

Ottoman-Turkish Day – 1st of November, 2022

Czech Academy of Sciences, Národní 3, 117 20 Staré Město

- 1) 10:30-11:30 Lecture – Jeremy Walton, Research Group Leader, "REVENANT: Revivals of Empire-Nostalgia, Amnesia, Tribulation" (ERC# 101002908), Cultural Studies Department, University of Rijeka. "Post-Ottoman sites of memory outside Turkey." (Room 206)**

Abstract:

In post-imperial domains across the globe, the material legacies of empires—especially architecture and infrastructure—present both challenges and opportunities in the present. In this lecture, I offer a comparative portrait of five sites of post-Ottoman memory and forgetting, located today in five distinct nation-states: Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, and Turkey. First, I discuss the tomb of the Sufi saint and Bektaşî sheikh Gül Baba, in Budapest. Despite the polished, carefully curated nature of Gül Baba's mausoleum, it remains a site for competing discourses of Turkishness, Muslim-ness and Europeanness. Secondly, I examine a former mosque in the Croatian fortress of Klis near the Dalmatian city of Split. Today, the structure is known as Saint Vitus Church (Sveti Vid Crkva), and bears no explicit marker of its Muslim past. Next, I turn to the Ferhadija Mosque (Ferhadija Džamija) in the Bosnian city of Banja Luka, which was only recently reconstructed following its devastation in the war of the 1990s, and constitutes a precarious space of Muslim identification in the Bosnian Serb capital. Following this, I consider Thessaloniki's New Mosque (Yeni Cami), the former site of worship for the unique, syncretic Ottoman dönme community that has recently been recruited to the project of excavating the city's multi-religious and culturally plural past as a means to present-day urban investment. Finally, I interrogate parallel narratives of tolerance and pluralism that have accompanied the restoration of Sveti Stefan Bulgarian Church ("The Iron Church", demir kilisesi) in Istanbul, which threaten to sanitize the complicated past and precarious present of Bulgarian Orthodoxy in the city. Throughout my presentation, I am attentive to how discourses of heritage have authorized, or failed to authorize, particular images of the Ottoman past and the collective memories that orbit them.

- 2) 12:00 Exhibition "Back to the Past: Travellers Between Czechoslovakia and Turkey" – Výstava CZ-Otomanská říše, osobní dokumenty a korespondence průkopníků, curated by Göktuğ İpek. (Foyer)**

Two new states rising from the ashes of two empires: Czechoslovakia and Turkey and the people travelling between them: students, soldiers, employees. This exhibition offers a glance at "ordinary" travellers of the past via different ephemera.

- 3) 14:30-15:30 Lecture –Richard Wittmann, Associate Director, Orient-Institut Istanbul. "Buried in Foreign Soil: The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery of Istanbul as a Testament to Five Centuries of Protestant Life in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey." (Room 205)**

Abstract:

This paper will introduce Istanbul's Feriköy Protestant Cemetery as a historic landmark attesting to the multicultural and international character, which has shaped the metropolis of Istanbul for centuries. Situated in Istanbul's Feriköy district, the cemetery bears witness to the vital role that generations of Protestants of European and other nationalities played in the social, academic, and cultural life of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. It has tremendous importance, with a heritage that not only reaches to the burial ground's opening in the mid-1800s but also to earlier periods. Many of its monuments date back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, having

been moved to Feriköy from a previous, no-longer-extant cemetery that served the city's Protestant community for almost three hundred years. In 2018, upon the initiative of the Orient-Institut Istanbul a group of Istanbul-based international scholars formed the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative (<http://www.ferikoycemetery.org/>) to document, study and preserve this little-known burial ground on Europe's edge as a historic landmark. As a result of these pursuits, in August 2022 the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery has earned official recognition as a "Significant Cemetery of Europe" (<https://www.significantcemeteries.org/2022/08/ferikoy-protestant-cemetery-istanbul-turkey.html>). A final place of rest for mainly foreign Christians in a predominantly Muslim environment, Feriköy is a unique physical testimony to the existence of a diverse community of Protestants, some of whom made key contributions to Ottoman and Turkish life in such important fields as higher education, commerce, the arts, and government administration.

4) 16:00-19:30 Ebruli Painting by Anastasija Zubok, demonstration and hands-on for anyone above 10 years old. (Foyer)

5) 17:30-18:30 Lecture – Johann Strauss, Emeritus Professor, Strasbourg University. "Propaganda and Orientalism – the Ottoman Empire, its allies and its enemies in World War I, mirrored in picture postcards." (Room 205)

Abstract:

This presentation intends to shed light on a specific aspect of Turco-European relations, the alliance of the Ottoman Empire with Germany, Austria-Hungary and eventually also Bulgaria during World War I. and the way it was reflected on picture postcards. This new medium was to attain a first zenith during World War I when tens of thousands of different postcards were published, and billions were sent by the belligerent nations.

There is a great variety of types and uses of these postcards, usually manufactured in Germany or Austria-Hungary, including those distributed in the Soldatenheime in the Ottoman lands. One may view them as a vehicle of propaganda in the first place (with specific features such as the "Holy War" (jihād)). But there also other interesting aspects concerning the iconography or even the script and typography. There are fake views of different theatres of war, pictures illustrating the delicate relationship between Turkey and her German ally, as well as specimens of a curious sort of war-time orientalism.

6) 19:00-19:30 Rakı tasting

7) 19:30 Movie – "Fetih 1453." 2012 Turkish epic movie retelling the story of Mehmet II (The Conqueror) and the takeover of Constantinople.

Abstract:

Released in February 2012, Fetih 1453 is the story of Sultan Mehmet II, the Conqueror. The movie follows the skilful diplomatic preparations of the sultan, leading up to the siege and takeover of the Byzantine capital, fulfilling the prophecy of one of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad who, in the 7th century, had foreseen the capture of the city by a Muslim commander. Although maintaining and reinforcing many cliches, this epic movie is an interesting viewing not necessarily to understand the historical developments of the Ottoman takeover of the capital (fairly romanticised) but to observe how a 21st century state intends to portray its past.