

RESEARCH SEMINAR SRII, Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 14:00-16:00

Gülnur Demirci (Malmö University)

Embodied Memory in Post-violence Contexts: Circassians - A Transnational Analysis

Circassians, the indigenous people of the North Caucasus, faced a large-scale massacre following Russia's conquest of the region (1763–1864), which resulted in the forced deportation of approximately 1.2 million people to the Ottoman Empire. The collapse of the Soviet Union marked a pivotal moment for the descendants of the immigrants, facilitating not only access to historical archives but also contacts among the international Circassian community. Accordingly, they have taken a key interest in memory practices through embodied, performed, and materialized expressions of their cultural memory. This talk explores the transnational construction of memory and how different sociopolitical contexts shape diasporic memory practices, as well as how these entangled trajectories enhance our understanding of the afterlives and after-effects of mass displacement.

Morris Beks (University of Amsterdam)

From olive oil donations to deposition: Interactions between bishops, monks, and holy men and the emperor in the Eastern Roman Empire from the tenth to twelfth centuries.

Bishops, monks, and holy men sought to influence the Byzantine emperor, and were, in turn, subject to his influence, on a range of issues. They might petition for tax exemptions, demand to have the emperor remove a patriarch, or, in cases of conflict, even be part of an uprising against the emperor. This presentation will examine several examples of such interactions between the emperor and bishops, monks, and holy men from the tenth to twelfth centuries.