



NoB Newsletter | Fall 2025

Dear NoB Subscribers,

We write to share with you the Fall 2025 issue of the **North of Byzantium Newsletter**, where you will find updates on NoB initiatives, publications, events, and resources, as well as meet new members of our team.

MEE Assistant Editor

We are thrilled to introduce **Pauline Vasselle** as the *Assistant Editor* who will work with us on our *Mapping Eastern Europe* project for the 2025/2026 academic year!

Pauline is currently a PhD student in Slavonic Studies at the University of Nottingham, UK. She completed a Master's degree in Byzantine Studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her work examines spiritual families, a type of fictive kinship, in Rus' monasticism in order to understand community-building in monasteries. She is also interested in book-learning culture and manuscript production with a focus on East Christianity.

In her words: "I am excited to help the editors of *Mapping Eastern Europe* give increased visibility to the latest research in our field. It is an opportunity to make East European studies more accessible and support both researchers and students interested in them. And I look forward to reading submissions!"



NoB Website Editor Assistant



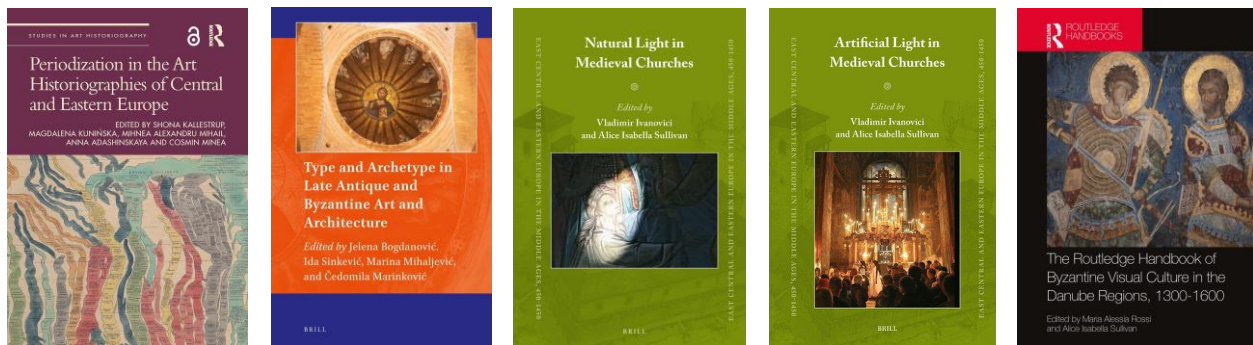
We are also pleased to announce our *Website Editor Assistant*: **Dr. Anna Adashinskaya**!

Dr. Adashinskaya is a scholar of Byzantine and Balkan visual culture, with a particular interest in how images, rituals, and patronage intersect to shape social identity and memory. She received her PhD in Medieval Studies from Central European University, with a dissertation dedicated to the practices of ecclesiastic patronage in late Byzantium and medieval Slavic countries.

Through her subsequent postdoctoral years, her research has explored such topics as female patronage in Byzantine Epirus, votive portraiture in Moldavia and the Empire of Trebizond, Byzantine art as a historiography discourse, graffiti and dipinti in Moldavian churches during the 16th-17th centuries, and the role of devotional and commemorative practices in medieval Southeastern Europe. Currently, Anna is working on commemorative techniques in the Post-Byzantine/early-Ottoman Balkans, exploring how liturgical arrangements and economic conditions shaped practices of remembrance, and how memorial services, donations, and ritual acts were structured, funded, and negotiated between local donors, monastic communities, and Ottoman authorities.

In Anna's words: "I am excited to join *North of Byzantium* as Website Editor Assistant because its mission resonates with my passions in art history, cultural exchange, and medieval history. The project's focus on the northern frontiers of the Byzantine world where Latin, Greek, Slavic, and Islamic influences collide offers a nuanced and polyphonic understanding of South-Eastern Europe's visual and material past. The project brings both the monuments and the scholars who study them into a dialogue across linguistic, geographical, and disciplinary boundaries."

Anna's research has appeared in the following volumes, among other noteworthy publications:



2026 NoB Essay Prize

The **2026 NoB Essay Prize** will be awarded 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 by **May 31, 2026** with the subject heading "2026 NoB Essay Prize."

Mapping Eastern Europe



We are in the process of updating the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website to improve display and accessibility. The following entries will soon be available:

- The Assumption Cathedral of the 12th century, Halych
- The Assumption Cathedral of the 16th century, Halych
- Halych Castle
- The Church and Monastery of St. Elijah, Krylos
- The Church of St. Panteleimon, Shevchenkove
- The Church of the Nativity of Christ, Halych
- Ottoman Commerce and Piety in Thessaloniki
- Paolo Veneziano's Piran Polyptych

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

HER-UKR: Challenges and Opportunities for EU Heritage Diplomacy in Ukraine

Sponsored by the ERASMUS + Programme: Jean Monnet Policy Debate – Networks in Higher Education



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

[HER-UKR: Challenges and Opportunities for EU Heritage Diplomacy in Ukraine](#) is a multi-institutional and international research consortium intended to establish a global multidisciplinary research and education network. The goals of this project also include efforts to generate and exchange knowledge about EU heritage diplomacy and international cultural relations in general, and in Ukraine in particular; collect, map, and disseminate good practices in dealing with contested cultural heritage and cultural heritage preservation in East-Central Europe; and provide European policymakers with solid expertise on developments in Ukraine's cultural heritage field. The project is coordinated by KU Leuven under the leadership of Professor Lien Verpoest.

In the context of this project, for which Alice serves as a Senior Researcher, we are working with colleagues to generate new content for the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website. By the end of 2026, 30 new entries on the history and cultural heritage of Ukraine will be added to the website. Half of the entries will be authored by scholars from The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. We will announce the entries in the Fall 2026 NoB Newsletter!

In collaboration with this project, we are also working on a volume titled *Ukraine Matters: Studies in Medieval and Early Modern History and Art*. This volume, edited by Tomasz Grusiecki, Maria Alessia Rossi, and Alice Isabella Sullivan, is now in the final stages of publication with the Dumbarton Oaks series “Extravagantes,” published by Harvard University Press.

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](#).

Opportunities for Research in Eastern Europe

ACLS/CAS - Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe

Two-week Residency in Bulgaria for Scholars of East Central and Southeastern Europe

In partnership with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), ACLS enables scholars to undertake research, writing, and local fieldwork in Bulgaria and engage in interdisciplinary discussions during the Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE).

Applicants should submit their research proposals and supporting materials through the [ACLS Online Fellowship and Grant Administration \(OFA\) System](#). Information on how to apply to attend the 2026 Summer Institute is available on the [competition page](#). Deadline: 30 October 2025



AISEES Grants and Fellowships

The American Institute for Southeast European Studies (AISEES) promotes greater knowledge of southeastern Europe and encourage research in all aspects of humanities and social sciences related to the countries in this region, including: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.

AISEES offers fellowships for North American scholars to conduct research and study in southeastern Europe and grant opportunities for southeastern European scholars to come to the US in order to participate in conferences.

Information about the fellowship and grants program and application forms:

Lynn Roller Research Fellowship for Senior Scholars in the USA and SE Europe

Applications Due | *December 31*

[Learn more](#)

Graduate Student/early Postdoc Fellowship

Applications Due | *January 20*

[Learn more](#)

Travel Grant for SE European Scholars

Applications Due | *February 28*

[Learn more](#)



NoB Resources

On the NoB website, you can find links to image archives, an ongoing bibliography, and other relevant resources. 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 X [@NorthofByzance](#), and encourage friends and colleagues to [subscribe](#) to NoB.

Best wishes to all,

Alessia and Alice
NoB co-founders