

**Anglo-Turkish Society / Royal Anthropological Institute lecture, 13 December 2018, 6.00 pm**

Speaker: Diana Darke

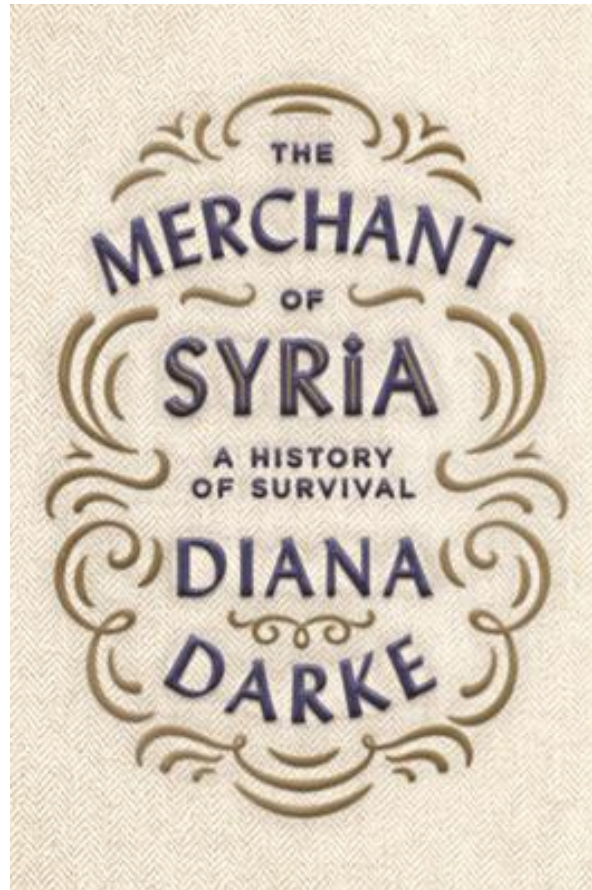
Venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT

Title: The Merchant of Syria and his Ottoman ancestors

Diana Darke's fully illustrated talk will focus on her new book "The Merchant of Syria" and his Ottoman origins. The merchant of the title was a real person whom she knew in his final years. He was a Syrian cloth merchant from Homs, born under the French Mandate in 1921, who died aged 92 during the Syrian war in 2013. The story of his tumultuous life is set against a socio-economic history of the region, looking at how societies survive through war and political turmoil.

Booking essential: <https://diana-darke-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

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Diana Darke is a Middle East cultural expert with special focus on Syria. A graduate in Arabic from Oxford University, she has spent over 30 years specialising in the Middle East and Turkey, working for both government and commercial sectors. Her previous book is the highly acclaimed *My House in Damascus: An Inside View of the Syrian Crisis* (Haus, third edition 2016). Her work on Syria has been published by the BBC website, *The Sunday Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times* and she regularly broadcasts on BBC Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*.

With her Damascus house in use since 2012 as a refuge for displaced friends, her links with Syria are deep and ongoing. She has been back seven times since the current uprising began in March 2011, most recently in April 2018, and remains actively committed to helping Syrians achieve a better future.

The Anglo-Turkish Society relies solely on membership dues and donations to continue its work. If you wish to become a member, sponsor one of our charities or wish to leave a legacy small or large, we would be happy to hear from you.

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