

Organizers

Birgit Emich

Elke Morlok

Niels Eggerz

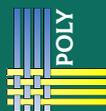
Location

Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften

Am Wingertsberg 4

61348 Bad Homburg v.d. Höhe

**POLYCENTRICITY AND
PLURALITY OF PREMODERN
CHRISTIANITIES**



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

GOETHE

UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN



This workshop investigates the polysemy of the term *Kabbalah* among early modern Christians in the broadest sense, thus also including religious dissenters, Freemasons and other groups that were active within the domain of early modern Christendom. It focuses less on exploring in detail the works of individual Christian Kabbalists but rather on how they perceived Kabbalah and thus on the more general intellectual and cultural implications of their engagement with Jewish mysticism. In so doing, the workshop intends to disconnect Christian Kabbalah from modern (religious, academic, and popular) notions of Kabbalah that often cloud its proper understanding as well as from anachronistic views of authenticity with the aim of transitioning from the static concept of one Christian Kabbalah to the dynamic, polysemic, and multi-perspective paradigm of *Cabala Christiana*. To achieve this goal, the workshop analyzes various discursive spaces of transfer that the early modern non-Jewish preoccupation with Kabbalah created within different geographical, cultural, political, and socio-religious contexts. It thus unfolds the multi-layered processes of transfer and transformation of supposedly esoteric cultural heritage from the Jewish to the non-Jewish domain (and their reverberation back into Judaism) within European intellectual history.



Workshop
Cabala Christiana
as a Discursive Space of Transfer

Oct. 10–12 **Bad Homburg**
2023 **Forschungskolleg**
Humanwissenschaften

Tuesday, October 10

14:00–14:15 Welcome (Birgit Emich & Elke Morlok)
Introduction (Niels Eggerz)

Session 1: Protestantism & Kabbalah

Chair: Xenia von Tippelskirch (Goethe University Frankfurt)

14:15–15:00 Stephen Burnett (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Martin Luther, Cabala, and Jewish Magic

15:00–15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30–17:00 Anna Maria Vileo (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Knorr von Rosenroth and His Perception of Kabbalah: In Search of a New Paradigm

Marcello Cattaneo (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
From Interreligious Apologetics to Confessional Polemics: Kabbalah in the Trinitarian Controversies around the Turn of the Eighteenth Century

Keynote

17:00–18:00 Moshe Idel (Hebrew University Jerusalem) (online)
The Complexity of Jewish Cultures as a Background of Christian Kabbalah

19:00 *Dinner*

Wednesday, October 11

Session 2: Projections & Universalist Visions

Chair: Rebekka Voß (Goethe University Frankfurt)

10:00–11:30 Matthew Norris (Lund University)
Alphabetic Excavations: Johannes Bureus and the Runic Kabbalah

Lucinda Martin (Ritman Research Institute Amsterdam)
The Philadelphian Society and the Dream of Christian-Jewish Unity

11:30–12:00 *Coffee Break*

12:00–12:45 Peter Lanchidi (Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE))
Kabbalah and Philology in Nineteenth-Century Freemasonry

12:45–14:00 *Lunch*

Session 3: Conversions & Controversies

Chair: Patrick Koch (University of Hamburg)

14:00–15:30 Margherita Mantovani (University of Hamburg)
A Renaissance Interpretation of the Shema Israel between Italy and Germany

Ruth von Bernuth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Protestant and Catholic Kabbalah: Elchanon Paulus of Prague's 'Mysterium novum'

15:30–16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00–16:45 Paweł Maciejko (Johns Hopkins University)
The Eibeschuetz Controversy in the Eyes of the Christians

18:00 *Dinner*

Thursday, October 12

Session 4: History of Scholarship

Chair: Nathan Gibson (Goethe University Frankfurt)

10:00–11:30 Bernd Ruling (Free University Berlin)
Hallenberg, Vallancey, Görres: Kabbalah and 19th-Century Indoeuropean Studies

Saverio Campanini (University of Bologna)
Gershom Scholem and Christian Kabbalah: A Reappraisal

11:30–12:00 *Coffee Break*

12:00–13:00 *Final Discussion* (Birgit Emich & Elke Morlok)

13:00 *Lunch*