

NOB

NORTH OF BYZANTIUM

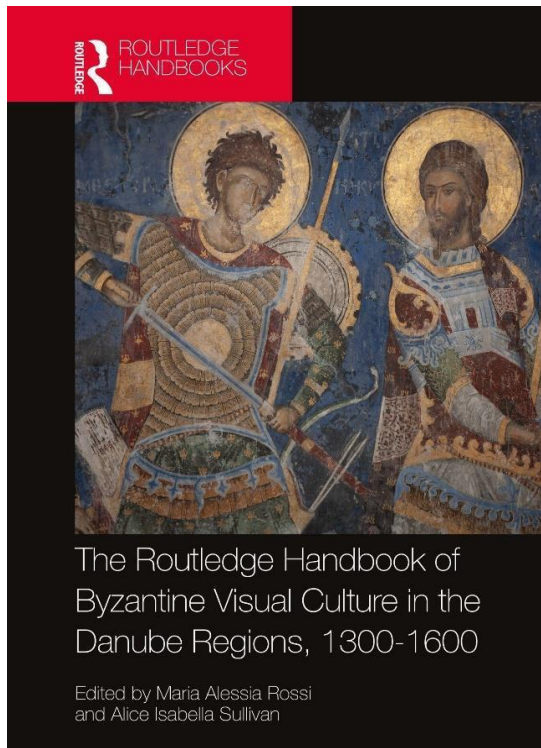
NoB Newsletter | Spring 2024

Dear NoB Subscribers,

We write to share with you the Spring 2024 issue of the **North of Byzantium Newsletter**, where you will find updates on upcoming NoB initiatives, publications, events, and resources.

Published!

We are thrilled to announce that [*The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300-1600*](#), has now been published with Routledge! For a **20% discount**, use code AFLY01 at checkout.



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.

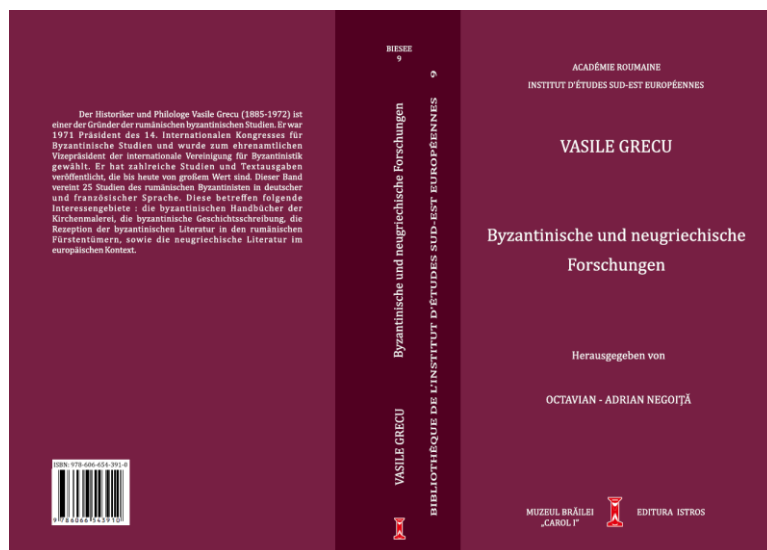
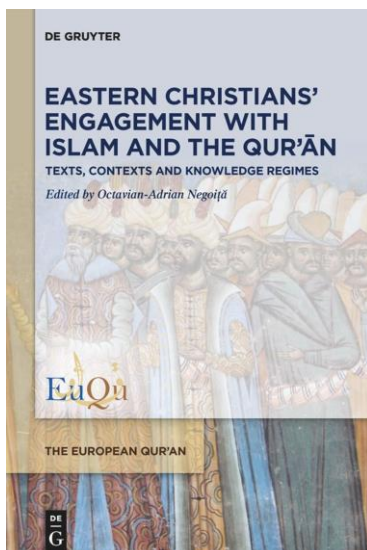
The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300-1600 brings to light the interconnectedness of this broad geographical area too often either studied in parts or neglected altogether, emphasizing its shared history and heritage of the regions of modern Greece, Croatia, Serbia, 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 2024 Fellow

Starting in February, Octavian-Adrian Negoiță has joined our [Mapping Eastern Europe](#) project as the 2024 Research Fellow!

Octavian-Adrian Negoiță is *Junior Researcher* at the Institute for the History of Religions (Romanian Academy), where he conducts research in the field of medieval and early modern history of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, with a special emphasis on Christian-Muslim relations, Greek manuscript culture, theological controversies and intellectual history. After he earned his PhD in 2018 at the University of Bucharest, he was involved in many prestigious European-funded projects: 1. TYPARABIC (Bucharest, ERC Advanced Grant, No. 883219); 2. ORTHPOL (Vienna, ERC Starting Grant, No. 950287); 3. EuQu (Copenhagen, ERC Synergy Grant, No. 810141); and 4. OTTOCONFESSION (Budapest, ERC Consolidator Grant, No. 648498). Since November 2023, he is also an *Affiliated Researcher* of the Centre de Documentation et de Recherches Arabes Chrétiennes of the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (Lebanon). He has edited the volume *Vasile Grecu, Byzantinische und neugriechische Forschungen*, Bibliothèque de l'Institut d'Études Sud-Est Européennes 9 (Brăila: Ed. Istros a Muzeului Brăilei Carol I, 2020), while his newly edited book, entitled *Eastern Christians' Engagement with Islam and the Qur'an: Texts, Contexts and Knowledge Regimes*, will be published by De Gruyter in 2024. He has published studies, articles and reviews in *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, *Scrinium*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, and *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, among others. He is currently working on a book about Greek Orthodox engagement with Islam and the Qur'an during the Ottoman rule (16th-18th Centuries).



For the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project, Octavian will create entries on the following topics:

- St. Antim Monastery
- Voroneț Monastery
- The Liturgikon of Hieromonk Makarios (1508)
- The Bible of Șerban Cantacuzino (1688)
- A thematic overview on antimensia in the medieval Balkans

We will also be adding new content in the coming months focusing on:

- Mehmet Bey Cami of Serres
- Alaca Imaret of Thessaloniki
- the Akkerman Fortress
- the Ottoman mosque architecture in Bosnia-Herzegovina

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](#).



Collaborative Efforts

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. The volume is under contract with Dumbarton Oaks in the *Extravagantes* series. Stay tuned!

Building on the *Mentorship Program for Scholars at Risk* that we developed in 2023, we are collaborating to offer a new **Mentorship Program for East-Central European Scholars** in 2024.

We invite applications for a remote four-session mentorship program tailored to early-career scholars, with a special focus on those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This program is meant to offer professional development and workshop opportunities around the following topics:

- Publishing in top academic journals and books
- Writing successful grant applications
- Preparing successful job documents
- Presenting at conferences

The four sessions will take place in Fall of 2024 (September-November) and Spring of 2025 (February-April). Participants must attend all workshops and mentoring sessions to complete the program successfully. Upon completion, each participant will receive a certificate.

We encourage historians and art historians with a specialty in the medieval or early modern visual culture of East-Central Europe to apply to this program. The successful applicants should be advanced PhD candidates (within 1 year of completion of their degrees) or junior-level scholars (up to 5 years since graduation with a doctoral degree).

The deadline for applications is **May 12, 2024**. For more details about eligibility and the application process, please visit:

<https://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-awards/opportunities-ukraine-scholars>

NoB Book Series



[*Eastern European Visual Culture and Byzantium \(13th -17th c.\)*](#) is an 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