



# BALKANFORSCHUNG AN DER ÖAW VORTRÄGE

# BALKANFORSCHUNG AN DER ÖAW

## VORTRAGSPROGRAMM

MÄRZ 2024 – JUNI 2024

Österreich und der Balkanraum sind seit Jahrhunderten eng miteinander verflochten. Als wichtiger kultureller, gesellschaftlicher und politischer Bezugsort für die Gesellschaften des Balkans war und ist Wien auch ein Zentrum der wissenschaftlichen Beschäftigung mit dieser Region. Der 2017 eingerichtete Forschungsbereich Balkanforschung am Institut für die Erforschung der Habsburgermonarchie und des Balkanraumes (IHB) greift diese Forschungstradition auf und versucht in seiner multidisziplinären Ausrichtung neue Akzente zu setzen.

Die Vortragsreihe Balkanforschung an der ÖAW versteht sich dabei als Forum, auf dem Wissenschaftler/innen ihre Ergebnisse einer breiteren Öffentlichkeit zugänglich machen und zur Diskussion stellen können.

*Austria and the Balkans have been intertwined for centuries. As an important cultural, social and political hub for the Balkan societies, Vienna remains a center of scientific engagement with this region. The research unit "Balkanforschung" established in 2017 at the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies (IHB) continues this research tradition and aims to set innovative trends through its multidisciplinary orientation.*

*The lecture series "Balkan Research" at the ÖAW is intended as a forum for researchers to present their results accessible to a broader public and to open them up for discussion.*

Die Vorträge finden in den Veranstaltungsräumen im 3. oder 4. Stock, PSK-Gebäude, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Wien statt.

*The lectures will be held in the event rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the PSK building, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Wien.*

Die Vorträge können auch im Internet via Zoom-Livestream verfolgt werden. Informationen zum Zugang werden rechtzeitig bereitgestellt.

*The lectures can also be followed online via Zoom, access information will be provided in good time.*

Für weitere Informationen zu Schwerpunkten und laufenden Vorhaben an der Balkanforschung, siehe:

*For further information on main research fields and ongoing research projects at the research unit, see:*

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ihb/forschungsbereiche/balkanforschung/>

Siehe auch / See also:

<https://www.derstandard.at/diskurs/blogs/ub-balkanblog>

Schriften zur Balkanforschung:

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ihb/forschungsbereiche/balkanforschung/publikationen>

**18.00–19.30 UHR**  
**VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM**  
**PSK-GEBÄUDE, GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2, 3. STOCK ODER 4. STOCK | 1010 WIEN**

**DIENSTAG, 19. MÄRZ 2024**

Michael Ursinus | Heidelberg

*Eine osmanische Originalurkunde aus dem Franziskanerkloster zu Fojnica vom Jahre 1482 im Lichte neuerer Forschungen*

**DIENSTAG, 30. APRIL 2024**

Rexhep Ismajli | Prishtina

*Albanistic Studies in Yugoslavia 1920–1989*

**FREITAG, 10. MAI – SAMSTAG, 11. MAI 2024**

MOSCULT & ORTHPOL Workshop

*Strategies of Sainthood: Local Saints in Premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe*

**DIENSTAG, 14. MAI 2024**

Justin Willson | Clinton/Mass.

*On Paper: Print and Iconicity in the Balkans and Beyond*

**DIENSTAG, 21. MAI 2024**

Milana Čerčić | Mainz

*A city full of supermarkets: analysing 'economic success' on the European semi-periphery*

**DIENSTAG, 28. MAI 2024**

Mina Hristova | Sofia

*We are Bulgarians, but not quite. In-between spaces and hybrid identities in the Bulgarian-Serbian-Macedonian border area*

**DIENSTAG 04. JUNI 2024**

Desislava Naydenova | Sofia

*Law or Literature: The Balkan Legal Culture Between 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century*

**DIENSTAG, 18. JUNI 2024**

Grigor Boykov et alii | Vienna

Book launch

*Ottoman Plovdiv. Space, Architecture, and Population (14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century)*

**DIENSTAG, 19. MÄRZ 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**MICHAEL URSINUS**

Heidelberg

*Eine osmanische Originalurkunde aus dem Franziskanerkloster zu Fojnica vom Jahre 1482 im Lichte neuerer Forschungen*

Durch Neuinterpretation der von Hazim Šabanović bereits 1949 herausgegebenen osmanischen Urkunde AT 13 2801 aus dem Archiv des Klosters Fojnica sowie einiger Passagen der „Geschichte des Hauses Osman“ aus der Feder des osmanischen Chronisten Ibn Kemal (oder Kemalpaşazade, 1468/9 – 1534) kann wahrscheinlich gemacht werden, dass Livno im Herbst des Jahres 1480 von Truppenverbänden des bosnischen Statthalters Davud Pascha unter dem Kommando seines Sohnes Süleyman Beg gewaltsam eingenommen wurde. Dabei fielen einige Geistliche als Kriegsgefangene in die Hände Davud Paschas, deren Freikauf und schliessliche Freilassung von zwei katholischen Laien aus Fojnica betrieben und im Januar 1482 vom Scheriatgericht in Sarajevo bezeugt wurde. Das Vortragsthema dient als Anlass, das Editionsprojekt „FOJNICA“ vorzustellen, dessen 5. Band im Erscheinen begriffen ist.

Michael Ursinus ist Professor Emeritus der Islamwissenschaften (Osmanistik) an der Universität Heidelberg und Honorary Research Fellow am Centre for Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek der Universität Birmingham. Seine Forschungen und Veröffentlichungen umfassen Urkundenwesen und Paläographie, Nichtmuslime in der islamischen Gesellschaft, Zeitungs- und Pressegeschichte sowie die Geschichte der südosteuropäischen Provinzen des Osmanischen Reichs. Zu seinen wichtigsten Publikationen zählen *Regionale Reformen im Osmanischen Reich am Vorabend der Tanzimat. Reformen der rumelischen Provinzialgouverneure im Gerichtssprengel von Manastir (Bitola) zur Zeit der Herrschaft Sultan Mahmuds II., 1808–39* (1982) und *Grievance Administration (Şikayet) in an Ottoman Province. The Kaymakam of Rumelia's 'Record Book of Complaints' of 1781–1783* (2005). Gegenwärtig betreut er die mehrbändige Edition osmanischer Dokumente aus dem Archiv des Franziskanerklosters Fojnica in Bosnien-Herzegowina.

In Kooperation mit:



INSTITUT für  
Orientalistik



universität  
wien

**DIENSTAG, 30. APRIL 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**REXHEP ISMAJLI**

Prishtina

*Albanistic Studies in Yugoslavia 1920–1989*

The lecture deals with the various phases of the development and situation of Albanian studies in the former Yugoslavia from 1920 to 1989. Albanian studies among the South Slavs began in the frame of Austro-Hungary during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, therefore they might reflect both the horizons of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, as well as the orientations within respective national cultures. The study of Albanian at the Belgrade University started in 1923, in which also the scientific journal *Arhiv za arbanašku starinu, jezik i etnologiju* was launched. After 1945, Albanian was used in schools and publications, first of all within the Autonomous region of Kosova, and in the Republic of Macedonia. In 1967, the Institute for Albanian studies (founded 1953, closed 1955) was reestablished. The University of Prishtina was founded in 1970, and studies on Albanian have started at the University of Skopje as well. In 1974, the International Seminar on Albanian Language, Literature and Culture began, and in 1975 the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova was institutionalized. The studies on Albanian language, culture and literature in Prishtina expanded significantly during the 1980's, integrating Prishtina under the big roof of Albanian and worldwide Albanian studies as one of the important centers.

**Rexhep Ismajli** is a retired professor of the University of Prishtina, he has lectured on General Linguistics and History of the Albanian Language. In 1998–2000 he held the position of substitute professor of Albanology at the University of Munich, in 1990–1994 he was Lecturer of Albanian Language at the University of Ljubljana and in 2002–2012 he taught the history of Albanian language and Balkanology at the South East European University Tetovo. He studied Albanian language and literature in Prishtina, specialized in Paris and Bochum, and received his doctorate in Prishtina. He is a regular member of the Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts and has been its President for two terms. He was Chairman of the National Science Council of Kosovo (2008–2011). He is an honorary member of the Albanian Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. He has published extensively on Albanian studies.

**FREITAG, 10. MAI (10.00–18.00) – SAMSTAG, 11. MAI 2024 (10.00–14.00)**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

*Strategies of Sainthood: Local Saints in Premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe*

**Convenors: IULIA NIȚESCU** | Bucharest, **OVIDIU OLAR** | Vienna

The veneration of local saints has been a fundamental component of incorporating newly baptized territories into the Eastern Christian world. Byzantine liturgical practice, hagiography, and iconography provided a rich basis for developing a cult of local saints in pre-modern Eastern and South Eastern Europe. However, most of these components were blended into local strategies for asserting sainthood, specifically tailored to local needs. This workshop will focus on (but not be restricted to) saint-making, ritual, and cult development, veneration and transfer of relics, the establishment of local shrines, pilgrimages, transfer of knowledge and practices, and ecclesiastical and political uses of locally defined sainthood. We aim to discuss the dynamic process of saint-making and the veneration of local saints in premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe through an integrated approach drawing from historical, literary studies and art history.

This event is jointly organized by:



The “MOSCULT – Saint-Making and Institutional Consolidation: The Veneration of Metropolitans in 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Century Muscovy” project, funded by The Romanian Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS – UEFISCDI (project code PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2021-0234). MOSCULT is hosted by the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest and addresses the emergence of the local cult of the Moscow-based metropolitans of all Rus’ from the 14<sup>th</sup> to mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.



The “ORTHPOL – Orthodoxies and Politics: The Religious Reforms of Mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (Grant agreement No. 950287). ORTHPOL is hosted by the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Vienna) and explores the mid-17<sup>th</sup>-century East and South-East European religious reforms from an inter-connected perspective.

**DIENSTAG, 14. MAI 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 4. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**JUSTIN WILLSON**

Clinton/Massachusetts

*On Paper: Print and Iconicity in the Balkans and Beyond*

Printed media have been described as antagonistic to the art of icon painting and the act of venerating holy images. This paper challenges that view by sketching a broader picture of how printers in the Balkans and adjacent areas interacted with woodblock prints, engravings, and icon tracings. Given the vital role that icons played in Orthodox culture, one can ask whether print in the Balkans and elsewhere requires a distinct theoretical framework from models proposed for Western Europe. What cultural weight did the printed image bear, and how did the signifying mark on paper differ in the eyes of audiences given the unique history of these places? With such a versatile, fluid, and diffuse art form as print, to what extent can one speak about regional features defining a corpus and a set of local craft practices?

**Justin Willson** is Curator at the Icon Museum & Study Center in Clinton, Massachusetts. His research focuses on concepts of the work of art in later Byzantium and the early modern Slavic world. Willson received his PhD in Art & Archaeology at Princeton University in 2021 and was the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Art History Leadership at the Cleveland Museum of Art / Case Western Reserve University for 2022–24. Willson is editing volume 4 of the series “Sources in Byzantine Art History,” entitled *The Visual Culture of Late Byzantium and the Early Modern Orthodox World (c.1350-c.1569)* (Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming). His essays have appeared in such venues as *Speculum*, *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik*, *Byzantinoslavica* and *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*.



An event in the context of the ORTHPOL project funded by the European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Grant Agreement 950287 (*Orthodoxies and Politics: The Religious Reforms of Mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe*).

**DIENSTAG, 21. MAI 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**MILANA ČERGIĆ**

Mainz

*A city full of supermarkets: analysing 'economic success' on the European semi-periphery*

This presentation analyses how a domestic retail trade company transformed life in the city of Tuzla, replacing the once-dominant coal and salt mining industries from the Yugoslav era. It explores the company's economic ascent within the broader context of political, economic, and social shifts over the past thirty years in Bosnia. I draw from a one-year-long ethnography conducted in 2018–2019, where I researched the imaginaries and actions of citizens in Tuzla. Central to the analysis are the diverse roles and perspectives of the company's actors. These include managers who view their work as contributing to national unity through economic success, the owner who positions himself as an antidote to political corruption, and employees who, despite enjoying stable employment, must navigate a challenging labor environment. This environment is characterized by arbitrary legal interpretations and a lack of union activities. These dynamics underscore the negotiations for stability and the contemplation of migration to achieve a better future.

**Milana Čerčić** currently works as a postdoc at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität in Mainz. She defended her PhD thesis on Tuzlan supermarkets at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, in a cotutelle agreement with École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Currently, she is conducting another fieldwork project in Montenegro, focusing on two topics: entrepreneurs and digitalization in the context of prosocial giving.

**DIENSTAG, 28. MAI 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 4. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**MINA HRISTOVA**

Sofia

*We are Bulgarians, but not quite. In-between spaces and hybrid identities in the Bulgarian-Serbian-Macedonian border area.*

Over the last 30 years, the European Union has sought to dismantle borders, but contradictory processes have led to a number of tensions, especially at Europe's "periphery". This lecture focuses on the "Trimezhdie" region, where Bulgaria, Serbia and Macedonia meet, and examines the changing political, cultural and identity dynamics there. Through ethnographic research based on in-depth interviews and observations in five border towns, the complex interrelationships of the ethnic and civic identity divide in Macedonia are revealed. The presentation looks at the collective construction of identity in the border towns and examines the influence of history, memory and current changes and processes. It explores issues such as dual citizenship, minority adaptation and how in-between spaces challenge traditional national narratives by "producing" identities such as "half Bulgarian and half Serb" in the border region.

**Mina Hristova**, PhD, is an assistant professor at the "Balkan Ethnology" Department of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Science. Her research interests include nationalism, identities, urban anthropology, memory, and migrations. In 2022 she received the Azarya Polykarov Award for young scientists by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the second edition of her first monograph *We are Bulgarians, but not Quite. In-between spaces and hybrid identities in the Balkans in XXI century* (Paradigma 2012). In November 2023, her book received the Karl Kaser award for outstanding achievements in historical-anthropological research on Southeast Europe. In 2023 – Jan 2024, she was a Scholar in Residence in The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Göttingen).

**DIENSTAG, 4. JUNI 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**DESLAVA NAYDENOVA**

Sofia

*Law or Literature: The Balkan Legal Culture Between 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century*

Recent studies argue that the Byzantine, respectively the Slavonic, legal system should be considered as a unit of texts (hagiography, parabiblical and legal, translated and original) and customs. An interesting example in this respect are two canon law collections, which have numerous Bulgarian, Serbian, Moldavian, Wallachian, East Slavic and Ruthenian copies emerging in a vast timeframe – from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century: the Pseudo-Zonaras Nomocanon (the most probable Byzantine prototype of which was the so-called Nomocanon Cotelerii) and Nomocanon pri Velikiya Trebnik (Nomocanon to the Great Euchologion). The texts included in these collections present various aspects of the interaction between the legal regime such as ideas about justice, canon law, folk religiosity. This phenomenon fits into the political and literary trends of the Balkans during the 14<sup>th</sup> century and became especially relevant under the Ottoman rule when the Church organization was destroyed and subjected to changes.

Desislava Naydenova is associate professor at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She holds an MA in history from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and a PhD (2007). She was a postdoctoral fellow (2011) at Institute of Slavic Studies at Vienna University (with a scholarship from OeAD, the Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation). Her research focuses on mediaeval history, Slavonic manuscripts, canon law and cultural anthropology. Desislava Naydenova has authored numerous publications on translated byzantine legal text in mediaeval Bulgaria and various phenomena related to legal culture, everyday life and marginal groups.

**DIENSTAG, 18. JUNI 2024**

**BEGINN: 18 UHR**

**ORT: VERANSTALTUNGSRAUM 3. STOCK, PSK-GEBÄUDE**

**BOOK LAUNCH**

*Ottoman Plovdiv. Space, Architecture, and Population (14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century)*  
(Schriften zur Balkanforschung, Vol. 5)

**Speakers:**

**GRIGOR BOYKOV** | Vienna

**MAXIMILIAN HARTMUTH** | Vienna

**PHOKION KOTZAGEORGIS** | Vienna

**Moderator:**

**KONRAD PETROVSZKY** (Vienna)

The significance of studying urban life and cities in the Balkans under Ottoman rule has long been recognized by modern academia, yet a comprehensive analysis of individual cities remains scarce. This monograph endeavors to bridge this gap by delving into the rich history of Plovdiv (known as Filibe in the Ottoman era), modern Bulgaria's second-largest city. Drawing from the latest advancements in urban geo-humanities, this study positions Plovdiv as a window into the diverse human activities occurring within its built environment during the formative centuries of Ottoman governance. Moving beyond the constraints of conventional historical approaches, the monograph integrates spatial, architectural, and population data into a cohesive, georeferenced digital model of the city, allowing for a detailed exploration of urban landscape transformations and human presence over time and space. The study is grounded in a wealth of underexplored primary sources, including historical city plans, Ottoman architectural landmarks, visual materials, and a diverse array of Ottoman documentary and narrative sources. Through this rich tapestry of materials, the author conducts a diachronic analysis of the development of urban fabric, shedding light on the pivotal role of architectural landmarks and their patrons, and examining the fluctuations in population density across time and space. The book fosters a dialogue between urban space, Islamic architecture, and the city's residents and proposes an analytical geospatial model that can serve as a useful framework for studying other cities in the region that, like Plovdiv, lack contemporary Ottoman cadastral data.

**NOTES:**

**VERANSTALTER:**

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Balkanraumes, ÖAW  
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Veranstaltungsräume 3. oder 4. Stock, PSK-Gebäude, Georg-Coch-Platz 2,  
1010 Wien.  
Bitte folgen Sie der Beschilderung/*Please follow the signs.*



Coverbild: Plan von Plovdiv, 1867, aus Grigor Boykov: Ottoman Plovdiv. Space, Architecture, and Population (14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century)