



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2019

## CONTINUITY & CHANGE

September 24, 2019, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

### Adrian Marsh

Istanbul

## Romani Music and Dance in Turkey

with a live performance by Reyhan and Hüsnü Tuzsuz

The Romani and Traveller peoples of Turkey (*Romanlar*, *Domlar*, *Lomlar*, *Gezginler*, *Abdallar* and others), have been present in Anatolia and Thrace (*Anadolu ve Trakya*) since the Byzantine period, arriving at a similar time to the first Saldjûk (*Selçuk*) Turks began to settle in eastern regions, c.1050. Their arrival in Byzantium was first noted in a chronicle from the reign of *Basileus* Constantine IX Monomachus (1042 CE to 1055 CE), a time of troubles and uncertainty; records throughout the Byzantine period indicate their continuing presence as fortune-tellers, diviners, bear-leaders, acrobats, story-tellers, shoe-makers, soldiers, and tent-dwellers, but *not* as dancers or musicians. During the Ottoman Empire, Romani dancers and musicians gained high recognition at points, and adapted to the classical Ottoman system of social and ethnic organisation to become a tax-paying community (the '*Çingene*' *sancak*), regularly gathering to register at the annual Hdrilez (*Erdelezi*, as it is called in *Rromani-chib* or the Romani language) festival and celebration. This lecture will examine the origins of Romani dance and performance in the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic, the relationship with Romani identity in Turkey, and with Romani dance and performance across Europe and the Americas. A short performance by Reyhan and Hüsnü Tuzsuz, one of the foremost Romani dancers and dance-teachers in the world, and her husband, the musician, will follow the lecture.

Admission only after registration to [event@srii.org.tr](mailto:event@srii.org.tr) !