



SRII WINTER LECTURES 2021
**CLASSICISM(S) &
ORIENTALISM(S)**

(Continued)

March 23, 2021 · 19:00 (Turkey), 17:00 (CET)

— DOUBLE LECTURE —

Han Lamers (Oslo)

Fascism and Hellenism: Nicola Festa on Greek Learning in the Italian Renaissance

In *Umanesimo* (1935), the many-sided classicist Nicola Festa (1866-1940) sketched a fascisticized account of Renaissance humanism. He regarded the humanist movement in Italy as the origin of European classicism and as a model for cultural renewal under Fascism. Festa, a renowned Byzantinist, went at some length to account for the role played by Byzantine Greek scholars in the humanist movement. Fascism's infatuation with 'Romanness' and 'Italianness' was generally accompanied by an anxiety of indebtedness to cultures regarded as un-Roman and un-Italian. Greek culture had traditionally been understood as both foreign and familiar to the peninsula's 'native' or 'national' traditions. This paper explores how Festa responded to this ideological friction in his discussion of Renaissance Hellenism by dissociating the Orientalized 'Romans' of Byzantium from the representatives of Italian *umanesimo*.

Miriam Leonard (London)

Freud: Between Oedipus and the Sphinx

A painting of Oedipus' encounter with the Sphinx hung over Sigmund Freud's couch in his Vienna consulting room. The significance of the figure of Oedipus to the development of Freud's thought is well known, but the presence of the Sphinx in this picture highlights Freud's less celebrated interest in Egypt and other non-European ancient cultures. Freud had a very extensive collection of Egyptian antiquities as well as frequently writing about Egypt in his psychoanalytic works. This paper tries to tease out the significance of Freud's interest in Egypt - an interest which existed in parallel and often in tension with his great admiration of Classical culture.

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