

NOB

NORTH OF BYZANTIUM

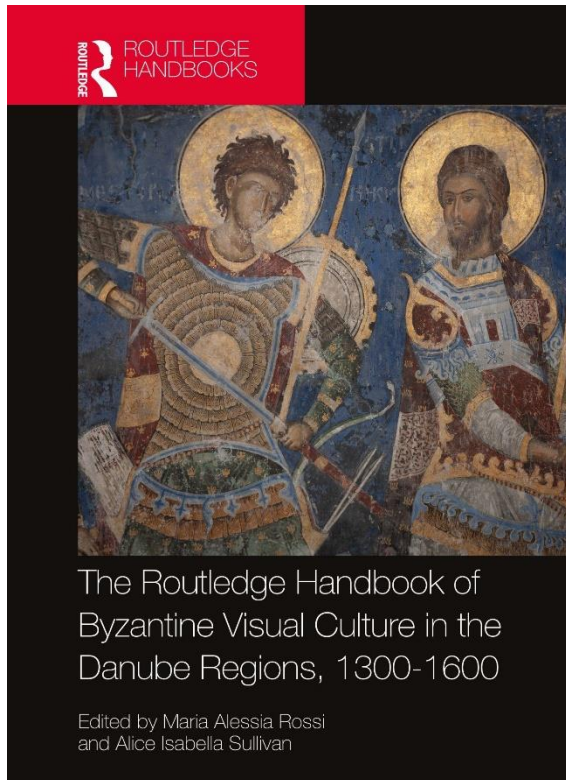
NoB Newsletter | Fall 2023

Dear NoB Subscribers,

We write to share with you the Fall 2023 issue of the **North of Byzantium Newsletter**, where you will find updates on upcoming NoB initiatives, publications, events, and resources.

Upcoming publication

We are now developing [*The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300-1600*](#), which will be published with Routledge in early 2024.



This volume aims to broaden and nuance knowledge about the history, art, culture, and heritage of Eastern Europe relative to Byzantium. From the 13th century to the decades after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the regions of the Danube River stood at the intersection of different traditions and the river itself has served as a marker of connection and division, as well as a site of cultural contact and negotiation.

The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300-1600 brings to light the interconnectedness of this broad geographical area too often either studied in parts or neglected altogether, emphasizing its shared history and heritage of the regions of modern Greece, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia. The aim is to challenge established perceptions of what constitutes ideological and historical facets of the past, as well as Byzantine and post-Byzantine cultural and artistic production in a region of the world that has yet to establish a firm footing on the map of art history.

The twenty-four chapters offer a fresh and original approach to the history, literature, and art history of the Danube regions, thus being accessible to students thematically, chronologically, or by case-study; each part can be read independently or explored as part of a whole.

Mapping Eastern Europe

Some of the latest entries on the [Mapping Eastern Europe](#) platform include:

- The Fortress of Mangup-Kale (by Viktor Filas)
- The Icon of Christ in Glory (by Alina Kondratiuk)
- Chungul Kurgan: The Elite Burial for the Avenger of the Fourth Crusade (by Oleksandr Halenko)
- The Caftan in Late Medieval Serbia (by Tatjana Vuleta)
- Heretics in Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art (by Ioannis Siopis)
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (13th-17th c.) (by Octavian-Adrian Negoita)
- The Despotate of Epiros: A Brief Overview (by Evangelos Zarkadas)

In response to current events, we continue our call for contributions to the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website focused on the cultural heritage of the regions of modern Ukraine. If you are interested in contributing, please fill out this [form](#).



New Mapping Research Fellowship opportunity for 2024:

We invite applications for a three-month remote fellowship for the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website to assist with research and writing about the medieval and early modern history and cultural heritage of:

- The northern Danube regions, OR
- The Ottoman presence in Eastern Europe

The fellow would research and write 3 case studies on key monuments and objects, and 2 historical or thematic overviews that will then be published on the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website (either in written form or videos).

The successful applicant should hold a PhD and be an art historian with a specialty in the medieval and/or early modern visual culture of Eastern Europe. Applicants may be of any nationality. The fellow would need to have a solid knowledge of English.

The timeline for this work is somewhat flexible but a start date at the beginning of March 2024 would be ideal. There is an honorarium of \$2,000–3,000 for this position, which is tied to the *North of Byzantium* initiative (www.northofbyzantium.org), and will be confirmed upon acceptance of the fellowship.

To apply, please send in a single .pdf a letter of interest with details about your research and its significance, your skills, and proposed contributions (no more than 2 pages); a CV; and the names of two referees who may be contacted to provide support letters, if needed, to northofbyzantium@gmail.com by January 10, 2024. Please include in the email subject line “Application: 2024 Mapping Research Fellowship”.

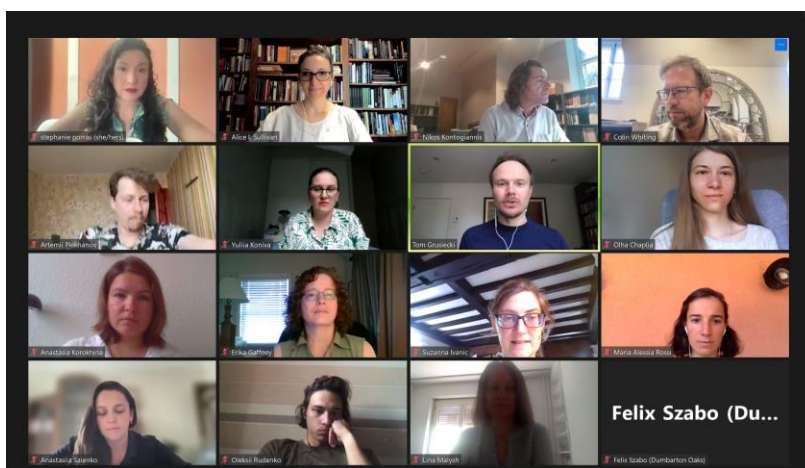
Collaborative Efforts

The recordings of our Virtual Lecture and Conversation Series in 2022 titled *From Kyivan Rus' to Modern Ukraine: Virtual Conversations on History, Art, and Cultural Heritage*, can be accessed [here](#).

Stemming from this scholarly and public-facing initiative, we have started working on an edited volume with our colleagues at [Dumbarton Oaks](#) and [Connected Central European Worlds, 1500-1700](#). This volume builds on the current reassessment of Ukraine's marginalized position in the narratives of pre-modern Europe. It concentrates on the medieval and early modern periods, featuring Greek, Latin, and Slavic shared histories, thus bringing to the fore critical evidence to counter modern misrepresentations of Ukraine's history and cultural heritage.

The contributions to this volume challenge Ukraine's relegation to the margins, strive to present the region's culture on its own terms, and apply a transcultural lens to the analysis of pre-modern Ukrainian objects, artifacts, and ideas as they moved between different cultural contexts, impacting local identities. Stay tuned!

Building on these efforts, we helped co-organize a *Mentorship Program for Scholars at Risk* in 2023, which took the form of four remote workshops, feedback from experts, and follow-up one-on-one mentoring sessions intended to expand on the feedback received, while offering additional tailored guidance for each participant.



The topics and speakers included:

Workshop 1 - Preparing Successful Job Documents | June 28, 2023

Speakers: Elisabeth Williams (Dumbarton Oaks); Paroma Chatterjee (University of Michigan); Nick Geller (Yale University Press)

Workshop 2 - Academic Publishing in Journals and Books | July 19, 2023

Speakers: Colin Whiting (Dumbarton Oaks); Stephanie Porras (The Art Bulletin); Erika Gaffney (Amsterdam University Press)

Workshop 3 - Writing Successful Grant Applications | September 19, 2023

Speakers: Alicia Walker (Bryn Mawr College); Matthew Rampley (Masaryk University)

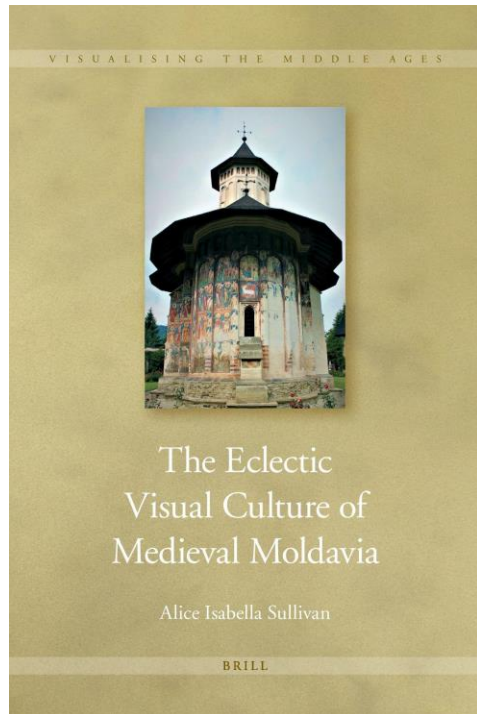
Workshop 4 - Disseminating Research in Different Contexts | October 10, 2023

Speakers: Christian Raffensperger (Wittenberg University); Olenka Pevny (Cambridge University)

We have worked with 7 early career scholars affected or displaced by the ongoing war in Ukraine. We thank all the participants and speakers for their time, dedication, and support of this initiative!

NoB-related Publications and Events

Alice's new monograph is now available!



The Eclectic Visual Culture of Medieval Moldavia

Series: Visualising the Middle Ages, Volume: 15
Boston and Leiden: Brill, 2023

Medieval Moldavia – which was located within present-day northeastern Romania and the Republic of Moldova – developed a bold and eclectic visual culture beginning in the 15th century. Within this networked Carpathian Mountain region, art and architecture reflect the creativity and diversity of the cultural landscapes of Eastern Europe.

Moldavian objects and monuments – ranging from fortified monasteries and churches enveloped in fresco cycles to silk embroideries, delicately carved woodwork and metalwork, as well as manuscripts gifted to Mount Athos and other Christian centers – negotiate the complex issues of patronage and community in the region. The works attest to processes of cultural contact and translation, revealing how Western medieval, Byzantine, and Slavic traditions were mediated in Moldavian contexts in the post-Byzantine period.

Alessia is co-organizing the 2023 conference at The Index of Medieval Art, Princeton University!

Whose East? Defining, Challenging, and Exploring Eastern Christian Art

The conference will be hosted in person and also livestreamed. Registration is free and needed ONLY for in-person attendance. To register, please visit the conference registration page: <https://ima.princeton.edu/register/>

Speakers include:

- Christian Raffenberger, Wittenberg University
- Margarita Vulgaropoulou, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Jelena Bogdanović, Vanderbilt University
- Jana Gajdošová, Sam Fogg
- Anthi Andronikou, University of St. Andrews
- Gohar Grigoryan, University of Fribourg
- Tolga Uyar, Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University
- Erik Thunø, Rutgers University

Respondents:

- Mirela Ivanova, University of Sheffield
- Antony Eastmond, Courtauld Institute of Art



12th Biennial Medieval Slavic Summer Institute (MSSI) @ OSU

Deadline: March 1, 2024

The Hilandar Research Library (HRL), in collaboration with the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS) and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures (SEELC) at The Ohio State University, offers a biennial four-week Medieval Slavic Summer Institute (MSSI) in Columbus, Ohio. This intensive program caters to graduate students and focuses on two key areas: Manuscript Description and Access and Readings in Church Slavonic, utilizing microform materials from HRL's extensive collection. Eligible applicants should be



graduate students with a BA degree and proficiency in Cyrillic and at least one Slavic language, with preference given to those knowledgeable in Old Church Slavonic or other pre-modern Slavic languages. The HRL boasts the world's largest collection of medieval Slavic Cyrillic texts on microform, with a notable concentration from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, predominantly East Slavic and South Slavic in origin. <https://library.osu.edu/find/collections/hilandar-research-library/>

NoB Book Series



[*Eastern European Visual Culture and Byzantium \(13th -17th c.\)*](#) is a NoB book series that explores the art, architecture, and visual culture of regions of the Balkan Peninsula, the Carpathian Mountains, as well as early-modern Russia and Ruthenia between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. We invite proposals for monographs, edited volumes, and conference proceedings. We are also interested in translations in English of medieval textual sources and/or of recent publications focusing on the medieval and early modern art, architecture, and visual culture of regions of Eastern Europe.

All suitable submissions will undergo a double blind peer review process. Please find the book proposal form [here](#).

NoB Resources

On the NoB website, you can find links to image archives and other relevant resources, as well as an ongoing bibliography. Please send us details for events you are organizing, publications, etc. to include on the NoB website and to share with our subscribers. You can find here [NoB Related Events](#) - send us your updates!

Follow us on **Twitter/X @NorthofByzance**, and encourage friends and colleagues to [subscribe](#) to NoB.

Best wishes to all,

Alessia and Alice
NoB co-founders