

ORGANIZERS

Ada K k | CEU (Kok_Ada@phd.ceu.edu)
Alessandra Guido | UniVie (alessandra.guido@univie.ac.at)
Dachi Pachulia | CEU (Pachulia_Dachi@phd.ceu.edu)
Gunhyuk Lee | CEU (Lee_Gunhyuk@phd.ceu.edu)
Hans-Nikos Christoforakis | UniVie (a12334418@unet.univie.ac.at)
Kassandra Cox | CEU (Cox_Kassandra@student.ceu.edu)
Liudmila Eramova | UniVie (lucekeramov@gmail.com)
Marieke Verbiest | UniVie (marieke.verbiest@univie.ac.at)
Olga Vlachou | CEU (Vlachou_Olga@phd.ceu.edu)
Panagiotis Kouloukis | UniVie (Panagiotis.Kouloukis@oeaw.ac.at)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ingela Nilsson | Uppsala University
Koray Durak | Boğaziçi University

PARTICIPANTS

Alberto Mart nez-Cordone | The University of Salamanca / The University of Roma Tre
Cemre Melis Yordamlı | University of Oxford
Cenker Sarıkaya | Koç University
Diana Pugachova | Free University Berlin
Dikaios Panteleakis | University of Crete
Giorgi Turaşvili | Ilia State University
Giorgos Terzis | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Gulio Gollo | University of Cologne / KU Leuven /  AW Vienna
Hale Berrin Karaca | Koç University
Hayriye Bilici | Koç University
James Cogbill | University of Oxford
Michael Kiefer | Heidelberg University
Misel Gara | E tv s Lorand University
Pantelis Levakos | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens / KU Leuven
Syed Hassan Askari | Higher School of Economics
Xinyu Wang | University of Cologne



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4th International Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Graduate Conference

Otherness in Byzantium: Imagining, Encountering, Excluding

May 22, 2026

Start Time: 09:45

Location: Central European University
Room D-001, Quellenstrasse 51, 1100

May 23, 2025

Start Time: 10:15

Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies
University of Vienna, Lecture Hall, Postgasse 9, 1010



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Doctoral School of Historical
and Cultural Studies

Co-organized by graduate students of the Department of Historical Studies at the Central European University and the Ancient, Byzantine and Medieval Studies Cluster of the Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna: Ada Kök (Central European University), Alessandra Guido (University of Vienna), Dachi Pachulia (Central European University), Gunhyuk Lee (Central European University), Hans-Nikos Christoforakis (University of Vienna), Kassandra Cox (Central European University), Luidmila Eramova (University of Vienna), Marieke Verbiest (University of Vienna), Olga Vlachou (Central European University), Panagiotis Kouloukis (University of Vienna).

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We would like to especially thank our two keynote speakers Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala University) and Koray Durak (Boğaziçi University).

DAY 1

09:00–09:45 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Central European University, Room D-001

09:45–10:00 WELCOME

10:00–11:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Koray Durak | Boğaziçi University

Manifestations of Identity and Otherness in Byzantium and Byzantine Studies

11:00–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30–12:30 FIRST SESSION: THE MODERN BYZANTINE OTHER

11:30–12:00 **Diana Pugachova** | Free University of Berlin

Invisible Hands: Reshaping the Image of the “Male Monk” within Manuscript Studies

12:00–12:30 **Caner Sarıkaya** | Koç University

The Byzantine “Other” as a Constructed Lieu de Mémoire: Perspectives on Varangians in the Scholarly Circles of the Late Nineteenth-Century Constantinople

12:30–13:30 LUNCH

13:30–15:00 SECOND SESSION: RECENTERING GENDER

MINORITIES

13:30–14:00 **Syed Hassan Askari** | Higher School of Economics

Crossing Boundaries: Gender, Bodies, and the Making of the “Other” in Byzantium

14:00–14:30 **Gunhyuk Lee** | Central European University

Mediating Otherness: Women’s Donations and Institutional Agency in Late Antique Egypt

14:30–15:00 **Hayriye Bilici** | Koç University

Foreign Marriages: Crossing Bridges

15:00–15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30–17:00 THIRD SESSION: CONSTRUCTING THE OTHER IN LITERARY SOURCES

15:30–16:00 **Giorgos Terzis** | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Between Empire and Frontier: Constructing Otherness and Hybrid Identity in the Epic Romance Digenes Akritas

16:00–16:30 **Giulia Gollo** | University of Cologne / KU Leuven / ÖAW Vienna

Narratological Mechanisms of (An)Othering in Byzantine Hagiography

16:30–17:00 **Dikaios Panteleakis** | University of Crete

“Anatolikai” and “Barbaroi:” Conflict, Confrontation and Perceptions of “Otherness” in the Land of Morea during the 15th c.

17:00–17:30 COFFEE BREAK

17:30–18:30 FOURTH SESSION: VISUALIZING THE OTHER

17:30–18:00 **Hale Berrin Karaca** | Koç University

The “Other” Religious Spaces of Byzantium: Examining the Dominican Church of San Domenico (Arap Camii) and its Frescoes

18:00–18:30 **Michael Kiefer** | Heidelberg University

“Cultural Crossdressing” in Constantinople – Middle Byzantine Court Dress and the Islamic Other

18:30–20:30 BUFFET DINNER

DAY 2

09:30–10:15 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

University of Vienna, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies,
Lecture Hall

10:15–10:30 WELCOME

10:30–11:30 FIRST SESSION: CHOOSING OTHERNESS

10:30–11:00 **Cemre Melis Yordamlı** | University of Oxford

A Voluntary Other: The Patronage of Anna Notaras after the Fall of Constantinople

11:00–11:30 **Giorgi Turašvili** | Ilia State University

Self-Imposed "Otherness:" How Monastery of Petricon (Bachkovo) Enforced its Separate Identity

11:30–12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00–13:00 SECOND SESSION: CONSTRUCTING THE RELIGIOUS OTHER

12:00–12:30 **Pantelis Levakos** | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens / KU Leuven

Liturgical Space and the Performance of Otherness: the Synodikon of Orthodoxy as Ritualized Boundary – Making in Byzantium

12:30–13:00 **James Cogbill** | University of Oxford

Fear of the Hidden Religious Other in Late Thirteenth Century Constantinople

13:00–14:00 LUNCH

14:00–15:30 THIRD SESSION: THE FOREIGN OTHER

14:00–14:30 **Misel Gara** | Eötvös Lorand University

Aliens and Sojourners in the Polis: The Early Christian Normative Social Imaginary as non-Citizen

14:30–15:00 **Xinyu Wang** | University of Cologne

Byzantine Perception of Venetians and Its Practical Implementation Before the Fourth Crusade

15:00–15:30 **Alberto Martínez-Cordone** | The University of Salamanca / The University of Roma Tre

The Otherizing Depiction of the Ottomans in John Anagnostes' Account of the Last Capture of Thessalonica (15th Century)

15:30–16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00–17:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Ingela Nilsson | Uppsala University

Recognizing the Other in Byzantine Studies

17:00–20:00 WINE RECEPTION