

The aim of the project titled *Between Secularization and Reform. Religious Rationalism in the Late 17th Century and in the Enlightenment* is to investigate into the process of the rationalization of religion (in particular the Christian one), which occurred in the late 17th century and the Enlightenment, from two perspectives: first, as one of the possible factors conducive to secularization, manifest on the level of both individual lives and political institutions; and, second, as an attempt to reform the existing religious institutions, especially within the Protestant Christian world. As such, the project builds on and expands the scope of two other research projects in which the Principal Investigator worked for the past five years: *Radicals and Conservatives in the Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity* (conducted by Prof. Justyna Miklaszewska) and *The Enlightenment Ideas of the Freedom of Thought and Conscience, and Contemporary Secularism* (conducted by the PI herself). By tracking the influence of the ideas of Baruch Spinoza not only on the critics of the revealed religion, but primarily on radical religious reformers (e.g. 'Christians without the church' in the Netherlands or the German religious rationalists), the project aims to show that the radical vs. moderate Enlightenment distinction, reintroduced into the intellectual history of the 'Age of Reason' within (roughly) more than the past ten years, is a significant oversimplification which, as some scholars have noted, results from a kind of 'politicization' of the discourse on the Enlightenment that ignores the great ideological diversity of the epoch and subordinates it to the current debates on the shape of political communities and the relations between the state and religion(s). This 'politicization' of the debate on Enlightenment seems to be manifest in the works of Jonathan Israel which caused plenty of discussion worldwide over the last decade. Combining individual research with consultations by experts, from Poland and abroad, invited to the Institute of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, organized on a bimonthly basis in the form of workshops open to general audience, the project is also intended at establishing a new research team, composed both of early-career scholars and established academics, as well as furthering international collaboration between scholars of the Enlightenment. This will hopefully contribute to the philosophy department at the Jagiellonian University becoming an important centre of the debate on ideas that originated in that epoch.