

# CONNECTING CONSTANTINOPLE

## Objects, Empire, and Inter-Civic Relationality

### *Programme*

#### Day 1 – Thursday, 12 June 2025

**Venue:** [The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul \(SRII\)](#), Istiklal Caddesi 247, Tünel - Beyoglu, Istanbul.

**09:00 – 09:30**

Walk-in

**09:30 – 10:00**

**Opening and Introduction**

*Kay Boers (Utrecht University / University of Amsterdam) and Rolf Strootman (Utrecht University)*

**10:00 -11:00**

**Keynote:**

**Venice and Genoa in late medieval Constantinople: material traces of shifting relations**

*Karin Krause (University of Chicago)*

**11:00 – 11:15**

Coffee/Tea Break

**Session I: Relics and Martyrs**

*Moderator: Kay Boers (UU/UvA)*

**11:15 – 11:35**

**Connecting Constantinople and the Black Sea Region to Rome's 'Glorious' Past – Martyria and Mimetic Architectural Sculpture within Urban Mnemoscapes**

*Julia M. Koch (Istanbul Department of the German Archaeological Institute)*

**11:35 – 11:55**

**Communicating with Constantinople: John of Ephesus and the Syriac Naming of Objects in Sixth-Century Imperial Networks**

*Carlo Emilio Biuzzi (Ghent University)*

**11:55 – 12:15**

**Imperial Authority and the collection of relics: Power, Prestige, and Urban Transformation in Late Antiquity**

*Thea Ravasi (Newcastle University)*

**12:15 – 12:45**

**Panel Discussion**

**12:45 – 14:00**

Lunch

## **Session II: Sculpture**

*Moderator: Rolf Strootman (UU)*

**14:00 – 14:20**

**Images of power: Connecting Ravenna, Rome, and Constantinople through equestrian statues**

*Carlo Ferrari (Università degli Studi Roma Tre)*

**14:20 – 14:40**

**Serpentine Spolia: The Serpent Column as Spolia, Reattribution, and Imperial Identity in Constantinople**

*Savannah Bishop (Koç University)*

**14:40 – 15:00**

**A Museum of Empire: Statues, Objects, and Inter-Civic Relationality in the *Patria Konstantinoupoleos***

*Kay Boers (Utrecht University / University of Amsterdam)*

**15:00 – 15:30**

***Panel Discussion***

**15:30 – 16:00**

Coffee/Tea Break

## **Session III: Icons**

*Moderator: Emir Alışık (Istanbul University)*

**16:00 – 16:20**

**Connecting Polotsk, Constantinople, and Jerusalem in the 12th Century: The Agency of St. Euphrosyne of Polotsk**

*Dragoş Gh. Năstăsoiu (National Museum of Art of Romania)*

**16:20 – 16:40**

**Repurposed Icons of The Zoodochos Pege at Venice's Basilica di San Marco**

*Sarah F. Cohen (Columbia University)*

**16:40 – 17:00**

**Examining Constantinople's Inter-Civic Connectivity through Marian Icons: A Case Study Analysis of the Galata Icon**

*Çise İpek Çınar (Sabancı University)*

**17:00 – 17:30**

***Panel Discussion***

**19:00**

**Workshop Dinner at [Ficcin Restaurant](#)**

## Day 2 – Friday, 13 June 2025

**Venue:** [The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul \(SRII\)](#), Istiklal Caddesi 247, Tünel - Beyoglu, Istanbul.

### **Session IV: Constantinopolitan Splendor**

*Moderator : Fokke Gerritsen (NIT)*

**09:00 – 09:20**

**A City and its Remains: Bessarion and other Byzantine Émigrés on Beauty and Objects from Constantinople in Fifteenth-Century Rome**

*Philip Muijtjens (UC Louvain)*

**09:20– 09:40**

**Set in Stone: Messages and Meanings of the Santa Maria Draperis Altar (1769-72)**

*Alper Metin (University of Bologna)*

**09:40 – 10:00**

**Exploring the History of the Urban Connections Between Istanbul and Kastoria Through Archival Documents, Wall Paintings, Liturgical Objects and Valuable Gifts**

*Nuray Ocakli (Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University)*

**10:00 – 10:30**

***Panel Discussion***

**10:30 – 11:00**

Coffee/Tea Break

### **Session V: Gifts and Pills**

*Moderator: Marloes Cornelissen (Sabancı University)*

**11:00 – 11:20**

**Reassessing the Chios Incident: Diplomacy, Capitulations, and the Politics of Diplomatic Gift-Exchange**

*Zeynep Naz Simer (Bilkent University)*

**11:20 – 11:40**

**From Rebellion to Medallion: Numismatic Contestations and Tanzimat Authority on the Eastern Ottoman Frontier**

*Jason Rodriguez Vivrette (University of California, Berkeley)*

**11:40 – 12:00**

**Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People: Exploring Mobility, Medicine and Inter-Civic Relationships in Late Ottoman Constantinople**

*Berrak Burçak (Bilkent University)*

**12:00 – 12:30**

***Panel Discussion***

**12:30 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

### **Session VI: Restitution**

*Moderator: Diederik Burgersdijk (UU)*

**14:00 – 14:20**

**From Istanbul with Love: the Return of the Corviniani to Budapest in 1877 – Soft Power and Cultural Restitution in the Late Ottoman Period**

*Philip Rance (Freie Universität Berlin)*

**14:20 – 14:40**

**The Lion Returns: Venetian symbolism in the "redemption" of an Italian landmark**

*Paolo Girardelli (Department of History of Boğaziçi University, Istanbul) & Francesco Trentini (Italian Ministry of Culture / Ca' Foscari University, Venice)*

**14:40 – 15:10**

**Panel Discussion**

**15:10 – 15:30**

Coffee/Tea Break

**15:30**

**15:30 – 16:30**

**Book Presentation – Constantinople Through the Ages: The Visible City from Its Foundation to Contemporary Istanbul (Brill)**

*Diederik Burgersdijk (Utrecht University), Fokke Gerritsen (NIT), Shaun Tougher (Cardiff University), Paolo Girardelli (Department of History of Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)*

**16:30 – 16:45**

Coffee/Tea Break

**16:45 – 17:15**

**Closing Remarks and Discussion**

**17:15**

**Reception**

### **Sponsors**

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