



SRII LECTURE

September 4, 2018, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoglu – Tünel)

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Monumental inscriptions and their stories

Inscriptions have been of vital importance in identifying, dating and contextualizing the sites and monuments of Byzantine Constantinople. They both enable the monuments to tell their own stories, and give access to the stories surrounding the monuments. This lecture will present three monumental inscriptions, all in situ, which in conjunction with other evidence provide valuable insights into the history, topography and aesthetics of the built environment:

1. The Latin inscription on the base of the Column of the Goths, which identifies this as a monument to Fortuna/Tyche and thus as a key piece in reconstructing the layout of the acropolis area of ancient Byzantium.
2. The Greek verse inscription on the base of the Masonry Obelisk in the Hippodrome, commemorating the restoration and bronze-cladding of the monument by Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos (945-959). The text is not only our unique source for the history of this prominent monument, but also an interesting addition to our evidence for the literary and artistic patronage of the 'Macedonian Renaissance'.
3. The Latin inscription on the base of the Column of Marcian (450-457) identifying this monument as the centre of an imperial forum. This should have occupied a nodal position in the road network of the north-western area of Constantinople. Recent archaeological discoveries allow us to draw some precise inferences about the course and alignment of the northern branch of the city's central avenue (Mese).

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