



SRI AUTUMN LECTURE

December 11, 2018, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Joakim Östlund

Lund University

**Intersecting Worlds: Mehmed Said Efendis
Sefâretnâme (Book of Embassy) and
eighteenth-century Sweden**

Mehmed Said Efendi's *Sefâretnâme* (Book of Embassy) from his diplomatic mission to Sweden 1733 is a skilfully designed text. It begins with an epic travel narrative, but then its tone and content changes depending on Said's different tasks during his stay in Sweden. The presentation takes its starting point in current scholarly debates on circulation of knowledge between East and West and explores Said Efendi's role as a cultural mediator during a transformative period for both Sweden and the Ottoman Empire. Why does Said identify the Swedes with the Goths and how should we understand the absence of concepts like "infidels"? By a careful reading of Said's *Sefâretnâme* new aspects of early modern Ottoman diplomacy, culture and intellectual history are reviled.

Joachim Östlund is associate professor in history at Lund University and a Lecturer at Linnaeus University. His research explores interactions between the Ottoman Empire and Scandinavia in the early modern era and is centered on diplomacy, slavery, encounters and material culture. Currently he is involved in two projects. In *Beyond curiosity and wonder—understanding the Museum Stobaeorum* he is working on Swedish collections of ancient objects from the Ottoman world and the debate on mummy in medicine. In the EU-cost project *Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750)* he is working on mediation and circulation of knowledge between Sweden and the Ottoman Empire.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !