

## Workshop on the Study of Modern Greek Jewry

Netherlands Institute at Athens

Series of lectures on

*Jews in Greece and the Netherlands:  
The Shoah, restoration and rehabilitation*

Tuesday, 5 June 2018

11 Makri Street, 117 42 Athens, 6 p.m.



**Bart Wallet**

*Community of Survivors: Reconstructing Dutch Jewry, 1945-1955*

On 5 May 1945 Allied forces liberated the Netherlands. A small number of Jews reappeared in the public domain, having survived the war in hiding. In the next few months, they were joined by a tiny number of Jews who survived the concentration camps in Nazi-Germany and Eastern Europe. Out of the 140,000 Jews of the pre-war community some 30,000 had survived. These survivors had to reorganise their lives, get restitution and were confronted by the question whether or not they should reconstruct the Jewish community. Was there any future for Jews left in the Netherlands, or should they rather leave the country as soon as possible?

The lecture analyses how and why Dutch Jews rebuilt Jewish community institutions. It aims to answer two interrelated sets of questions. First, in what respects did the pre- and post-war Dutch Jewish communities differ from each other? This will highlight Dutch Jews' identity construction and stress the impact of the Shoah and of the founding of the State of Israel on a redefined and rearticulated Jewish identity. Second, how did this affect Dutch Jewry's identity in comparison to other European Jewish communities? Through raising this question, the uses and misuses of comparing Jewish communities will be discussed – including the case of Dutch and Greek Jews – and the importance of tracing transnational Jewish identities, networks and institutions will be highlighted.

Discussant: **Kostis Kornetis** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

**Bart Wallet** (bartwallet@gmail.com) is Assistant Professor of Jewish history at the History department of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and at the Hebrew and Jewish studies department of the University of Amsterdam. He is acting chairman of the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History, director of the HDC Centre for Dutch Religious History, and a former visiting fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He specialises in early modern and modern Dutch Jewish history and in Western Yiddish. For the Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam, he serves regularly as academic advisor for both permanent and temporary exhibitions, among others the 2018 exhibition on 400 years relations between Jews and the Royal House of Orange. He has published widely on early modern Yiddish historiography, nineteenth-century policies of integrating Jews in society, and on Jews in the post-war period.

The lecture is open to the public. Please register in advance with the Institute's secretariat; [nia@nia.gr](mailto:nia@nia.gr), tel. 210-9210760

Η διάλεξη είναι ανοικτή στο κοινό με απαραίτητη την προεγγραφή στη γραμματεία του Ινστιτούτου. [nia@nia.gr](mailto:nia@nia.gr), τηλ. 210-9210760