Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 9 February 2026, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Siren Çelik

Title: 'Manuel II Palaiologos (1350-1425): A Byzantine Emperor in a Time of Tumult'

Few Byzantine emperors had a life as rich and as turbulent as Manuel II Palaiologos (1350-1425). A fascinating figure at the crossroads of Byzantine, Western European and Ottoman history, he endured political turmoil, witnessed no less than three sieges by the Ottomans and travelled as far as France and England, even spending a Christmas in London. He was a prolific writer, producing a vast corpus of literary, theological and philosophical works. This talk will be based on Çelik's biography of the emperor, which constructs an in-depth picture of him as a ruler, author and personality, as well as providing insight into his world and times. The talk will discuss key aspects of Manuel II's reign, his literary works and personal life, such as family, friends and pastimes.

Booking essential: https://siren-celik-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Manuel II & Henry IV of England



Siren Çelik obtained her PhD in Byzantine Studies from the University of Birmingham in 2016. Her research interests are Late Byzantine history, Byzantine literature, daily life and Byzantine-Ottoman interactions. Along with several articles and book chapters, she is the author of *Manuel II Palaiologos (1350-1425): A Byzantine Emperor in a Time of Tumult* (Cambridge University Press, 2021, paperback 2022) and a Byzantine poetry anthology in Turkish translation, with notes and commentary. She held fellowships from Dumbarton Oaks, ANAMED-Koç University, Boğaziçi University and Harvard University. She is currently an associate professor at the History Department of Marmara University, Istanbul.