

PhD Program

## **The World of Joseph Roth. Galician period**

Dominika Rank

Modern history of Central-Eastern Europe

Email: [dominika.rank@gmail.com](mailto:dominika.rank@gmail.com)

Key words:

Brody, Jews, nationalism, liberalism, Haskalah, Joseph Roth.

The objective of this project is the study of aspects of the Brody Jewish traditional community's disintegration, together with those of the creation of new national and cultural identities in the second half of the 19th c against the background of the development of national ideologies in Galicia. This project is based on the biographies of several representatives of the educated portion of the public: the Kallir clan, Nathan Gelber, Herminia Naglerowa, Sigmund Herzberg-Fränkell, Dr. Marcus Landau, Prof. Jacob Goldenthal and, of course, Joseph Roth.

In the Austrian empire, Jews could, at any time, follow at least three cultures from the following: first, their own, based on the Yiddish language, second, that of the people they lived alongside, i.e. Polish, Ukrainian, Czech, and third, the Imperial culture, i.e. Austrian German. The Imperial culture took precedence in Brody due to the overwhelming majority of Jewish populace (totalling on average 80%) and, hence, only a small portion of Polish and Ukrainians. Also this precedence was due to the vigorous activities of Maskils who represented Jewish renaissance and actively promoted Austrian German culture and civic German-language education. Given the general polonisation of Eastern Galicia, that received a further acceleration with the creation of the Galician Autonomy in 1867, Brody still remained a stronghold of Austrian German culture for a relatively long period.

Being a unique town within the region, Brody, however, was not isolated from the general processes brought about through modernisation, among them national movements: Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish. Each of these nationalisms demanded loyalty to itself alone. For Jews this meant a condensing of the cultural environment in which they earlier had been able to freely move, and being deprived of the opportunity to follow several cultures at a time.