

ARIT LECTURE

"Another Way of Seeing Things":

The Ottoman View over Greek Lands in European Context

by Panagiotis Kontolaimos

at ANAMED Auditorium and on ZOOM

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm İstanbul

In person lecture at Anamed Auditorium, İstiklal Caddesi, 181, Merkez Han, Beyoğlu

For livestreaming on zoom, register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tZwkd-ipqjwuGdFZLiZSb1F1c0cyzQ8de_R7

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Greek General State Archives, Serres Division. Theme: Saint John district, Serres, c. 1928

Traditionally the history of European landscape perception starts in the 14th century, with Petrarch and his legendary climb on Mont Ventoux (South France). This also marks the birth of a singular cultural perception of European landscape, which is usually presented as solid and exclusive, evolving through time ever since. This line of thought continues to our days. In this presentation I argue that this singular narrative neglects the variety of cultural visions over European lands that were developed by various societies across Early Modern Europe and there is a need for a more inclusive narrative. My aim is to provide such narrative on this matter by introducing the Ottoman interpretation of Greek Landscape as a paradigm of cultural variety of relevant visions. By presenting various examples of rural and urban landscapes from Greece, where Ottoman presence is still visible, I will unfold the layers of Ottoman perception of landscapes and its impact on occasional spatial planning, hoping to demonstrate the variety of landscape visions in our region.

Panagiotis Kontolaimos is a PHD holder from the National Technical University of Athens, on Ottoman Urbanism and ARIT-ASCSA Aegean Exchange fellow (2019). Over the last decade he has published extensively on issues related to the urban development and form of the Ottoman City in the Balkans, during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. His interests cover fields such as History of Ottoman Architecture and Urbanism, Ottoman Culture and Ottoman Literary Traditions. His most recent post-doctoral research, conducted also at the National Technical University of Athens, focuses on the notion of Landscape in the Ottoman culture and its impact on space formation. He is currently a Lecturer of Ottoman Culture at the Athens School of Fine Arts.