



SRI AUTUMN LECTURES 2022

Searching for the Sacred

Tuesday, November 8, 7 p.m.

The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul İstiklal
Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu - Tünel)

"Whet one's appetite, increase sexual potency." A Comparative Look at the Sacredness of Body through Food and Sex in Medieval Byzantine and Muslim Traditions

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Sex and food are common necessities for the survival of all animal species. Undeniably, they both have biological components. And yet attitudes towards these essential elements of survival varied quite differently in the medieval Byzantine and Turkish-Muslim societies, in relation to the Christian and Muslim approaches to body and soul. These differences became part of the polemic literature between the Byzantines and Muslims: While the Byzantine polemical texts against Islam accuse Muslims of promoting carnal pleasures, in some Turkish-Muslim texts, one can find criticism of the Byzantines for their unbalanced attitudes towards body and soul.

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.