



SRII SPRING LECTURE

**April 24, 2018, 19:00**

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoglu – Tünel)

**Douglas Mattsson**

Lund University

## **Towards the Extreme: Black Metal Music in Turkey**

Black metal, known as one of the most extreme subgenres of metal, is famous for its anti-religious agenda. Black metal bands often utilize anti-religious imagery in order to communicate their rejection of religion and the majority society. Several Church burnings and murders in Norway during the 90s made the genre infamous and solidified the perception that its fans and musicians reject religion.

However, since black metal is born out of a Christian cultural context, the usage of Islamic representations in black metal music has, until now, been a rare phenomenon. A few years ago, some black metal bands in Istanbul started utilizing Islamic imagery in their artistic production in an anti-Islamic fashion. Based on lyrical and visual analysis, fieldwork, and in depth-interviews, this lecture explores this new relationship between Islam and black metal in Turkey. It seeks to answer the questions of why these expressions occur now, the meanings ascribed to them by fans and musicians in Turkey, and how this can be seen as an example of “local transgression” in Turkey. Particular attention will be paid to the subcultural concepts of authenticity, identity, and, resistance.

*Douglas Mattsson is a last semester graduate student of the Islamic studies department at the faculty of humanities and theology at Lund University, Sweden. He is currently living in Istanbul where he is completing his graduate-thesis on black metal music and religion in Turkey. His main research interests deal with subcultures and religion in contemporary Muslim majority societies*

Admission only after registration to [event@sri.org.tr](mailto:event@sri.org.tr) !