



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2019

CONTINUITY & CHANGE

November 19, 2019, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Michalis Lychounas

Kavala

Living with the Heritage of the Other: Kavala in the post-Ottoman and post-Lausanne Convention Population Exchange Era

Kavala is an urban centre of more than 2.600 years of history and three names, Neapolis, Christoupolis and Kavala. It fell into the hands of the Ottomans at the end of the fourteenth century. Despite being included in the urban revival programme of Pargali Ibrahim Pasa, it remained a minor town until the tobacco industry started transforming it into a booming commercial city port. The majority of its inhabitants were Muslim, with a substantial Orthodox community and a smaller Jewish one. In the nineteenth century, the international tobacco trade attracted a number of foreign investors. As a result, the city in the early twentieth century was a very good example of a Late Ottoman urban centre, mainly Muslim, but with aspiring ethnic communities, which embroiled in the vicissitudes of the Balkan Wars.

The exchange of population arranged by the Treaty of Lausanne led to Kavala being deprived of its established Muslim community and repopulated by Greek Orthodox from Eastern Thrace and Asia Minor. However, the urban landscape was dominated by the private and public Ottoman edifices of the former Muslim residents/authorities. Practical needs, ethnic prejudices along with the sweeping changes of the rapid urbanization of the post WWII in Greece have dictated the ways the new inhabitants have incorporated, rejected and destroyed this Ottoman heritage. In this lecture we will present briefly some of the most prominent architectural remains of the era as they stand and used today and the questions puzzling locals, the general public and the heritage professionals alike. Future project ideas will also be presented.

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