

## **Early Republican perceptions of cultural heritage: A closer look at institutions and discourses**

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### **Abstract**

Following the downfall of the Ottoman Empire, the republic that inherited a large part of its territory was faced with the vast challenge of establishing a historical narrative of Turkish nationhood. In this process, especially after the 1930s, emphasis was placed on the archeological heritage of Anatolia, advancing the Hittites as the modern nation's ancestors. Accompanied by scientific research and documentation, this project was to support the territorial claims of Turkey on Anatolia, while placing the Ottoman past at a safe distance.

This presentation will focus on the 1930s and 1940s, a period during which Turkish Republic's cultural heritage politics were developed and solidified. Special emphasis will be given to the institutions (such as the Turkish Historical Foundation, the General Directorate of Foundations, and the People's Houses) and the actors that were crucial in shaping this period's perception of cultural heritage.

### **Bio**

Ayşe Dilsiz Hartmuth studied Near Eastern Archaeology at Ege University, Izmir, and Anatolian Civilizations and Cultural Heritage Management at Koc University, Istanbul. She has worked as a pre-doctoral assistant at the Department of Near Eastern Studies of University of Vienna, where she is also in the final stages of her dissertation project on the cultural heritage politics in Early Republican Turkey. Her research interests include critical heritage studies, history of archaeology and cultural politics in modern Turkey.