Redefining the Margins: Seeing the Unseen in the Eastern Mediterranean

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited for the 17th Annual Postgraduate Colloquium at the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies. There are fashions in scholarship just as there are in costume or architecture, which means that certain topics are emphasised while others are marginalized. For example, 25 years ago a huge proportion of Byzantine art historical scholarship was devoted to illuminated manuscripts; today this is a much smaller field of study. This colloquium will focus on those ‘lost’ subjects, or subjects that never held the spotlight. We are interested in ‘peripheries’ of all sorts, including more traditional forms of marginalisation. The act of ‘marginalisation’ has been perpetuated and experienced in societies throughout the world: to construct the ‘other’, to classify as ‘fringe’ or outside the ‘mainstream’, to define and to diminish borders, populations, cultures and ideas, both with or without intention. Themes that lend themselves to this approach include (but are of course not limited to):

- Populations and identity
- Economic institutions
- Political and religious affiliations
- Material culture
- Literature and text
- Diplomatic relations

Papers of approximately 20 minutes in any of the fields related to Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies are welcome. Please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words no later than Thursday, 31st of March to Anna Kelley at ack442@bham.ac.uk. Applicants will be notified of selection within two weeks of this date.