

Ayşe Ercan Kydonakis

Dr.
Archaeologist

aysercan@gmail.com

<https://sfu.academia.edu/AyseErcanKydonakis>



EDUCATION

- PhD** **Columbia University**, NYC, Department of Art History and Archaeology, 2022.
Dissertation Title: The Mangana Quarter in Byzantine Constantinople (843–1453 C.E.):
Re-interpreting an Architectural Complex in Sarayburnu/ Istanbul through Archaeology, *Advisor:*
Prof. Holger A. Klein
- M.A.** **Koç University**, Istanbul, Department of Archaeology & Art History, 2010. *Dissertation Title:*
Yenikapı, a Late Antique and Byzantine Harbor Constantinople: A Historical, Archaeological and
Architectural Study of the Newly Discovered Remains, *Advisor:* *Prof. Alessandra Ricci*
- B.A.** **Istanbul University**, Istanbul, Department of Archaeology, 2007. (**Université Paris 8**,
Saint-Denis, Paris (exchange student), 2003)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- **TÜBİTAK 2219**, Postdoctoral Research Grant 2026-2027
- **Harvard University**/ Dumbarton Oaks Research Institute, Fieldwork Grant, 2025-2026
- **Simon Fraser University**, **Stavros Niarchos Center for Hellenic Studies**, Postdoctoral
Research Fellowship, 2024-2025
- **Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture**, Fieldwork Grant, 2024
- **AKMED** (Koç University Suna & İnan Kıraç Research Centre for Mediterranean Civilizations)
Post-doctoral Research Support for the fieldwork in Konya, 2024
- **Princeton University**, Palaeoenvironmental Sciences Workshop by Climate Change and History
Research Initiative, 2024 & **Koç University**, Environmental Archaeology Program, 2024
- **Venice Ca' Foscari University**, Center for Digital and Public Humanities, Summer School, 2022
- **American Research Institute in Turkey/ ARIT**, PhD Fellow, 2019–2020
- **Columbia University**/ Sakıp Sabancı Center of Turkish Studies, Summer Fellow, 2018
- **Koç University**/ **ANAMED**, PhD Fellow, 2018–2019
- **Columbia University** GSAS/ Mellon Humanities International Travel Fellowship, 2017–2018
- **FULBRIGHT**/ Institute of International Education, Doctoral Fellowship, 2013–2017

- **Harvard University**/ Dumbarton Oaks Research Institute, «Byzantine Coins and Seals» Summer Program, 2013
- **EHESS-Paris** and the **Aristotle University**-Thessaloniki, «Outils à Byzance. Outils pour Byzance» Summer School, 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Articles & Chapters:

- ‘Omnia Fumus et Umbra: Reimagining Late Antique Constantinople through funerary archaeology,’ **The Funerary Archaeology of Byzantine Constantinople: New Approaches, New Discoveries**, eds. M. Denert, E. Ivison, F. Stroth, J. Fildhuth (Conference proceedings, 2026).
- ‘Historia (Non?) Grata: Byzantine Archaeology of Istanbul during World War I and the Allied Occupation,’ in *European Review of History* (2024), Special Volume ed. Simona Troilo, 1–34.
republished in a book format Digging in the Eastern Mediterranean: Antiquities, workforce and identities in Ottoman and post-Ottoman times, by Routledge Special issues (2026).
- ‘A Phantom in Byzantine Constantinople: Revisiting the Mangana Complex and the Church of St. George through Archaeology,’ in **Religious Buildings Made in Byzantium Old Monuments, New Interpretations**, eds. Ivana Jevtić, Nebojša Stanković, Nikos Kontogiannis (Palgrave, 2025), 287–312.
- ‘Mapping Transformations in Central Anatolia: Interim Report of the First Season of the Museum Survey Project in Akşehir/Philomelion (2023 season)’ with A. Bergmeier and A. Ricci, **Anatolia Antiqua** (2024).
- ‘A Late Antique and Byzantine Harbor in Constantinople: The History, Topography and Archaeology of The Harbor of Theodosius in Yenikapi,’ **Harbours of Byzantium**, ed. Alkiviadis A. Ginalis (Archeopress, 2024), 134–148.
- ‘Some Reflections on the Archaeology of the Late Antique and Byzantine Harbors of Constantinople,’ in **Byzantine Harbors of Constantinople**, ed. F. Daim (Vienna, 2022), 33–72.
- ‘Archaeology between Imperial Imagination and Territorial Sovereignty: The French Occupation Army and the Mangana Excavations in Sarayburnu/ Gülhane, 1920–23,’ in **Discovering Byzantium in Istanbul Scholars, Institutions and Challenges, 1800-1955**, eds. Brigitte Pitarakis and Olivier Delouis, CNRS-Paris (İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, 2022), 303–28.
- ‘Discovering and Preserving Byzantine Constantinople: Archaeology and Heritage Policies in Istanbul,’ in **Proceedings of the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Venice/ Padua**, (Venice, 2022), 7–27.
- ‘Discovering Byzantine Constantinople: Archaeological Excavations in Istanbul and its Hinterlands,’ in **Brill Companion to Constantinople**, eds. Paul Magdalino, Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger and Arne Effenberger (forthcoming, 2026).

Reviews:

- Review of ‘Batu Bayülgen and Turgut Saner, Architectural Description of Byzantine Remains in Istanbul: Excavations and Surveys in the City within the Walls (1927–2021). Istanbul: Koç University Press, 2024’, in *YILLIK Annual of Istanbul Studies* 6 (2024): 161–164.

Web & Popular Publications:

- ‘Şeyh Süleyman Mescidi and the Zeyrek Neighborhood,’ *Toplumsal Tarih* (2017): 12–15 (in Turkish).
- ‘Saraçhane’de Bir Arkeolojik Park Hayali,’ *Toplumsal Tarih* (2016): 10–15 (in Turkish).
- ‘The Remains of St. Polyeuktos Church at Saraçhane: An Archaeopark Experience in Istanbul,’ *Mimarist* (2011): 102–105 (in Turkish).

CONFERENCES AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- ‘Containing the Contested: Museumification of Byzantium in the Ottoman Empire and Early Republican Turkey,’ **25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies** (Vienna, August 2026).
- ‘Omnia Fumus et Umbra: Reimagining Late Antique Constantinople through funerary archaeology,’ **The Funerary Archaeology of Byzantine Constantinople: New Approaches, New Discoveries**, org. M. Denert, E. Ivison, F. Stroth, J. Fildhuth (Online International Conference, January 2024).
- ‘Byzantine Archaeology in Istanbul between Cultural Imperialism and Struggle for Territorial Sovereignty: Archaeological Excavations of the French Occupation Army after the First World War,’ **Stavros Niarchos Center of Hellenic Studies, Simon Fraser University** (Vancouver, 2024).
- ‘Discovering and Preserving Byzantine Constantinople: Archaeology and Heritage Policies in Istanbul,’ **24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies** (Venice, August 2022).
- ‘Shaping Byzantine Constantinople in the Period After World War I: Actors and Politics From the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic,’ **24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies** (Venice, 2022).
- ‘Archaeology of an imperial abbey in Constantinople: The Mangana Complex in Sarayburnu,’ **47th Byzantine Studies Annual Conference**, organized by BSANA (Byzantine Studies Association of North America) (Cleveland, December 2021).
- ‘Armenian legacy or historiographical fallacy? Rewriting fragments on the Middle Byzantine Architecture of Constantinople,’ **Workshop entitled Made in Byzantium**, organized by I. Jevtić, N. Kontogiannis, N. Stanković (Istanbul, May 2021).
- ‘A Prelude to the Future: Saint George of Mangana and its Architectural Legacy,’ **Workshop entitled Armenia& Byzantium without Borders** (Vienna, 20–22 April 2018), organized under the Wittgenstein-Prize Project Moving Byzantium, led by C. Rapp& E. Bonfiglio.
- ‘The Mangana Excavation as a Prelude to Byzantine Archaeology in Istanbul: The French Occupation Army in Gülhane (1920–23),’ **Symposium: Discovering Byzantium in Istanbul Scholars, Institutions and Challenges, 1800–1955**, organized by B. Pitarakis, O. Delouis. Istanbul Research Institute & CNRS-Paris (Istanbul, November 18, 2017).
- ‘Yenikapı, A Late Antique and Byzantine Harbor in Constantinople: A Historical, Archaeological and Architectural Study of the Newly Discovered Remains,’ **Byzantine Studies Annual Conference by BSANA, Canada** (Vancouver, November 6, 2014).
- ‘Sailing up to Constantinople: A Focus on the Kommerkiarkioi Seals of Abydos in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection,’ Presented at the **Dumbarton Oaks, US**, (Washington, BC, August 3, 2013).
- ‘Participatory Model in Cultural Heritage: the Case of Üsküdar,’ Presented at the **Chamber of Architects, Thessaloniki**, Greece, April 18–19, 2011.

- ‘Past meets Present in Sagalassos.’ Presented at ‘Connections in Past and Present,’ **Symposium at the Netherlands Archaeological Institute**, Istanbul- Turkey, December 19, 2009.
- ‘Livorno as una città nuova in the Mediterranean: The Medici Patronage in a Renaissance Harbor,’ Presented at the ‘Pisa & the Mediterranean’ Summer School Program, **Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence** (Avinoam Shalem& Gerhard Wolf), Italy, September 23, 2009.
- ‘Exploring the History of Perge through Archaeological Excavations,’ presented at Department of Architecture, **Sydney University**, Australia, June 26, 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, NYC & Barnard College, NYC (2013–2017)

- *Introduction to Art History I-II*, Teaching Fellow and Discussion Section Leader for Anne Higonnet
- *Medieval Architecture*, Teaching Fellow and Discussion Section Leader for Stephen Murray
- *Greek Art and Architecture*, Teaching Fellow for Ioannis Mylonopoulos
- *Ottoman and Byzantine Constantinople*, Teaching Assistant for Columbia/ Bogaziçi Summer School for Holger A. Klein, Ünver Rüstem, Koray Durak

Koç University, Istanbul (2012–2013)

- *Imperial and Christian Constantinople*, Teaching Assistant for Paul Magdalino
- *Monarchs and Merchants: Art, Architecture and Archaeology of the Medieval Mediterranean*, Teaching Assistant for Scott Redford

Digital Humanities Work Experience: TAY (The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey), Digital Database Project on Architectural Heritage of Turkey, led by O. Tanındı, Istanbul University;

IDP (Istanbul Documentation Project), led by H. A. Klein, Columbia University, NYC

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK & SURVEYS: Anaia Excavations (S. Çagaptay, Oxford-Bahçeşehir Universities), 2023–2025; **BRIA** (The Landscape and Rock-Cut Architecture of Medieval Thrace) Survey Project (Dumbarton Oaks & DAI & Koç University), 2023–2025; **Konya-Akşehir survey** (led together with A. Bergmeier & A. Ricci, Leipzig and Koç University), 2023–2026; **Onchestos Excavations**, Greece (I. Mylonopoulos, Columbia University), 2014–2016; **Bathonea-Küçükçekmece Lake Basin Excavations**, Istanbul (Ş. Aydingün, Kocaeli & Istanbul Universities), 2011–2012; **İlisu Dam Salvage Excavations**, Gre Amer-Batman (G. Pulhan, Koç University), 2010; **Aphrodisias Excavations** (R.R.R. Smith, Oxford University), 2009; **Sagalassos Excavations** (M. Waelkens, Leuven University), 2009; **Theodosian Harbor Excavations**, Yenikapı- İstanbul (Istanbul Archaeological Museums), 2008; **Küçükyalı Excavations**, Istanbul (A. Ricci, Koç University), 2008; **Perge Excavations** (H. Abbasoğlu, Istanbul University & W. Martini, Giessen University), 2004–2007

LANGUAGES. Turkish (Native)– French (Fluent)– English (Fluent)– Modern Greek (Advanced)– Italian (Beginner)– Ancient Greek (Reading knowledge)- Ottoman (Reading knowledge/ beginner)- Western Armenian (Beginner).