



SRII WINTER LECTURES 2021
CLASSICISM(S) &
ORIENTALISM(S)

(Continued)

March 3, 2021 · 19:00 (Turkey), 17:00 (CET)

— DOUBLE LECTURE —

Johanna Chovanec (Vienna)

Occidentalism and the Imagination of Self and Other in Peyami Safa's *Fatih-Harbiye*

In post-colonial and post-imperial studies, the term Occidentalism refers to the creation of East and West against the backdrop of European modernity and the becoming-modern of the world. Orientalism, a style of thought defining the 'Orient' as a vague but homogenous geographical and sociocultural space as Edward Said famously argued, is inscribed in the epistemology and hegemony of Occidentalism. Literary texts may reveal how imaginations of self and other unfold within or in relation to the dichotomous framework of East and West. In early republican Turkey, the writer and journalist Peyami Safa reflected upon Turkey's new national identity, the fading heritage of the Ottomans, and the question of westernisation in times of radical societal change. This talk will make use of the conceptual lens of Occidentalism to identify patterns through which conceptions of East and West are approached in Peyami Safa's canonical novel *Fatih-Harbiye* (1930).

Erol Köroğlu (Istanbul)

The Historicity of *Züppe*: Rethinking the Concept of Westernization through a Literary Type

The twentieth century Turkish literary studies evaluate the late Ottoman period literary production between 1850s and 1920s as a fast and furious Westernization effort. There are different coinages such as Şerif Mardin's "super Westernization" or various conservative critics' "true Westernization." Especially, all criticism towards modernization or Westernization in early Turkish novels were produced through imagining different "falsely" Westernized *züppe* or *şık* literary types. Ahmet Mithat's *Felâhî Bey*, Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem's *Bihruz*, or Hüseyin Rahmi's *Şöhret* are the well-known literary *züppe* characters. Were these literary figures realistic representations of a social group in the Ottoman society or were they ideological fictional tools to dominate and guide public opinion according to preferred political positions? Would the literary *züppe* be the same sinister figure if the first Ottoman Turkish novels written and published before 1870s? This talk will handle these questions by discussing Ahmet Mithat's iconic novel *Felâhî Bey and Rakım Efendi*.

— Zoom admission code after registration to event@srii.org.tr —