



SRII WINTER LECTURE SERIES 2019

WOMEN'S VOICES

March 26, 2019, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

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**From Theotokos to Theodora:
the Gendered Reception
of Byzantium**

In seeking to define Byzantinism, understood as the reception of Byzantium, a traditional conceptualization has been to see Byzantinism as a subgenera of Orientalism as understood by Edward Said. Subsequently Byzantium has been defined as the Other and the opposite of Western European culture. However, the following paper will ask if this equation of Byzantinism with Orientalism properly captures the ambivalent role Byzantium has had and continues to have in Western imagination. Through focusing on the constant gendered reception of Byzantium through such figures as Empress Theodora, it will instead seek to read the idea of Byzantium not as something apart from the west, but rather an integral part of it. It will focus on the ways art and particularly art's depiction of female figures have focused on Byzantium as a place of gold, decadence and warnings of female power, and what these images of the Byzantine femme fatale can tell us of the reception of Byzantium.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !