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#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ingela Nilsson | Uppsala University  
Koray Durak | Boğaziçi University

#### SESSION CHAIRS

Baukje van den Berg | Central European University  
Cosimo Paravano | University of Vienna  
Grace Stafford | University of Vienna  
István Perczel | Central European University  
Krystina Kubina | University of Vienna  
Larisa Ficulle Santini | Austrian Academy of Sciences  
P ter Bara | Central European 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 Terz s | 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



## 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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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

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**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: CONSTRUCTING THE RELIGIOUS OTHER

*István Perczel* | Central European University

**11:30–12:00** **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*

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

*Fear of the Hidden Religious Other in Late Thirteenth Century Constantinople*

**12:30–13:30** LUNCH

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

*Chair: Larisa Ficulle Santini* | Austrian Academy of Sciences

**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

*Chair: Krystina Kubina* | University of Vienna

**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

*“Anatolikoi” 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

*Chair: Grace Stafford* | University of Vienna

**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** PIZZA 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

Chair: *Baukje van den Berg* | Central European University

### 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: THE MODERN BYZANTINE OTHER

Chair: *Cosimo Paravano* | University of Vienna

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

*Invisible Hands: Reshaping the Image of the "Male Monk" within Manuscript Studies*

### 12:30–13:00 **Çenker Sarıkaya** | Koç University

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

## 13:00–14:00 LUNCH

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

Chair: *Péter Bara* | Central European University

### 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