

PHD program “History of Eastern-Central Europe”

**Kinship among Jewish business elite in Drohobych and Boryslav
(1860-1914)**

Vladyslava Moskalets

Research interests: Jewish studies, Yiddish, economics, history of everyday life

e-mail: moskalets.vladyslava@ gmail.com

Exploration of the oil resources at the middle of 19th century stimulated development of Drohobych and Boryslav, previously small and not influential Galician towns. Jewish entrepreneurs were active in different spheres of oil and wax extracting business during the 1860-1880. At that time Jewish entrepreneurs and people related to them formed network, connected by business and marriage relations. The group of middle-size and large entrepreneurs became influential as in economical as well in the political and social life of the city. The reconstruction of this network and analysis of it's activity will help to understand Jewish modernization processes, transformations of Jewish elites, role of common family, religious and ethnic ties in Jewish economic life and hierarchy of priorities of these ties. The case of Jewish communities of Boryslav and Drohobych challenges traditional vision of Galician Jewry as backward and deeply traditional, showing how industrialization of the cities changes life of elite and provokes rise of Jewish middle class. At the same time it shows crucial importance of family and personal connections for developing of business milieu. This research is going to use economic case for explaining cultural phenomena.

Key words: Galicia, economics, Jewish history, identity, networks