10th Contact Day Jewish Studies on the Low Countries

Discussion published by Karin Hofmeester on Friday, April 21, 2017

University of Antwerp
Tuesday 16 May 2017
09h15 - 17h30

Location: City campus University of Antwerp, building D, room D.013, Grote Kauwenberg 18, 2000 Antwerp

- 9.15-9.30 Registration and coffee
- 9:30-9.45 Welcome: Karin Hofmeester (IISH Amsterdam and University of Antwerp) & Veerle Vanden Daelen (Kazerne Dossin and University of Antwerp)
- 9:45-11:15 Session 1: Network and Communities
  Chair: Barbara Dickschen (Foundation of Contemporary Memory and ULB, Brussels)
  - Henk Looijesteijn (IISH, Amsterdam)
    Agency and Identity in the Age of Exploration. A Case Study of a Western Sephardic Family in the 17th and 18th Centuries
  - Tsila Radecker (University of Groningen)
    The Struggle for a Better Life. Dina Sanzson as Social Worker and Feminist, 1902-1910
  - Huibert Schijf (em. University of Amsterdam)
    Russian Jewish Immigrants in two Amsterdam Streets, 1850 -1914
- 11:15-11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30-13:00 Session 2: Microhistory and the Shoah: Jewish-Gentile Relations in the Low Countries through the Lens of a Microscope
  Chair Pim Griffioen (Institute of Advanced Study, Konstanz)
  - Geraldien von Frijtag Drabbe Künzel (Utrecht University)
    Being and Belonging: Three Stories of Jewish Life in Amsterdam before, during and after the Shoah
  - Veerle Vanden Daelen (Kazerne Dossin and University of Antwerp)
    Living together in the “Yidishe gas“ around the Diamond District - Antwerp (Belgium), 1930-1950
  - Gerben Zaagsma (Göttingen Institute of Advanced Study)
    Help, Betrayal and the Importance of Networks – Jews in Hiding in the Netherlands and the Case of Anne Frank
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break with book presentations
  - Gertjan Desmet (State Archives of Belgium)
    Pierre-Alain Tallier, Gertjan Desmet, Pascale Falek-Alhadeff, Bronnen voor de geschiedenis van de joden en het Jodendom in België, 19de - 21ste eeuw
  - Evelien Gans (em. University of Amsterdam and NIOD)
Remco Ensel, Evelien Gans (eds), *The Holocaust, Israel and 'the Jew'. Histories of Antisemitism in Postwar Dutch Society* and Remco Ensel (ed.), *Sjacheren met Stereotypen. Essays over 'de Jood' als Sjabloon*

- **14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: The Dutch ‘Diamond Jews’ in Bergen-Belsen**
  **Chair:** Dienke Hondius (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam and Anne Frank House)
  - **Pim Griffioen** (Institute of Advanced Study, Konstanz)
    *The Fate of the ‘Diamond Jews’ of Antwerp and Amsterdam, 1940–1945: A Historical Comparative Overview*
  - **Dawn Skorczewski** (Brandeis University)
    *The Asschers and the Soeps in Bergen-Belsen: A Tale of Privilege, Guilt, and Suffering*
  - **Bettine Siertsema** (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam)
    *Testimonies of the Diamond Workers’ Children on Their Rescuing “Angel”*

- **15:30-15:45 Coffee break**

- **15:45-17:15 Session 4: Crossing Borders and Transmitting Memory**
  **Chair:** Pascale Falek-Alhadeff (Jewish Museum, Brussels)
  - **Bieke Van Camp** (Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier)
    *Remembering the Persecution of the Jews in the Netherlands: Publication Policies (1943-2016)*
  - **Rosa de Jong** (University of Amsterdam)
    *The Voyage of the Nyassa*
  - **Ludo Verbist** (Kazerne Dossin)
    *The Fate of the Jews at the “Green Border”*

- **17:15-17:30 Closing remarks (Karin Hofmeester & Veerle Vanden Daelen)**

Attendance free, please register at: [https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/ijs/lectures-an-conferences/conferences-2016-17/10th-contact-day/](https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/ijs/lectures-an-conferences/conferences-2016-17/10th-contact-day/)

Participants to the Contact Day are kindly invited to the evening lecture “Yiddish Exceptionalism: Lynching, Race, and Racism in American Yiddish Fiction” by Prof. dr. Marc Caplan (Yale University) on Monday 15 May 2017 at 20h, followed by a reception. Venue of the evening lecture: University of Antwerp, Rodestraat 14, 2000 Antwerpen. Room R.013