Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 3 March 2026, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Liana Kuyumcuyan & Murat Tülek

Title: 'From Post Office to Afterlives: The Architectural Biography of a British Building in Galata'

Built in 1859 as the British Post Office in Galata, Istanbul, the building known today as Postane has witnessed the political, social, and spatial transformations of the city for over a century and a half. This talk is based on the book Postane: Archaeology of a Building, the outcome of the long-term research project Searching for the Cosmopolitan City in a Building, carried out since 2021.

The presentation traces the establishment of the British Post Office in Galata and examines the building's successive afterlives following the closure of the post office with the foundation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Drawing on archival documents, oral histories, personal accounts, and spatial analysis, the talk approaches the building as a layered historical artefact rather than a fixed architectural object.

By combining official records with lived experiences and material traces, the research reveals how the building shifted from a postal institution to a British boys' school, residential use, a carpentry workshop, and later cultural and commercial functions. Through this architectural biography, the talk reflects on questions of urban memory, institutional presence, and the persistence of everyday life within changing political and economic contexts.

Booking essential: https://lilian-kuyumcuyan-murat-tulek-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



The building in 1995 (photo: Eleonara Arhelaou, SALT Archive) & 2021 (photo: Emirkan Cörüt)



Murat Tülek (Eskişehir, 1987) is an urban researcher. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in urban planning at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. His research interests include urban history, the history of cartography, and economic geography. He works on the visualization of historical datasets, geographic information systems, and interactive mapping. He has participated in various research, digitization, and exhibition projects at numerous universities and institutions. In 2024, he co-authored the book *Postane: Archeology of a Building*. He is currently involved in research projects in collaboration with institutions such as the French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA), SALT, Postane, and Milli Reasürans.



Liana Kuyumcuyan (Istanbul, 1994) is a social designer. She received her undergraduate degree in Industrial Design from Istanbul Bilgi University and her master's degree in Architecture and Urban Studies from Kadir Has University. She is currently a PhD candidate at the National Technical University of Athens in the field of Architectural Language, Communication, and Design. She is also a guest lecturer at Kadir Has University. In 2024, she co-authored the book *Postane: Archeology of a Building*. Her work focuses on public space, everyday urban practices, and spatial justice, and often takes the form of installations and participatory projects.

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