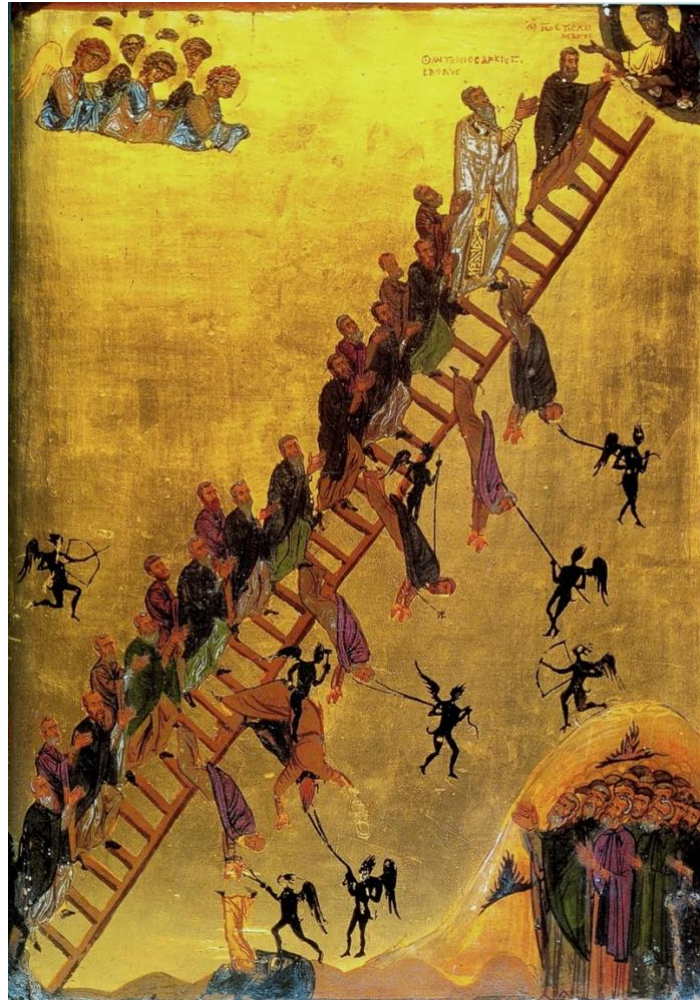


International Conference

**Liminal Spaces in Byzantium and Beyond**  
**Perceptions, performativity, placemaking**



**Swedish Institute at Athens** (*hybrid*)

**27–29 April 2023**

**PROGRAMME**



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

The event is organized by

- Prof. Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala University)
- Ass. Prof. Myrto Veikou (University of Patras) & Researcher (Uppsala University)
- Assoc. Prof. Buket Kitapçı Bayrı (Independent Researcher)

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The Conference is organized in collaboration with the Research Programme

### **RETRACING CONNECTIONS**

**BYZANTINE STORYWORLDS IN GREEK, ARABIC,  
GEORGIAN, AND OLD SLAVONIC (C. 950 – C. 1100)**

administered by Uppsala University and funded by the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, in collaboration with Lund University, the University of Southern Denmark, the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, and the Swedish Institute at Athens.



It is funded by the Kungl. Humanistiska Vetenskaps-Samfundet i Uppsala, Sweden.



## Thursday 27/4/2023

9:00-9:30 *Opening remarks*  
Jenny Wallensten  
Buket Kitapçı Bayrı

### **Session 1** **People and Nature I**

Chair: Jenny Wallensten

09:30-09:50 Milan Vukašinović  
*Filtering Liminality: Intersectional Reproductions of Mount Athos*

09:50-10:10 Guillaume Bidaut  
*Athonite Transhumance Routes between the 11<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Centuries: A Network of Liminal Ecosystems, Spaces and Situations*

10:10-10:30 Discussion

*10:30-10:45 Coffee Break*

### **Session 2** **People and Nature II**

Chair: Myrto Veikou

10:45-11:05 Darlene Brooks Hedstrom  
*Sailing in Crocodile Waters: The Nile as a Liminal Riverscape for Monastic Encounters in Byzantine Egypt*

11:05-11:25 Maria Leontsini  
*Liminal Spaces on Travelling Ships: Vulnerable Passengers on Board (Women, Children, Captives and Sick People)*

11:25-11:45 Discussion

*11:45-13:15 Lunch Break*

## Thursday 27/4/2023

### Session 3      **People and Nature III**

Chair: Maria Leontsini

- 13:15-13:35      Luca Zavagno  
*'The Sublime Objects of Liminality': Byzantine Insular Spaces in the Relational Context of the Long Late Antiquity (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*
- 13:35-13:55      Christoph Kilger  
*Insular Liminalities and Spaces beyond the Byzantine World - Coins and Hoards on Gotland as Itineraries and Repositories of Knowledge*
- 13:55-14:15      Discussion
- 14:15-14:30      *Coffee Break*

### Session 4      **Natural and Constructed Environment: The Frontiers**

Chair: Buket Kitapçı Bayrı

- 14:30-14:50      Alexander Sarandis  
*Political Disintegration and Cultural Hybridity in Balkan Liminal Lands in the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Centuries*
- 14:50-15:10      Asa Eger  
*Temporal Borders and Permanent Liminalities: Viewing the First Century of the Islamic-Byzantine Frontier as a Chronological Inflection Point.*
- 15:10-15:30      Discussion

## Friday 28/4/2023

### Session 5      **Constructed Environments I**

Chair: Milan Vukašinović

- 09:30-09:50      Livia Bevilaqua  
*Myths Transformed: Perceptions of Ancient Sculpture in Byzantine Liminal Spaces*
- 09:50-10:10      Roland Betancourt  
*Liminal Form: Queer Approaches to Byzantine Abstraction*
- 10:10-10:30      Dimitris Kyritses  
*Tracing Boundaries: Byzantine Periorismoi and the Creation of Liminal Space*
- 10:30-11:00      Discussion

*11:00-11:15 Coffee Break*

### Session 6      **Constructed Environments II**

Chair: Buket Kitapçı Bayrı

- 11:15-11:35      Peregrine Horden  
*Stairway to Heaven: The Byzantine Hospital as Liminal Space?*
- 11:35-11:55      Nikolas Bakirtzis  
*The Liminal Experience of Byzantine Fortifications*
- 11:55-12:15      Christodoulos Papavarnavas  
*'The Dark Prison Was Filled with Light': Prison as a Threshold Space in Byzantine Martyrdom Accounts*
- 12:15-12:45      Discussion

*12:45-13:45      Lunch Break*

## Friday 28/4/2023

### Session 7      **Constructed Environments III**

Chair: Asa Eger

*13:45-14:05*

Galina Fingarova

*Perceptions of Bridges as Liminal Spaces in Byzantium*

*14:05-14:25*

Katerina Ragkou

*Exploring Everyday Life through Household Liminal Spaces*

*14:25-14:45*

Maréva U

*From Existential to Spatial Liminality in Byzantine Cenobitic Monasteries*

*14:45-15:05*

Vladimir Ivanovici

*Thresholds and Liminality in Early Byzantine Churches*

*15:05-15:45*

Discussion

## Saturday 29/4/2023

### Session 8      **Constructed Environments IV**

Chair: Roland Betancourt

- 09:30-09:50      Veronica della Dora  
*Marking the limēn: Lighthouses and Beacons as Spiritual Metaphors*
- 09:50-10:10      Henrik Rydell Johnsén  
*'With the Body into Heaven': On the Ladder as a Liminal Metaphor in Early Byzantium*
- 10:10-10:30      Discussion

10:30-10:45      *Coffee Break*

### Session 9      **Stories and Liminality**

Chair: Ingela Nilsson

- 10:45-11:05      Markéta Kulhánková  
*Liminal and Heterotopic Functions of the Desert in Byzantine Literature: Some Examples from Hagiography and Fiction*
- 11:05-11:25      Charis Mesis  
*Iles désertes suffisamment boisées et îlots de forêts modérément isolées : aspects de l'imaginaire byzantin sur l'espace liminal*
- 11:25-11:45      Discussion

11:45-12:00      Concluding Remarks  
Myrto Veikou