

**5/1 (12:15, online)**

**Dr. Di Lu, Zvi Yavetz Fellow, The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies**

**“Customs of Exchange: The Chinese Maritime Customs and the Sino-British Trade in Materia Medica, 1854-1911”**

**Chair: Prof. Asaf Goldschmidt**

**Abstract:**

The Imperial Maritime Customs in late Qing China (1840-1911) was far more than just a tax agency under British influence. It made substantial contributions to the exchange of medicinal substances and related knowledge between China and Britain. From its establishment in 1854, the Customs gradually manifested itself as a very international institution at the centre of an informal transnational empire of information and material. British dominance of the Customs service secured Britain a privileged position in promoting its medicinal products and exploring Chinese medicinal substances. My project highlights the substantial contributions of the Customs as a non-medical institution to Sino-British exchange of materia medica. Its key goals include tracking dynamic changes in the volume and kinds of medicinal substances traded between China and Britain; and in the actors and agents driving that trade as tools to understand transnational knowledge exchanges, both commercial and intellectual.

**Link:**

Time: Jan 5, 2021 12:00 Jerusalem

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556230999?pwd=eWh4RVhQTDZQNTlqVllWbjZOMXhOZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 5623 0999

Passcode: 695292