Lida Maria Dodou (Vienna): The Habsburg Monarchy and Jews in Southeastern Europe, 1879–1918

The talk examines the presence and influence of the Habsburg Monarchy in southeastern Europe between 1870 and 1918, focusing on the role of Jewish actors in the political, economic, and social networks that connected the Monarchy with Ottoman Macedonia. Challenging accounts that privilege French influence in the region and moving beyond nationally bounded approaches, it explores how Habsburg consular activity, commercial connections, and educational and philanthropic initiatives shaped local developments and migratory patterns. In this framework, Jews are not seen as objects of imperial protection or competition, but as transimperial actors who interpreted, negotiated, mobilised, and sometimes advanced Habsburg interests across political, cultural and communal boundaries. The talk situates southeastern Europe within a broader web of entanglements and it reconsiders the forms of imperial influence that operated in and across imperial contexts.