SRII lecture

Istiklal Caddesi 247

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 18:30

Mobility/Place

The Intangible and the Material in the Exploration of Past Movement and Religion

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In this paper I aim to offer a broad discussion of the twin poles of mobility and place in the study of past religion – from the macro-scale models of the spread of religious ideas offered by network analysis to the embodied experiences of people engaging in pilgrimage; and how place attachment and place-making forms an essential counterpoint to new directions in mobilities research. I'll explore the intersections of the intangible and the material in research on past religion: both in terms of lived experiences, and the presencing of the spiritual. I am a firm believer in the importance of reattaching the more abstracted models we create to past people's lived realities, social relationships, communities, and place. Foregrounding the social in our discussions of past mobilities and religious expression in archaeology encourages us to attend to these human qualities: emotional connections, places, materials and meanings, the stuff that makes past lives matter.

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