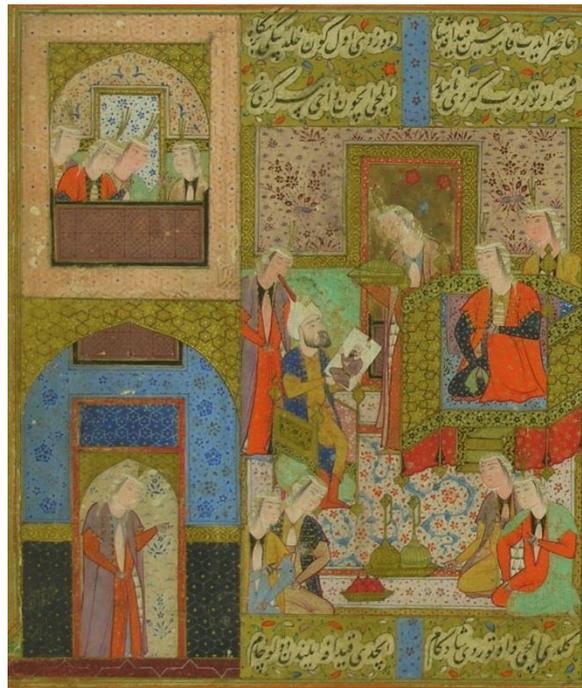




We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture:

*The Vicissitudes of the Alexander Romance
in Ottoman/Turkish Culture*



*Candace showing Alexander his portrait, Ahmedi, İskendername,
Topkapı Palace Museum Library, H 813, f° 163 r°*

**on Friday, April 12, at 18h00
at New Europe College (Plantelor 21)**

given by

Professor Edhem ELDEM

Department of History, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul and
Chair of Turkish and Ottoman History, Collège de France

The text known as the Alexander Romance has had a very wide success and a very long career throughout the old world, having been translated in practically every language one can think of: Syriac, Latin, Arabic, Coptic, Ethiopian, Pahlavi, Persian, French, English... Turkish is no exception, especially through a versified *İskendername* (Story of Alexander) by Ahmedi, a poet of the end of the fourteenth century. Yet little work has been done on tracing the possible linkages of this Ottoman text to earlier versions of the story, be they “western” or “eastern.” By focusing on one specific episode of the romance, Alexander’s adventure with Queen Candace, and by exposing the very particular twist that the Ottoman version has given to the story, we will try to explore the vicissitudes of a much-neglected genealogy of this classical text.

Biographical note

A member of the NEC Advisory Board, Edhem Eldem is a Professor at the Department of History of Boğaziçi University, Istanbul and holds the International Chair of Turkish and Ottoman History at the Collège de France. He has also taught at Berkeley, Harvard, Columbia, EHESS, EPHE, ENS, and was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin. He has worked and published on topics such as the Levant trade, funerary epigraphy, the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Orientalism and Westernization, Ottoman first-person narratives, Istanbul at the turn of the twentieth century, and the history of archaeology, museology, and photography in the Ottoman Empire. His publications include *French Trade in Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century* (1999), *A History of the Ottoman Bank* (1999), *Death in Istanbul* (2005), *Consuming the Orient* (2007), *Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire* (2011, with Zainab Bahrani and Zeynep Çelik), *Camera Ottomana: Photography and Modernity in the Ottoman Empire* (2015, with Zeynep Çelik).