

SRII WINTER LECTURE SERIES 2019

## **WOMEN'S VOICES**

April 9, 2019, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Professor

## Jorunn Økland

Norwegian Institute in Athens

## Queen Esther's States of Dress and Undress across Languages and Empires: Material and Ideological Comparisons

This lecture will take the Greek Book of Esther (Septuagint) as its point of departure. It will analyse sample descriptions of Queen Esther's various states of dress and undress and compare them both with the material record of ancient Susa and Persepolis and with modern translations into Scandinavian languages, also using the (allegedly original) Hebrew Book of Esther as a reference point. The lecture will thus highlight the richness of the complex material record – against which Scandinavian languages are often lost for words – and the imperial- and gender-ideological shifts that take place when the book is translated into the language of the empire that succeeded the Persian, and again into the languages of the modern Scandinavia.