Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 5 November 2020, 6.00 pm

Speaker: Doğukan Atmaca

Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: Hagia Sophia in the light of Ottoman legends

The Turkish authored Hagia Sophia legends were the continuation of Byzantine ones. This is, of course, an inevitable consequence of Mehmed II translation projects which took place after the conquest of 1453. Interestingly, Ottoman legends seem to support their *Rum* (Byzantine) processors as the defenders of monotheism against paganism. These sections are referring to the pagan rebellions which caused the destruction of the 2nd Hagia Sophia.

Furthermore, the legends were subject to a political discussion between the Mehmed II supporters and the ones against his worldwide empire, *cihanşumul*, policies. The ones favouring the Mehmed II, simply, emphasize a multi-cultural great empire by combining Islamic tradition with Roman heritage. Whereas, the others question the emperor's role in building the great Hagia Sophia by praising the architect and making him a divine personality against the emperor, referring to Mehmed II without calling his name.

Booking essential: https://dogukan-atmaca-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk





Dogukan graduated from Koç University with a BA in History in 2016. Later, he completed his MA in Turkish Studies at SOAS University of London. He is interested in cross-cultural relations through the Mediterranean, his focus is Ottoman Empire and its multicultural social structure. Dogukan is also interested in education methodologies and curriculum improvements. Between 2011 and 2016, he has contributed to two social responsibility projects, Koç Education Community and 1 Young 1 Future, offering interactive education for the 12-17 age group pupils. In 2018, he founded his own marketing-consultancy start-up company, called Berze London, and he is providing freelance services.

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.
www.angloturkishsociety.org.uk