



## ARIT LECTURE

### *Topkapı Palace and the Ottoman Imperial Treasury*

by Dr. Nilay Özlü

at ANAMED Auditorium and on ZOOM  
Thursday, March 6, 2025 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/meeting/register/4qL8B9E5SugUn9Yy-2vZ3w>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Topkapı Palace in İstanbul is not only an architectural heritage site that has maintained its spatial integrity since the 15th century, but it also houses some of the best preserved and richest royal collections in the world. After introducing the palace's architecture—its role in imperial rituals, state affairs, and as both a royal residence and a treasury—this lecture will focus on the Ottoman Imperial Treasury (Hazine-i Hümayun), providing a detailed account of its display during the 19th century. By discussing Ottoman strategies of display, the presentation will explore how

imperial heritage, tangible and intangible, were reformulated for the foreign gaze in the late 19th century. It will also consider how in these "performative" displays, certain dynastic references were utilized and imperial rituals were reimagined as symbols of imperial legitimacy and longevity.

**Dr. Nilay Özlü** is an associate professor of architectural and cultural history at Istanbul Technical University, Department of Landscape Architecture. Her research focuses on late-Ottoman urban landscapes, cultural heritage, and museum studies. Özlü was the Barakat postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford (2019–2020) and the Chevening visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (2021). She co-edited *The City in the Muslim World* (Routledge, 2015) and *Spectacle, Entertainment, and Recreation* (Intellect, 2023). Her research and publications on the display of Ottoman imperial heritage and the architectural history of Istanbul have received awards from the Society of Architectural Historians, Barakat Trust, University of Oxford, Getty Foundation, and Istanbul Research Institute. She has published at esteemed journals including *Muqarnas*, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, *YILLIK*, *ITU A/Z*, and *Megaron* among others.