



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2020  
LANGUAGE AND  
COMMUNICATION

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Online: Zoom

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### Archaeology as Epic: Language, Transmission and Politics in the Different Editions of Patriarch Konstantios I's *Konstantinias* (1820)

The talk examines Patriarch Konstantios I (1770-1859, patriarch 1830–1834) as an ‘enlightened’ patriarch-scholar (*âlim patrik*) and his *Konstantinias* (1820), as a major point of entry for modern ideas on Byzantine archaeology, history, architecture and topography into Ottoman lands. First published in archaic Greek, the work was subsequently translated into French, Ottoman Turkish, Karamanlidika and English, thus reaching both a learned and a mid-level, Turkish-reading audience. I argue that the differences of linguistic register, nuance, themes and focus observable in these editions reflect the different but interacting intellectual milieus and agendas of the editors/translators, the interest-focus of their target audiences and the major political and intellectual developments that marked the text’s protracted afterlife, which cut across the pivotal period of the *Tanzimat* reforms.

Admission only after registration to [event@srii.org.tr](mailto:event@srii.org.tr) !