

Dr. Tehilah van Luit

**Galicia: an early case of intra-European colonialism in the 'East' (1772-1790). Habsburg ambivalence about Galician Jews and the question who is a useful Jewish subject?**

The lecture will apply the colonial paradigm to Habsburg rule in the newly won Province Galicia and trace why especially toward the Galician Jewish population colonial strategies were so manifest that they might be labeled 'cultural colonialism'. Eighteenth century enlightened perceptions of the vast East European continent as 'semi-Orient' and the ideal to fulfill a civilizing mission to backward people will be discussed in correlation with objectives of the Austrian welfare state. This will involve, not necessarily in this order, questions about exploitation of Galicia and Galician Jewry, an assessment of Germanisation policies through the Habsburg schooling program and a short analysis of the hidden agenda's of the civil improvement debate and Tolerance policies of the Jews. Reading through twenty years of often contradictory Habsburg records and statements will conjure the portrait of an ideal, and useful [Galician] Jew.

Dr. Tehilah van Luit studied History, arts and Jewish Studies at respectively the University of Groningen, Academy Minerva, the University of Amsterdam and Hebrew University. In her research she focuses on East European Jewish history and on Dutch Jewish history.

In 2009 she published *Mediene Remnants. Yiddish Sources in the Netherlands Outside of Amsterdam* (Brill, Boston, Leiden), a study that traced all remaining Yiddish records in the Netherlands. She wrote her Ph.D. under guidance of Israel Bartal. The title of her Ph.D. is: *Paths of Modernity in Traditions' Strongholds: The German Jewish Schools as a Field of Contest Between the Austrian Absolutist Welfare State and the Galician Kahal* (Hebrew University, 2012). In 2012/13 she completed a post-doc at the University of Amsterdam about the four 18th century Protocol Books of the Amsterdam Ashkenazy community. Tehilah van Luit now prepares a publication of c. 2000 "kruzim" that were found in these *pinkassim* titled: *Order, Punishment and Deviation in the Amsterdam kahal*. During the last year she completed a project called "Linking and Digitizing Dutch Jewish Archives" in cooperation with Yerusha and the National Library of Israel. All Dutch Jewish *pinkassim* and *takkanot*-booklets (both of Ashkenazim and Sefardim) were digitized by the photographer Ardon Bar Hama and will soon be available at the site of the National Library.