



SRII SPRING LECTURE SERIES 2019

CLASSICISM(S) & ORIENTALISM(S)

February 18, 2020, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Professor

Rachel Mairs

University of Reading

Classical Pasts in Oriental Landscapes: Archaeologists, Tourists and the Arabic Language in late 19th Century Egypt and Palestine

Foreign archaeologists and other students of the ancient world who travelled in the Middle East in the nineteenth century viewed the places they visited and worked in through at least two lenses: that of a scholar of the ancient world, and that of a modern traveller. In her previous research, prof. Mairs has explored how tourist dragomans approached the dual role of guide to the ancient and modern Middle East (*The Dragoman Solomon Negima and his Clients* 2016; with Maya Muratov *Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters* 2015). Her current project, sponsored by the British Academy, shifts focus to the linguistic aspect of this encounter. In this paper, she will examine how one particular resource – phrasebooks for teaching tourists and archaeologists colloquial Arabic – shows the tension between interests in the ancient and modern ‘Orient’, and how impressions of one could influence interpretations of the other.

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