



Universität Hamburg

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Institute for Jewish  
Philosophy and Religion

# Workshop

## Abravanel Latinus. An Untold Story.

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

#### Date

4–5 December 2024

#### Venue

Institute for Jewish Philosophy  
and Religion

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 Adorisio (University La Sapienza, Rome)
- Assaph 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)

Please contact the Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion for registration and further information: [sekretariat.judaistik@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:sekretariat.judaistik@uni-hamburg.de)