex dynamics of religious scholarship, despite historical pressures such as expulsions and the Inquisitions.

In the previous century, Hebrew studies had already complemented the humanistic curriculum alongside Greek and Latin, positioning the language as a tool for delving deeper into Christian scripture. With the Reformation, Hebrew studies intensified within Protestant academia, where the original Old Testament became vital. Hebrew and Jewish texts entered university curricula across Protestant Europe, enriching theological and intellectual discourse.

In this context, Christian scholars found renewed interest in the writings of Don Isaac Abravanel (1437–1508), whose biblical exegesis and philosophical works offered a unique blend of Jewish and Christian thought. His writings, in Latin translation, shaped theological and secular debates alike, influencing studies in politics, history, and law. Notably, Abravanel's works continued to circulate across Europe, interpreted within various intellectual traditions. This workshop, "Abravanel Latinus," seeks to bridge gaps in modern scholarship by exploring Abravanel's multifaceted influence across Catholic and Protestant circles, highlighting his role in shaping early modern intellectual discourse.

#### Convenors

- Guido Bartolucci (University of Bologna)
- Cedric Cohen-Skalli (University of Haifa)
- Giuseppe Veltri (University of Hamburg)

#### Participants

- Chiara Adoriso (University La Sapienza, Rome),
- Asaph Ben Tov (University of Hamburg),
- Maria Vittoria Comacchi (University of Venice)
- Yehuda Halper (Bar-Ilan University),
- Eric Lawee (Bar-Ilan University),
- Claude Stuczynski (Bar-Ilan University),

#### Venue

University of Hamburg | Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion | Jungiusstraße 11c | 20355 Hamburg | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room C319

# Programme

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

10:00	<b>Registration</b>
10:15–10:40	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> Giuseppe Veltri (University of Hamburg), Cedric Cohen-Skalli (University of Haifa), and Guido Bartolucci (University of Bologna)
10:40–12:00	<b>First session</b> Chair: Giuseppe Veltri (University of Hamburg)
10:40–11:20	<b>The Human Factor in Prophecy: Abarbanel’s Portrait of Jeremiah and His Early Modern and Enlightenment Critics</b> Eric Lawee (Bar-Ilan University)
11:20–12:00	<b>Abravanel’s Use of Averroes and Its Early Modern Reception</b> Yehuda Halper (Bar-Ilan University)
12:00–13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00–15:30	<b>Second session</b> Chair: Guido Bartolucci (University of Bologna)
13:00–13:40	<b>The Reception of Abravanel’s Political Thought in the Age of Hobbes and Spinoza</b> Cedric Cohen-Skalli (University of Haifa)
13:40–14:20	<b>Daniel and the Turks: The Fortune of Isaac Abravanel’s Messianism in Guillaume Postel’s Venice</b> Maria Vittoria Comacchi (University of Venice)
14:20–14:50	<b>Coffee break</b>
14:50–15:30	<b>Echoes of Abravanel’s Historical and Political Visions among Ex-Converto New Jews: Samuel Usque and Isaac Cardoso</b> Claude Stuczynski (Bar-Ilan University)
19:00	<b>Dinner</b> Restaurant “Lam Vegan”   Kleiner Schäferkamp 14   20357 Hamburg

Thursday, 5 December 2024

**9:30–13:00 Third session**

Chair: Cedric Cohen-Skalli (University of Haifa)

9:30–10:10 **Jewish Philosophy, Abravanel, and the *Dissertationes***

Giuseppe Veltri (University of Hamburg)

10:10–10:50 **Abravanel and the Political Debate within Lutheran Universities in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries**

Guido Bartolucci (University of Bologna)

**10:50–11:20 Coffee break**

11:20–12:00 **Some Notes on Protestant Scholars and the Rabbis in Seventeenth-Century Germany: The Case of Theodoricus Hackspan (1607–1659)**

Asaph Ben Tov (University of Hamburg),

12:00–12:40 **Isaac Abrabanel and Salomon Munk's *Esquisse historique de la philosophie chez les juifs***

Chiara Adorisio (University La Sapienza, Rome)

**12:40–13:00 Conclusion**

**13:00 Lunch**