

Session at ASECS 2022 (Baltimore, 31 Mar–2 Apr 22)

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, Mar 31–Apr 2, 2022

Deadline: Sep 17, 2021

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[1] How 'Byzantine' Was the Eighteenth Century? New Insights on the Christian Orthodox Art and Architecture of the Late Ottoman Empire

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From: Demetra Vogiatzaki

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ASECS (American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies) 2022 Annual Conference, Session #61

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The most common term used to describe Christian Orthodox art and architecture produced in Ottoman territories during the early modern period is “post-byzantine.” While Byzantine elements did persist long after the Fall of Constantinople, the referentiality of the term falls short of the increasing aesthetic variation of architectural monuments, decorative objects and artworks produced by the Christian communities of the Empire. As recent scholarship has highlighted, particularly from the eighteenth century onwards, the east-bound expeditions of missionaries, merchants, diplomats and antiquarians, the establishment of Ottoman embassies in the West, and the privileges granted to the Christian millet had a significant influence on the local culture; from Jerusalem to Istanbul and from Anatolia to the Balkans, regional idioms merged with metropolitan Istanbulite fashions and Western influences.

This session seeks papers that investigate the evolution of the artistic and architectural expression of Eastern Orthodoxy in the long eighteenth century. How cohesive was the aesthetic production of the Christian millet? How did it mirror the contemporaneous intra-confessional collision and coalescence within the Empire? What was the influence of European travelers and Ottoman cosmopolitan elites? We encourage close studies of situated artifacts (ie. buildings, artworks and devotional objects), itinerant people (such as pilgrims and craftsmen) and objects (from holy relics, to print media) that illustrate or complicate the deviation from the Byzantine tradition. Contributions that seek to challenge or revise the terminology used to describe Christian Orthodox art and architecture in the eighteenth century are particularly welcome.

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words and CV by September 17 to vogiatzaki@g.harvard.edu and nikolaos.magouliotis@gta.arch.ethz.ch

For further information see: <https://www.asecs2022.org/>

Reference:

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