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OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH
LANGUAGES LECTURE
Week 7

Professor Jean Baumgarten
(Centre National de la Recherche
Scientifique, CNRS-EHESS, Paris)

'Jewish Mysticism in the 17th-18th
century Ashkenazi Society: Translating
the Zohar in Old Yiddish'

Jean Baumgarten is Emeritus Directeur de recherche at the CNRS, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Centre de recherches historiques (CRH, Paris).

Abstract: From the 17th century onwards, we observe an evolution in Old Yiddish literature with the introduction of many kabbalistic references and quotations to illustrate practical advice and rules intended to regulate and control human behaviours, religious rituals and practices. What kind of references and excerpts from mystical books were inserted, which themes were emphasised and for which readership these texts were printed? Our lecture will be based on the translation of parts of the Zohar, the *Nahalat Tsevi* (1711) and on an ethical treatise, the *Kav ha-Yashar* (1709). The incorporation of mystical texts into popular Jewish literature could be considered as a sign of the transformation of Ashkenazi traditional culture between the 17th and 18th centuries.

Tuesday 27 February 2024

6.00 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom and in-person at the
Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute

Please register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtfuCtpz8jHdGiwhN
K3IxR-ebTNAhZ3Qgj](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtfuCtpz8jHdGiwhN
K3IxR-ebTNAhZ3Qgj)

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