



SPRING LECTURES 2017

Dr. Roman Shliakhtin
Fellow at ANAMED,
Koc University

Princess and Turks: Images of Seljuk Rulers in the Alexiad of Anna Komnene

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19:00



The migration of Turks constitutes the major event in the history of Medieval Anatolia. After the decisive battle of Manzikert (1071), different groups of Turkic semi-pastoralists moved into Asia Minor and carved their domains in former provinces of Byzantium.

Byzantine historians described the migrating Turks with keen interest. One of those historians was Anna Komnene, firstborn daughter of emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118). In the laudatory biography of her father, the Alexiad, Anna described in great detail military victories, court ceremonies, banquets and intrigues of the Seljuk rulers. Some components of these biased images later appeared in the western discourse on the Turks and (indirectly and after some time) contributed to the emergence of European Orientalism.

RSVP: helin.topal@sri.org.tr Registration is mandatory and please bring a valid ID

Refreshments will be served after the lecture

SWEDISH RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN ISTANBUL
İstiklal caddesi 247
Tünel - Beyoğlu - İSTANBUL
Tel: +90 (212)-252 41 19