



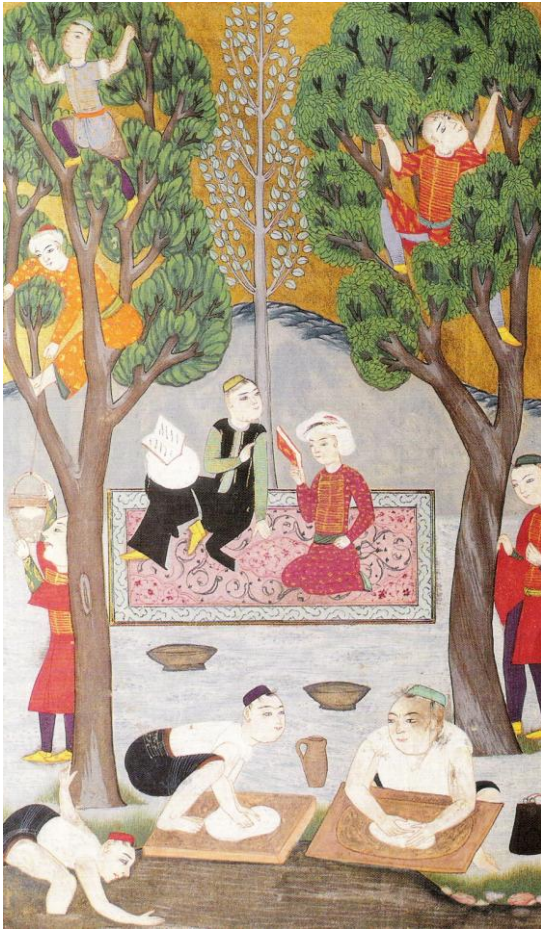
ISTANBUL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Arka Oda Toplantıları

29 March 2012 Thursday 18.30

Assoc. Prof. Zeynep Tarım Ertuğ

“Traces and Impressions of the Daily Life in İstanbul between the 16th and 19th Centuries”



Based on a selection from several impressions on the life experience of İstanbul found in written and visual sources from the 16th until the 19th century, the conference will focus on the daily life of the city. In historic and literary Ottoman texts, writers conveyed –though briefly and not very often– their impressions on the city in which they lived. In these impressions, writers depict life at the palace and on the street, offering certain ideas about human relations. Understanding the daily life of an İstanbulite in this framework requires the evaluation of data from a range of sources. Looking back from the 19th century, we strive to understand the İstanbulite’s home, the objects s/he used, his/her attire, table, and human relations through the available information and the decreasing number of sources. The most crucial problematic of this field is the tendency to make generalizations. Demonstrating certain examples, this presentation will try to understand the ordinary problems of the city based on the ways in which artists and writers of İstanbul touched and felt İstanbul and –by avoiding generalizations– the authentic Ottoman identity of the city between these ordinary problems and the İstanbulite in his/her own age.

It is, at times, possible to follow traces of the life experience of İstanbulites through court records or images of locals watching the arrival of a foreign ambassador in town, and by extension, to perceive an image correctly in retrospect.