



# PREMODERN JEWISH MAGICAL AFFAIRS

## Textual Transmission, Authority, and Practices of Esoteric Knowledge

8 May 2023

Aula Baratto, <https://www.unive.it/pag/30119/>

10.00-10.30

**Opening:** Alessia Bellusci (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)  
& Agata Paluch (Free University of Berlin)

10.30-11.30 Chair: Alessia Bellusci

**Magical and Esoteric Knowledge Across Temporal and Spatial Boundaries (1)**

**Avishai Bar Asher**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“*Sar Torah: Hekhalot Rabbati* - from Magic and Liturgy to Literary Anthology”

**Avigail Manekin-Bamberger**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“Late Antique Transmissions of the *Hekhalot Zutarti* in Magic and Liturgical Texts”

11.30-12.00 Coffee break (Aula Archivio)

12.00-13.00 Chair: Alessia Bellusci

**Magical and Esoteric Knowledge Across Temporal and Spatial Boundaries (1)**

**Paolo Lucca**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

“The Mother of All Evils: Typology, Motifs, and Characters of Some Armenian Spells Against Child-Harming Demons”

**Ortal Paz Saar**, Utrecht University

“Bishop Burchard, Rabbi Kaduri, and the Marvelous Adventures of an Egg”

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

Aula A, Palazzo Ca' Vendramin

14.30-16.00 Chair: Agata Paluch

**Manuscripts of Magic and Kabbalah: Authority, Redaction, and Transmission**

**Emma Abate**, University of Bologna

“Recipes and Potions in the Hebrew Collection of the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*: General Presentation and Case Studies”

**Gal Sofer** and **Sara Offenberg**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

“Give No Heed to Your Prophets, Augurs, Dreamers, Diviners, and Sorcerers”: Catoptromancy in MS *Bibliothèque nationale de France* 9

**J.H. Chajes**, Haifa University

“The Magic and Mystery of a Kabbalistic Mentaculus:

The Meaning(lessness) of MS Jerusalem, IM, B50.02.1945 180/40”

16.00-16.30 Coffee break (piazza St. Margherita, Orange coffee)

16.30-18.00

**Magic, Kabbalah, and Textual Transmission: A Conversation**

**Giulio Busi**, Free University of Berlin

**Gideon Bohak**, Tel Aviv University

**Moshe Idel**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

19.30 Dinner (for the participants)

09 May 2023

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09.30-11.00 Chair: Agata Paluch

**Jewish Magic between Jewish and Christian Kabbalah**

**Flavia Buzzetta**, Laboratoire d'études sur les monothéismes, Fondation Hausbrandt

“Christian Kabbalistic Perspectives on Golem: Translations and Interpretations in the Fifteenth Century”

**Gal Sofer**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

“Kabbalah as Magic, Magicians as Prophets: The Case of *Liber Razielis*”

**Saverio Campanini**, University of Bologna

“Enigmatic Reasons: Hermann von der Hardt and his Jewish Amulets”

11.00-11.30 Coffee break (Aula Archivio)

11.30-13.00 Chair: Alessia Bellusci

**Magical and Practical Kabbalistic Compilations: Practices and Text Technologies**

**Yuval Harari**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

“How to Write an Amulet (and a Note on Moses Zacuto's *Sefer Haqeme'ot*)”

**Andrea Gondos**, Free University of Berlin

“Humanoid Diagrams as Apotropaic Devices in Jewish Magical Rituals from Eastern Europe”

**Eliezer Papo**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

“One Culture, Two Peninsulas: Sephardic Judeo-Iberian Magical Incantations in Dialogue with Different Balkan Traditions”

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.30 Concluding Session & Closing by the Organisers

**Piero Capelli**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Joseph Emanuel Sanzo**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Agata Paluch** & **Alessia Bellusci**

15.30-16.00 Coffee (Aula Archivio)

To participate online, please register via: <https://unive.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZvcO2uqzvjHNDcAYc-edtJIYNmBSMFTbI7>



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
für Wissenschaftsförderung



Freie Universität Berlin

