



SRII WINTER AND SPRING LECTURES 2022

# THE CITY

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul  
Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu - Tünel)

## Rethinking Byzantium in Early Modern Istanbul Çigdem Kafesçioğlu, Bogaziçi University

This talk will address the presence and the absence of the Roman and Byzantine past in early modern Istanbul through considerations of structures of the *longue durée*, acts of translation, and notions of antiquarianism. It will consider historical imaginaries as reflected in Byzantine and Ottoman textual traditions, architectural imagination pertaining to Byzantium as reflected in Ottoman design, and material sensibilities as reflected in continuities and ruptures between practices of the two eras. As I seek to highlight the multiple ways in which Byzantium was present in and bore on the lives and imaginations of early modern Istanbulites of different standing, I hope also to address structures of erasure: the time and context bound ways in which the legacy of Byzantium was silenced, and erased in the post-Byzantine times.

The fraught historiography of Byzantium/Eastern Rome in relation to the Ottoman past and to modern historical understandings of place and identity is at the backdrop of what I discuss, although my focus will be more specifically on the early modern views of ancient and medieval past.

We kindly request that you do not attend if you are not fully vaccinated against COVID or if you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms. Ffp2 face mask will be mandatory. Limited seating 30 persons. Registration is necessary. **Please register at [event@sri.org.tr](mailto:event@sri.org.tr)**. The lecture will not be available online.