



## NoB Newsletter | Spring 2025

Dear NoB Subscribers,

We write to share with you the Spring 2025 issue of the **North of Byzantium Newsletter**, where you will find updates on upcoming NoB initiatives, publications, events, and resources.

### NoB Essay Prize

The inaugural **NoB Essay Prize** will be awarded in 2025 to a PhD candidate for an original research essay that focuses on an aspect of the visual culture of Eastern Europe between the 13th and 17th centuries. The essay could address an image, object, or monument from a region of the Balkans, the Carpathians, or further north, contextualizing it historically and addressing its layered meanings and functions. The submission could be an entirely new piece of research or drawn from the candidate's course-work or an already published article. The research essay, in the range of 1500-2000 words, should be submitted in English along with a 2-page CV (including details about thesis title and doctoral mentors). The winning submission will receive \$250 and the opportunity to be revised and published as a contribution on the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website.

Submit your research essay to [northofbyzantium@gmail.com](mailto:northofbyzantium@gmail.com) by July 31, 2025 with the subject heading "2025 NoB Essay Prize."

### Call for NoB Assistant Editor

We are seeking an **Assistant Editor** to work with us on our North of Byzantium and Mapping Eastern Europe projects for the 2025/2026 academic year. The successful candidate should be a graduate student pursuing an MA or a PhD degree in a European or North American institution in a relevant field. English fluency and research skills are required. Priority will be given to students who have an interest in the region. This is a remote position with regular Zoom meetings and opportunities for mentorship. Duties include updating website content, uploading recent scholarship, and editing text for the North of Byzantium and Mapping Eastern Europe projects. The role carries a \$700 honorarium.

Interested candidates should submit a one-page statement of interest and a 2-page CV (including details about their main research project and mentors) to [northofbyzantium@gmail.com](mailto:northofbyzantium@gmail.com) by July 31, 2025. Please include in the subject heading "Application for NoB Assistant Editor".

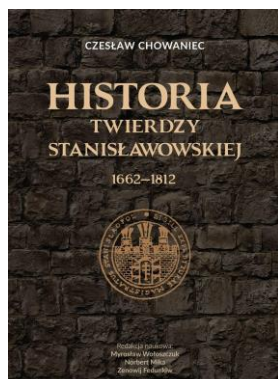
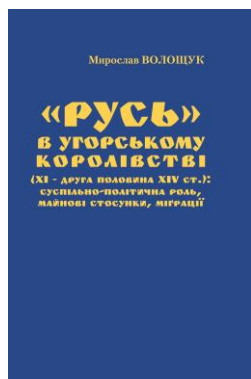
## Mapping Eastern Europe 2025 Fellow

This year, Dr. Myroslav Voloshchuk (Professor of the Department of World history of the Faculty of History, Political Science and International Relations of Vasyl' Stefanyk PreCarpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine) will serve as the 2025 Research Fellow for the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project.

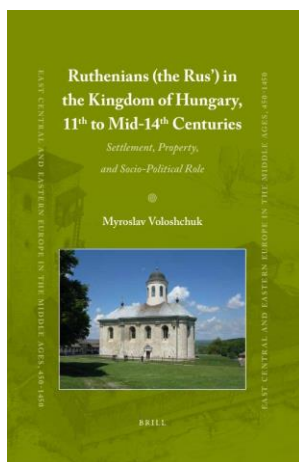
Myroslav is the author of over 200 different publications, including monographs, articles, reviews, methodological materials for the students etc. He has studied for over 25 years the history of medieval and early modern Halych and the Halych land (until 1772), and the Kingdom of Rus' (mid-13th - early 15th c.).

For the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project, Myroslav will author entries on the following topics:

- The Assumption Cathedral (12th-16th century phases)
- Halych Castle
- The church and monastery of St. Elijah (12th century)
- The church of St. Panteleimon (12th century)
- The Church of the Nativity of Christ (14th century)
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Галич. Збірник наукових праць. Серія 1 / Halych. Scientific book collection. Series 1



Галич. Збірник наукових праць. Серія 2 / Halych. Scientific book collection. Series 2



In addition, we have recently published case studies on:

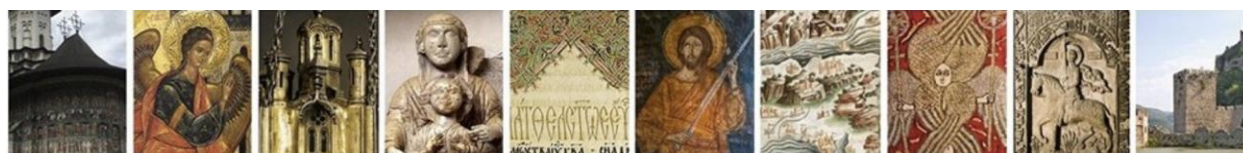
- The Alaca Imaret of Thessaloniki (by Melpomeni Perdikopoulou)
- The Evrenos Bey Imaret of Komotini (by Melpomeni Perdikopoulou)
- The Mehmet Bey Cami of Serres (by Melpomeni Perdikopoulou)
- Ali Bey Mosque in Timișoara (by Adriana Gașpar)

And a thematic overview on:

- Ottoman Mosques in Bosnia-Herzegovina (by Ana Marija Grbanovic)

If you are interested in contributing to the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project, please fill out this [form](#).

## 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](#).

## Job Opportunity

The Icon Museum and Study Center is seeking an Associate Curator and Study Center Manager to join its dedicated team of eight staff members. The ideal candidate will be a collaborative professional with strong organizational, communication, and writing skills, who is capable of working to the highest museum standards.

The candidate will be responsible for organizing and managing two exhibitions per year at the IM+SC, as well as for implementing and managing the Study Center's programs and activities in close coordination with the Study Center Committee. The full posting can be found on the IM+SC website: <https://www.iconmuseum.org/employment/>.



## Presentations

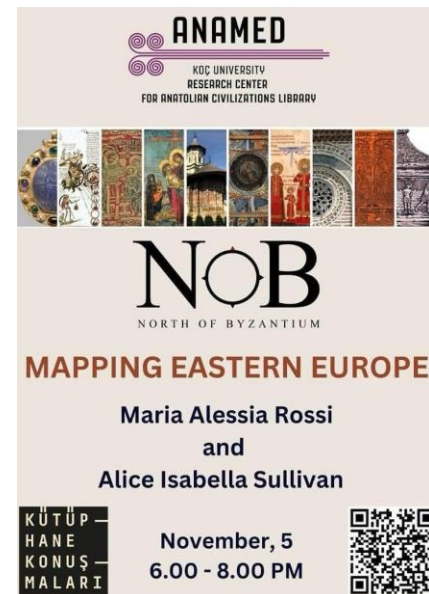
On 5 November 2024, we co-presented the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project as part of the **ANAMED Library Talks 2024** at Koç University, Turkey. This virtual presentation was intended for local students.

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On 26 February 2025, we offered a book lecture and discussion of our volume *The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300-1600* as part of the **AISEES Lecture Series**, organized by the American Institute for Southeast European Studies (AISEES).

The interdisciplinary framework of this handbook, covering history, literature, art history, architecture, philology, material culture, and theology, offers an in depth examination of the visual culture of regions of modern Greece, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, among others, in between local traditions, the Byzantine heritage, and cultural forms adopted from other models in the medieval and early modern periods.

During the presentation, we offered an overview of the volume, and select contributors discussed their chapters: **Ovidiu Cristea** (N. Iorga Institute of History of the Romanian Academy), **Ovidiu Olar** (N. Iorga Institute of History of the Romanian Academy), **Vlad Bedros** (National University of Arts in Bucharest); **Iva Jazbec Tomaić** (University of Rijeka), and **Danijel Ciković** (University of Rijeka).



**2025 AISEES Lecture Series**

Sponsored by the American Institute for Southeast European Studies

**The Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300–1600**  
(Routledge, 2024)

26 February 2025 | 12:00 – 1:30 EDT

Co-organized by  
Maria Alessia Rossi | Princeton University  
Alice Isabella Sullivan | Tufts University

Join us on **Zoom** for a lecture and discussion of our recent volume, which aims to broaden knowledge about the history, art, culture, and heritage of Eastern Europe relative to Byzantium in regions of the Danube River. This river has long stood at the intersection of different traditions, serving as a marker of connection and division, as well as a site of cultural contact and negotiation.

The lecture will consist of a presentation from the editors and shorter reflections from invited contributors to this volume.

Edited by Maria Alessia Rossi and Alice Isabella Sullivan

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY** **NOB** **TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

**8**

**FRAMING SILK PATRONAGE IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL EASTERN ADRIATIC**

Iva Jazbec Tomaić and Danijel Ciković

It was one of the most desirable luxury products in Western Europe during the late Middle Ages, and only members of the highest social elite could afford expensive silk. Its value lay in the fact that items made of silk lasted for centuries and were ritually rededicated in order to utilize this expensive material for as long as possible. Society, silk was closely associated with financial and social status and was used for ritual advancement and representation of power. The centers of silk production at the time were located mainly in the Byzantine Empire and in Islamic countries along the Silk Road, from where the art of silk weaving was introduced to Europe. For centuries, the Adriatic Sea route was one of the key maritime routes along which silk and other luxury products, such as Eastern spices, were brought to Western Europe. Moreover, the route stretched along the more suitable eastern Adriatic coast (todayadays a part of the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Montenegro, and the Republic of Albania) all the way to Venice and then further toward the West. However, it would be wrong to perceive this area solely as a transit zone for luxury products since it was quite the opposite. Especially during the late Middle Ages, the east coast of the Adriatic was a region of overlapping political, ecclesiastical, and cultural spheres. From its fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries, the area was an arena of constant tension and political struggle between the Republic of Venice, the Kingdom of Hungary and Croatia, the Kingdom of Bosnia, the Republic of Ragusa, the Ottoman Empire, and, finally, the Habsburg Monarchy. Despite this, many coastal towns, such as Dubrovnik, Zadar, and Rijeka, remained a part of the Republic of Croatia, which were situated along this important maritime route and were founded during Roman, early medieval, and Byzantine periods, or proposed, primarily due to the very intense trade between East and West. Considering the significant economic strength of the eastern Adriatic towns, it comes as no surprise that the members of their social elite could afford the luxury goods that often used through the same ports. The first argument of this essay, based on written sources as well as on the analysis of preserved objects, concerns members of the social elite on the eastern Adriatic coast who were very familiar with contemporary artistic trends in the Italian context. The second argument that we discuss in this essay refers to the different use of the local elite that was very likely the result of three factors. First, members of

**Key Monuments and Objects discussed in the talk**

**Legend:**

- Location of monuments
- Monuments
- Monuments
- Monuments

**1. Introduction**

**2. Silk Production, Trading, and Possession: Selected Written Sources**

**3. Silk Patronage in the Fourteenth Century: Some Figural Embroidery Examples**

**4. Conclusion**

## Collaborative Efforts

The *Mentorship Program for East-Central European Scholars* just concluded for the 2024-2025 academic year!

A collaboration between North of Byzantium, [Dumbarton Oaks](#), and [Connected Central European Worlds, 1500-1700](#), this mentorship program was tailored to East-Central European scholars, with a special focus on those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The program offered 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.

The topics and speakers of this year's Mentorship Program included:

### **Workshop 1 - Preparing Successful Job Documents** | September 11, 2024

Speakers: Elisabeth Williams (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston); Paroma Chatterjee (University of Michigan); Nick Geller (Yale University Press)

### **Workshop 2 - Academic Publishing in Journals and Books** | October 8, 2024

Speakers: Colin Whiting (Dumbarton Oaks); Emma Brennen (Manchester University Press); James Koranyi (European History Quarterly / Durham University)

### **Workshop 3 - Writing Successful Grant Applications** | February 11, 2025

Speakers: Ivan Drpić (University of Pennsylvania); Matthew Rampley (Masaryk University)

### **Workshop 4 - Presenting at Conferences** | March 11, 2025

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

We thank all the participants and the speakers for their time, dedication, and support of this initiative!

## 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

