

This seminar is addressed to Hebrew Philology, Jewish Studies, Science of Religions and History graduate or post-graduate students.

**Lectures will be in english.**

Attendance certificates will be issued after the end of the seminar to all the students who participate in all the sessions.

**Places are limited**, so pre-registration before June 20 is required. To pre-register, please email [jmed@csic.es](mailto:jmed@csic.es), including a motivation letter (detailing level of studies completed and knowledge of languages).

Tuition fee: **25 €**

Two travel grants are available for students living outside Madrid.

**Secretary:** Irene Rincón Narros (ILC, CSIC)

**Information and pre-registration:** [jmed@csic.es](mailto:jmed@csic.es)

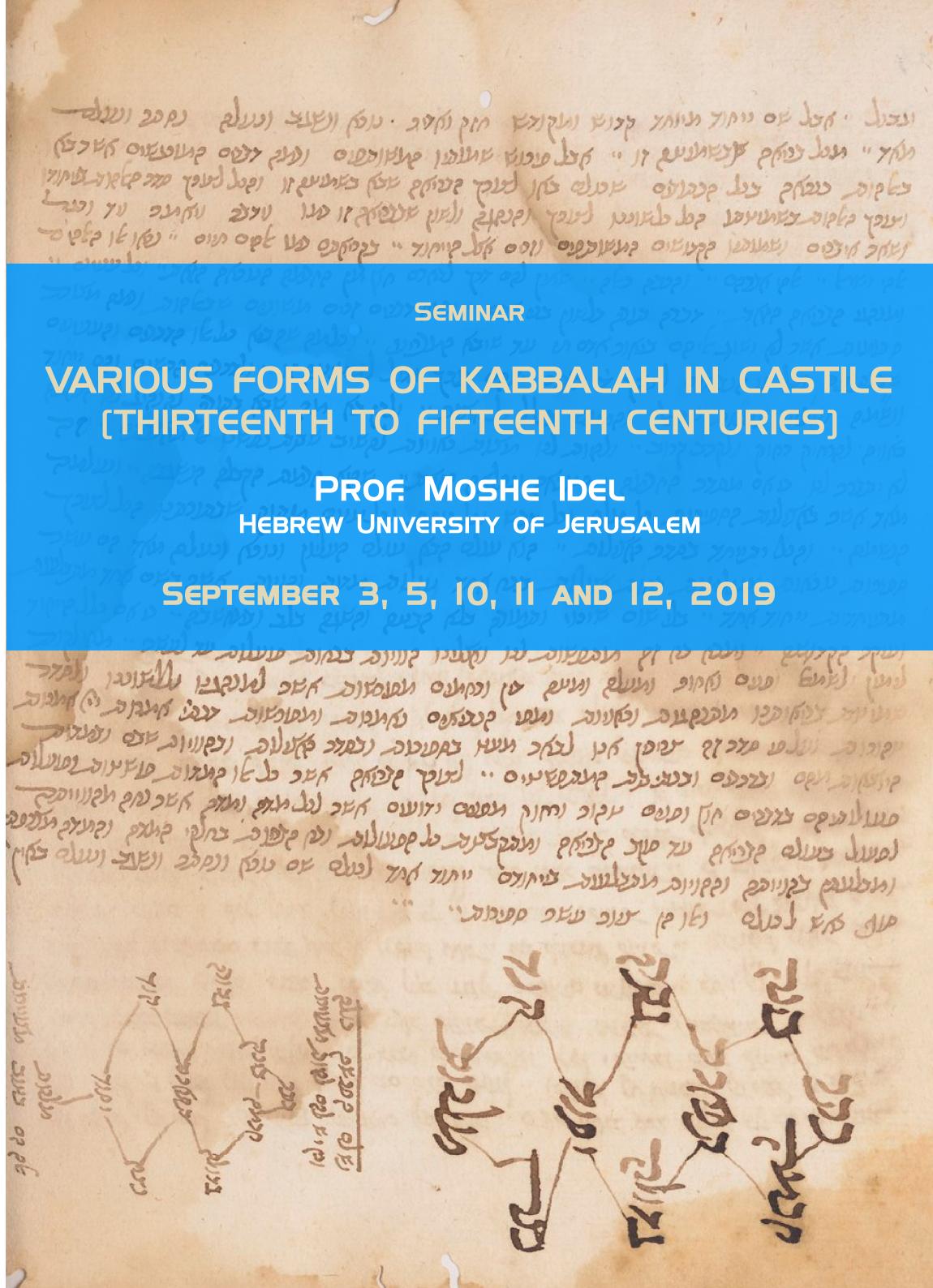
**Organized by:** G.I. Judíos y musulmanes en la trama social mediterránea: fuentes y contextos, and Jewish Cultures across Mediterranean Europe Project (JMED)

**Dates and venue of the seminar:**

September 3, 5, 10, 11 and 12, 2019

CCHS-CSIC / UCM

Moshe Idel is Emeritus Max Cooper Professor in Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and senior research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute. Professor Idel was awarded the Israel Prize in 1999. He is the author of *Kabbalah: New Perspectives* (1988), *Golem: Jewish Magical and Mystical Traditions on the Artificial Anthropoid* (1990), *Jewish Mystical Leaders and Leadership* (1998), *Kabbalah and Eros* (2005), *Old Worlds, New Mirrors: On Jewish Mysticism and Twentieth-Century Thought* (2011), among others.



## Seminar

# Various Forms of Kabbalah in Castile (Thirteenth to Fifteenth Centuries)

The seminar «Various Forms of Kabbalah in Castile: 13th to 15th Century» taught by Prof. Moshe Idel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) will take place September 3-12, 2019. Professor Idel is the world leading expert in the study of Jewish mysticism.

The first session, **Alfonso el Sabio's Castile: Two Types of Renaissance** is focus on how the second part of the thirteenth century constitutes the emergence and the flourishing of Kabbalah in Castile. It coincides with the Alfonsine Renaissance, and it seems very plausible that the two phenomena are related to each other, as in the two cases, Jewish persons have been involved either as translators or as importers of views and texts from the outside. The Alfonsine interest in the occult triggered visits of a variety of persons who were dealing with Jewish esoteric knowledge, coming, e.g., from Ashkenaz and Catalonia.

The second session, **The Apotheosis of Myth**, presents how, unlike the other forms of medieval Jewish esoterism, we witness in Castile a renaissance in Kabbalistic literatures of some earlier Jewish myths. From this point of view the Castilian Kabbalists differ from what is known in the Kabbalistic literature prior to the emergence of Castilian schools of Kabbalah, either in Provençal and in Catalan forms of Kabbalah, or from Abraham Abulafia's prophetic Kabbalah. Prof. Idel shall discuss some of the possible sources of this mythical revival.

The session about **Angelological Theories** will explain how, again, more than in other forms of Kabbalah, the Castilian ones are concerned with angelology, a topic that has earlier sources, but reaches one of its peaks in Castile of the thirteenth century and again in an important Kabbalistic corpus written in the late fifteenth century. Part of this revival has to do with various elaborations upon traditions related to the ancient myth of fallen angels and their relations with women.

Another outstanding feature of various forms of Kabbalah in Castile, again different from other forms elsewhere in the first centuries of Kabbalah, that will be explained during the session **Theories of Evil**, is the concern with problems related to the emergence and role of evil powers. This is not just a problem of demonology, but it concerns questions which are more theological, namely theories explaining how evil appeared within a system of divine emanations –the ten sefirot– and how it is possible to encounter evil powers by Kabbalists.

The seminar will be closed with the lecture **The Emergence of the Zoharic Literatures**, questions related to the authorship and the emergence of the vast and variegated corpus of what is described as the Zoharic literature in Castile. This is mainly an Aramaic literature, different from the mostly Hebrew treatises written by most of the Kabbalists. Prof. Idel shall survey the various theories in older and more recent scholarship in the field, as to the nature and the engage the problems they address and the many quandaries that still remain for the scholarly approaches to this Kabbalistic literature.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**15:30**

**Alfonso el Sabio's Castile:  
Two Types of Renaissance**

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**

**15:30**

**The Apotheosis of Myth**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**15:30**

**Angelological Theories**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**15:30**

**Theories of Evil**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**19:00**

**The Emergence of the Zoharic Literatures**