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 ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE
 DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
 SEMINARRAUM IM ERDGESCHOSS
 APOSTELGASSE 23, 1030 WIEN



The Seventy Greek Scholars Struck Dead by the Curse of Hermes (The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MS. W.610, f. 338b):
<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/83610/the-seventy-greek-scholars-struck-dead-by-the-curse-of-hermes/>

EINLADUNG ZUM VORTRAG

STUDYING OTTOMAN VIEWS OF THE SUPERNATURAL: THE STATE-OF-THE-ART AND A RESEARCH AGENDA

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Notions and belief systems concerning nature and the supernatural constitute a little-explored aspect of Ottoman culture. As far as it concerns other Islamicate cultures and especially in medieval times, the last decades have witnessed several scholarly studies on issues such as magic, occult sciences or marvelous geography. Apart from a few pioneering studies, we still know very little on the concepts and practices connected with magic or the supernatural in an Ottoman context. In this talk, Marinos Sariyannis will seek to set out an agenda for the study of this field, focusing on the possible categorizations of the “supernatural” by different social and intellectual groups. He will propose to see the field described as “supernatural” as an especially constructive vantage point to watch the interplay of different layers of culture representing varying social groups: as a working hypothesis, one may take the existence of a “popular” or folk culture, as well as a Sufi culture, both slanting more towards a “magical” worldview, while ulema circles would seek to interpret (or, alternatively, reject) such traditions within a very rational and strict framework of ontological hierarchy.

Marinos Sariyannis is research director at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH (Rethymno, Greece) and primary investigator in the ERC CoGr project “GHOST - Geographies and Histories of the Ottoman Supernatural Tradition: Exploring Magic, the Marvelous, and the Strange in Ottoman Mentalities”. He has published several books and articles on Ottoman social, cultural and intellectual history.

Im Anschluss wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten.

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