

Anglo-Turkish Society / Royal Anthropological Institute lecture, TBF June 2017

Speaker: the author Michael Talbot - <https://www.gre.ac.uk/ach/study/hpss/staff/dr-michael-talbot>

Time: 6 for 6.30pm

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

Title: 'British-Ottoman Relations, 1661-1807: Commerce and Diplomatic Practice in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul'

British diplomacy in the Ottoman Empire in the eighteenth century was run by the Levant Company, a commercial monopoly that financed the embassy. As such, there was a close link between commercial interest and the practice of diplomacy. Using a variety of sources in English, Ottoman Turkish and Italian, the story of Ottoman-British relations can be reconstructed through examining key aspects of relations, such as gift-giving, court ceremonial, and commercial and dispute resolution. As British trade in the Levant declined across the century, this directly affected the ability of the embassy to perform effectively within Ottoman conventions. Concurrently, and not coincidentally, rising levels of British violence in and around the Ottoman realm marked the start of the journey towards British imperialism in the region.



The audience of the Grand Signor (A Sultan of Turkey receiving a British Ambassador), unknown artist, circa 1755-1765, held at the NPG..

Michael Talbot's book has just been published: *British-Ottoman Relations, 1661-1807: Commerce and Diplomatic Practice in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul*, out now with the Boydell Press. Framed by the arrival of an ambassador from the restored British crown in 1661, and his successor's sudden departure at the outbreak of the first Ottoman-British War in 1807 and using sources from the British and Ottoman archives, it examines the relationship between commerce, finance, and diplomatic practice through key institutions such as gift-giving, ceremonial, and dispute resolution. It also provides a new perspective on the history of the Levant Company, the commercial monopoly which financed the British embassy in Istanbul until the early 19th century.

A preview of the table of contents [can be found here](#), and further details on the book [can be found at the publisher's website here](#).

Booking essential: <https://michael-talbot-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

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