Between Two Worlds: The tractate “Or ‘Ammim” (Light of the Nations) of the Last Jewish Scholastic Philosopher Obadiah Sforno in its Hebrew and Latin Versions is a project funded by the DFG. The project is supervised by Prof. Dr. Prof. h.c. Giuseppe Veltri and Prof. Dr. Saverio Campanini (University of Bologna) who are joined by two Research Associates, Giada Coppola and Florian Dunklau.

The philosopher-theologian, Obadiah Sforno, wrote a scholastic work entitled Or ‘Ammim (Light of the Nations). Sforno translated his own work into Latin, with the title Lumen Gentium, in order to make it accessible to a Christian Humanist readership. His book represents a distinguished Summa of philosophical and scientific concepts flourishing in the Jewish, Scholastic and Islamic traditions of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The Light of the Nations is an outstanding testament to the intercultural exchange between Christian and Jewish scholars of Renaissance Italian Aristotelianism.

The first symposium, Lost & Found in Translation - Obadiah Sforno and his world, will investigate particular aspects of Sforno’s thought as a self-translator, his Exegesis and his environment, and will also consider the relationship between Sforno and his contemporaries.

For further information please contact: sforno.philosophie@uni-hamburg.de

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY

10.00 am Registration

10.30 am Greetings Giuseppe Veltri

10.45 am Opening remark and Presentation: Florian Dunklau; Project Sforno

11.45 am Introductory lecture: Giuseppe Veltri / Giada Coppola: Lost in Translation

2.30 pm PANEL 1:
Obadiah Sforno’s Environment - Chair: Florian Dunklau
Saverio Campanini
Roman Holiday. Conjectures on Johannes Reuchlin as a Pupil of Obadiah Sforno
Andrew Berns
Sforno on Wealth, Work and Charity

4.30 pm WORKSHOP:
Giada Coppola, Daniel Davies, Florian Dunklau, Michael Engel, Giuseppe Veltri

THURSDAY

9.00 am PANEL 3:
Self-translating and philosophy, chair: Daniel Davies
Michael Engel / Giovanni Licata
The De Substantia Orbis within the Jewish Philosophical Tradition: Narboni, Del Medigo & Sforno
Symon Foren
“A fourth kind of being”: The Legacy of Averroes in: Obadiah Sforno’s Theory of the Intellect

11.00 am PANEL 3
Philosophy and Exegesis, chair: Giuseppe Veltri
Mauro Zonta
The quaestio disputata in Judah Messer Leon (1475) and Obadiah Sforno (1537): similarities and differences
Rav. Joseph Levi
Sforno’s Perception of Human Potential Knowledge and Moral Responsibility of Both Gentiles and Jews
Rav. Moshé Kravetz
The footprints and influence of Or ‘Ammim in Sforno’s exegetic works

13.00 pm CONCLUSION / FINAL DISCUSSION
Giuseppe Veltri / Saverio Campanini