Foreign archaeologists and other students of the ancient world who travelled in the Middle East in the nineteenth century viewed the places they visited and worked in through at least two lenses: that of a scholar of the ancient world, and that of a modern traveller. In her previous research, prof. Mairs has explored how tourist dragomans approached the dual role of guide to the ancient and modern Middle East (The Dragoman Solomon Negima and his Clients 2016; with Maya Muratov Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters 2015). Her current project, sponsored by the British Academy, shifts focus to the linguistic aspect of this encounter. In this paper, she will examine how one particular resource – phrasebooks for teaching tourists and archaeologists colloquial Arabic – shows the tension between interests in the ancient and modern ‘Orient’, and how impressions of one could influence interpretations of the other.

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