



SRII SPRING AND AUTUMN LECTURES 2021
NARRATIVE AND POLITICS

May 4, 2021

18:00 (Turkey), 17:00 (CEST)

The Politics of Narration and the Literary Text

**A conversation between Adam Goldwyn
(North Dakota State University) and İpek
Hüner Cora (Boğazici University)**

Premodern literature has often been read as a source of historical information, as if 'what actually happened' is somehow neatly hidden beneath a poetic surface and easily distinguished by a modern scholar. But while all artistic production certainly stands in some kind of relation to what we understand as 'reality', storytelling often displays more complex links with society, and the stories in themselves – their structure, characters, construction of time and place – can tell us much about their functions and intentions at the time of writing. Such aspects of literature can be described as the politics of narration: the collusion of narrative structures and techniques with ideas and values that were prevalent when stories were first given the form in which they have come down to us. This discussion will focus on questions related to Medieval and Ottoman storytelling seen from such a perspective, and the way that narrative decisions made by authors and narrators centuries ago have influenced their reception in contemporary politics.

— Zoom admission code after registration to event@srii.org.tr —