



SRI AUTUMN LECTURES 2022

Searching for the Sacred

Tuesday, November 29, 7 p.m.
The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul İstiklal
Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu - Tünel)

Sojourning with Sufis, Prospecting for the Palladium: Carl Vett (1871–1956), Esotericism and Archaeology in 1920s Istanbul

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The late 19th and early 20th century was not only a period of unprecedented scientific and technological advancement, but also a time when a plethora of nascent spiritual, esoteric and mystic movements and beliefs gained worldwide followers thanks to new means of travel and communication. Istanbul, the late (and eventually former) Ottoman capital, sometimes seems to lie at the intersection of a widespread longing for positivist rationality and secret wisdom alike, caught up between an embracement and rejection of modernity which no longer can be satisfyingly defined as 'Eastern' or 'Western'. In this lecture, we will encounter the ex-capital through the eyes of one of the many eccentric exponents of the time, the Danish theosophist-anthroposophist Carl Vett, whose endeavors would leave behind very different legacies among, respectively, scholars of Byzantium and scholars of Islam.

We kindly request that you do not attend if you are not fully vaccinated against COVID or if you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms. Limited seating 50 persons. Registration is necessary. Please register at event@sri.org.tr.