

NOB

NORTH OF BYZANTIUM

NoB Newsletter | Fall 2024

Dear NoB Subscribers,

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

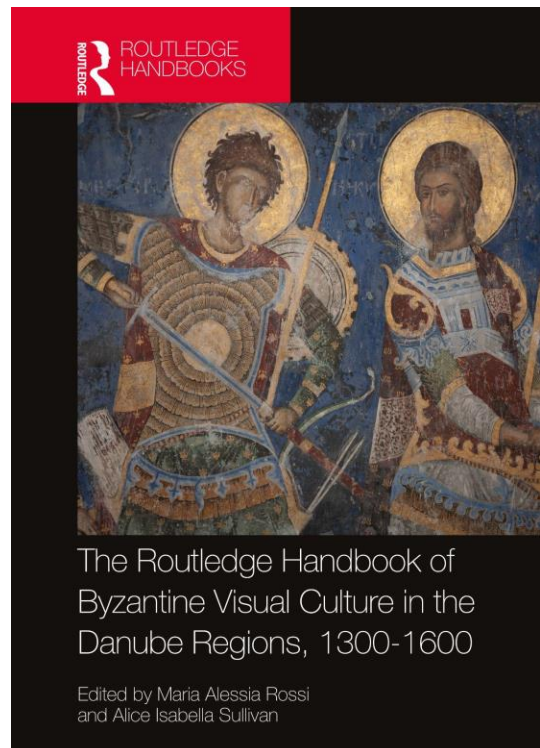
NoB @ ASEEEES 2024

Please join us at the [56th Annual ASEEEES Virtual Convention](#) to learn more about our recent publication: [Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300–1600](#)

Friday, 18 October 2024 | 10:45-12:30 EDT

This roundtable discussion focuses on the recently published *Routledge Handbook of Byzantine Visual Culture in the Danube Regions, 1300–1600* (2024), which aims to broaden knowledge about the history, art, and heritage of Eastern Europe relative to Byzantium. 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.

By gathering four of the authors that contributed to various sections of the volume, we aim to spark a discussion about the interconnectedness of this broad geographical area too often either studied in parts or neglected altogether, emphasizing its shared history and heritage. In addition, we aim to offer a fresh and original approach to the history, literature, and art history of the Danube regions.



The roundtable participants reflect the international nature of the volume, including diverse speakers from Romania, Italy, and USA at different scholarly levels, ranging from senior researchers and tenure-track professors to graduate students. The discussion will cover the rich material culture of the Danube, from Wallachian and Moldavian monumental art, to painting and metalwork, and the reach of the Danubian lands to Greece and Egypt.

The speakers include: **Elisabeta Negrau** (George Oprescu Institute of Art History); **Alice I. Sullivan** (Tufts University), **Andrei Dumitrescu** (Stanford University), and **Anita Paolicchi** (University of Pisa).

NoB @ BSC 2024



We are thrilled to be holding a session at the [50th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference](#) (October 24–27, 2024) in New York! Join us on **Saturday, October 26 from 2:30 – 4:30pm** for

Digital tools and Projects for Medieval and Byzantine Art: Value, Impact, and Challenges

Chair: Alice Isabella Sullivan, Tufts University

Smarthistory and Byzantine Art: Writing an Accessible Digital Art History

Ariel Fein, Institute for Advanced Study

Mapping Eastern Europe: Connecting Students and Scholars

Maria Alessia Rossi, Princeton University

Fifty Ways of Seeing Islamic Art: Khamseen and Islamic Art History Online

Michelle Al-Ferzly, Yale University



Mapping Eastern Europe



Mapping Eastern Europe



This year, we are working with **Octavian-Adrian Negoită** (Institute for the History of Religions, Romanian Academy) as a Research Fellow for the [Mapping Eastern Europe](#) project. Octavian is completing 5 entries for the website, which will be available soon:

- The *Slavonic Liturgikon* of Macarie (1508)
- Saint Antim Monastery
- The Bible of Bucharest (1688)
- Voroneț Monastery
- *Antimensia* in the Danubian Principalities

In addition, we have several exciting new contributions in the works, which will help expand the content with the addition of Ottoman monuments and fortifications in the Black Sea region:

- Ali Bey Mosque in Timișoara (by Adriana Gaspar)
- Colored mosque of Tetovo/a (by Ana Marija Grbanovic)
- Ottoman Mosques in Bosnia-Herzegovina (by Ana Marija Grbanovic)
- The Archaeological Site of Enisala (by Ingrid Petcu Levei)
- Esmahan Sultan Mosque in Mangalia (by Ingrid Petcu Levei)
- 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)
- Kiliia Fortress (by Viktor Filas)
- Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy (Akkerman) Fortress (by Viktor Filas)

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](#).

Presentations

This year, we delivered and will be offering several presentations on our digital projects:

“North of Byzantium” and “Mapping Eastern Europe,” *ABC of European Heritage: Archaeology of the Byzantine Commonwealth*, organized by Marcin Wołoszyn, University of Rzeszów, Poland, and Leipzig University, Germany. 10 June 2024 (virtual).

“Slavic History and Culture in Context: Digital Initiatives,” guest lecture, **Medieval Slavic Summer Institute**, The Hilandar Research Library, The Ohio State University. 21 June 2024 (virtual).

“Mapping Eastern Europe,” **Koç University ANAMED Library Talks 2024**. 5 November 2024 (virtual).

Collaborative Efforts

The *Mentorship Program for Scholars at Risk* is now running in its second iteration!

A collaboration between North of Byzantium, [Dumbarton Oaks](#), and [Connected Central European Worlds, 1500-1700](#), this mentorship program for 2024-2025 is tailored to East-Central European scholars, with a special focus on those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This program offers 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 for each participant.

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)

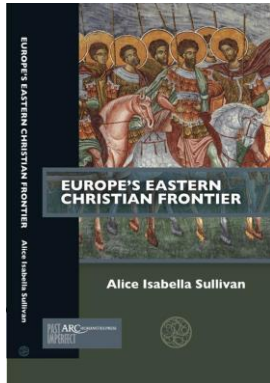
This year, we have selected 6 mentees who are at various stages of doctoral and postdoctoral studies, with training and affiliations in various European countries, including Belarus, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, and North Macedonia,

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



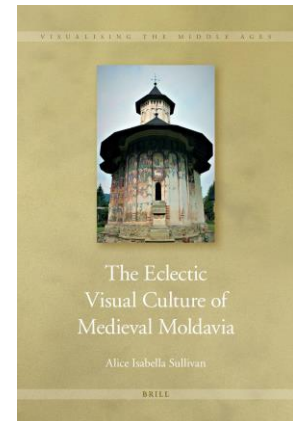
NoB-related Publications and Events

Alice's book - [*The Eclectic Visual Culture of Medieval Moldavia*](#) (Boston and Leiden: Brill, 2023) is the recipient of the [2023 Early Slavic Studies Book Prize](#) from the *Early Slavic Studies Association* (ESSA) for the best book published between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2023 in the field of Early Slavic Studies (pre-1800).



Another recent book is [*Europe's Eastern Christian Frontier*](#) (York: ARC Humanities Press, 2024). This book argues for Moldavia's central role in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres of Eastern Europe from the second half of the fourteenth century to the turn of the sixteenth century.

For a blog post explaining how these two projects relate to one another, see "[Discover Medieval Moldavia through Europe's Eastern Christian Frontier](#)" on *The ARC Blog*.



We co-authored the following article, which is available in Open Access:

Rossi, Maria Alessia, and Alice Isabella Sullivan. 2023. "**Rethinking the Medieval Visual Culture of Eastern Europe: Two Case Studies in Dialogue (Serbia and Wallachia)**," *Arts* 12, no. 6: 233. <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts12060233>

Inaugural ESSA Conference

The *Early Slavic Studies Association* (ESSA) will host its [first conference](#) at The Ohio State University, 7-8 March 2025. The conference is supported by the Hilandar Research Library (HRL) and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS).

The 2025 theme is "Archive".

The conference aims at introducing and analyzing previously unknown archival sources (manuscripts and early printed books) that contribute to our understanding of the field of Early Slavic studies.



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