

International Conference

Medieval Landscapes and Rurality in Anatolia and Beyond

**14-15 May 2026
DAI Istanbul**



DEUTSCHES
ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT
ISTANBUL



ANAMED
KOC UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH CENTER FOR
ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS



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THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2026

REWRITING MEDIEVAL NARRATIVES

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| 9.30-9.45 | Introductory Remarks |
| 9.45-10.15 | Asa Eger (University of North Carolina-Greensboro)
<i>Neither Byzantine nor Saljuq: The Complex Rural World of Southern Anatolia and Northern Syria in the 10-15th Centuries</i> |
| 10.15-10.45 | John Bintliff (University of Edinburgh)
<i>Bridging the Late Byzantine-Frankish to Ottoman Divide in Greece</i> |
| 10.45-11.15 | Coffee Break |
| 11.15-11.45 | D. Burcu Erciyas (Middle East Technical University) & Maxime Durocher (Sorbonne Université)
<i>Land, peasants and institutions: heterarchy and settlement patterns in late-medieval and early Ottoman Komana</i> |
| 11.45-12.15 | Vincent Thérouin (Ghent University)
<i>Turning “villages” into “cities”? The urbanization process in Early Modern Ottoman Bosnia, its effectiveness, and its conceptualization</i> |
| 12.15-12.45 | Anaïs Lamesa (University of Edinburgh) & Grégoire Sommer (Laboratoire d'études sur les rhétoriques)
<i>Beyond Division: Permeability and Interaction in the Rural Landscapes of Medieval Cappadocia</i> |
| 12.45-13.00 | Discussion |

INTERMEDIATE LANDSCAPES, IN-BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL

- 14.30-15.00** **Luca Zavagno** (Bilkent University)
"Third Spaces" in the early Medieval Mediterranean: the view from Byzantine Anatolia
- 15.00-15.30** **Suna Çağaptay** (Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University) & **Filiz İnanan** (Bursa Uludağ University)
Anaia from Below (?): New Approaches for Analyzing the Landscape of a Byzantine Settlement in Kuşadası
- 15.30-16.00** **Coffee Break**
- 16.00-16.30** **Marica Cassis** (University of Calgary)
Villages, Monasteries, and Kastras: The In-Between Spaces in Yozgat Province
- 16.30-17.00** **Oya Pancaroğlu** (Boğaziçi University)
Degrees of Urbanity and Rurality in the Southern Cappadocian Plains: Develi after 1250
- 17.00-17.30** **Pierre Benoit** (Independent Scholar)
Landscape, rurality, and urbanity in western Anatolia from the late Byzantine to the Ottoman period as seen through Pergamon (Bergama) and its hinterland
- 17.30-17.45** **Discussion**
- 18.30** **Reception**

FRIDAY, 15 MAY 2026

POWER, PATRONAGE AND TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL LANDSCAPES

- 10.00-10.30** **Iryna Teslenko** (National Archaeological Institute with Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)
A Landscape of Power: Castles of Southern Crimea, 1420s–1475
- 10.30-11.00** **Birgül Açıkyıldız** (Harran University)
Rojkan Dynasty and the Shaping of Medieval Landscapes in Bidlis (14th-16th c.)
- 11.00-11.30** **Ayşe Belgin-Henry** (Bilkent University)
The post- Roman dynamics of Kozkalesi: A micro perspective on rural Antioch/ Antakya
- 11.30-11.45** **Discussion**

RIVERINE LANDSCAPES

- 13.30-14.00** **Ahmet Bilir** (Düzce University)
Integrated Waterways of the Bithynia Region: Connecting Inland Plains to the Propontis and Pontos Euxinos
- 14.00-14.30** **Alkiviadis Ginalis** (DAI Istanbul), **Paolo Maranzana** (Boğaziçi University), **Marco Cavalazzi** (University of Bologna), **Michele Abballe** (Ca' Foscari University Venice)
East versus West: Riverscapes and the Shaping of Human Occupation in the Hinterlands of Constantinople and Ravenna
- 14.30-15.00** **Georgios Liakopoulos** (University of Ioannina), **Mustafa Doğan** (Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi), **Adam İzdebski** (Nicolaus Copernicus University)
Landscapes in Flux: Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman Impacts on Local Socio-Ecosystems in the Great Meander Valley
- 15.00-15.15** **Discussion**
- 15.15-15.45** **Coffee Break**

RURAL ECONOMIES AND LIFEWAYS

- 15.45-16.15** **Sara Nur Yıldız** (Middle East Technical University)
Exploring the Transhumant Pastoralist Economy of Medieval Anatolia during the Mongol Period
- 16.15-16.45** **Athanasios K. Vionis** (University of Cyprus)
Between continuity and transformation: the varied dimensions of rural landscapes in medieval Anatolia, Cyprus and the Aegean in a comparative perspective
- 16.45-17.15** **Evangelia Pişkin** (Middle East Technical University)
Foodscapes in Medieval Anatolia
- 17.15-17.30** **Discussion**
- 17.30-17.45** **Break**
- 17.45-18.30** **John Bintliff** (University of Edinburgh)
Concluding remarks



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ALLIANCE SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ

International conference hosted at DAI Istanbul, organized in collaboration with the Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA) and the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED).

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