

A Workshop, organized within the framework of the projects
'Ottoman Bulgaria'
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Conveners: Chavdar Kirilov and Grigor Boykov

Ottoman archaeology is currently experiencing a period of dynamic growth, marked by both the expansion of its material record and the adoption of increasingly sophisticated digital and analytical techniques. New excavations, surveys, and material studies continue to refine our understanding of Ottoman-era landscapes and societies, while digital tools are transforming how evidence is documented, organized, interpreted, and shared. Simultaneously, meaningful progress in the field increasingly depends on effective interdisciplinary collaboration and on critical engagement with the full spectrum of source types available for reconstructing the Ottoman past.

The workshop, "Advancing Ottoman Archaeology: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Evidence and Analysis", aims to bring together researchers working across these domains to exchange new results, discuss methodological challenges, and shape future directions for the discipline.

We would like to inform you that photos will be taken during the event. These photos will be used for documentation and presentation purposes.



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Advancing Ottoman Archaeology

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Evidence and Analysis

International Workshop

15-16 May 2026 | Fri-Sat

Venue: University of Sofia

Mirror Conference Hall (North Wing)



15 May 2026 Friday	
9:30–10:15	Chavdar Kirilov (University of Sofia) Who, What, When, Where, and Why? An All-Inclusive Spatial Database for Cross-Disciplinary Ottoman Studies
10:15–11:00	Grigor Boykov (University of Vienna) Identifying T-Type Imarets in the Archaeological Record: Origins, Spread, and Functions of an Early Ottoman Building Type
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–12:15	Öykü Bahar Balcı Güngör (Istanbul Technical University) Ottoman Baths in the Lower Meriç / Evros River Valley: Perspectives on Architecture, Landscape, and Historical Context
12:15–14:15 LUNCH	
14:15–15:00	Irina Kajtez (Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia) The Formation of an Urban Ottoman Landscape: Novi Pazar in the 15-18th Centuries
15:00–15:45	Zsuzsanna Kopeczny Attila Weisz (Banat Museum Timișoara) The Inner Castle (<i>Kale-i Enderun</i>) of Tîmîșvar (Timișoara): Results of the Wall Surveys during the Restoration of Huniade Castle
15:45–16:15	Coffee Break
16:15–17:00	Panayot Antonov (National History Museum, Sofia) Luxury Daggers from the Early Ottoman Balkans: Some Examples from Bulgaria
DINNER	

16 May 2026 Saturday	
9:30–10:15	Jelena Živković (University of Tübingen / Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade) Reframing Ottoman Pottery Studies: Integrating Open Datasets in Interdisciplinary Research on Ceramic Craft
10:15–11:00	Tünde F. Komori (Hungarian National Museum) The Role of Probate Inventories in Interpreting Asian Decorative Ceramics in Ottoman Material Culture
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–12:15	Maria Darakchieva (University of Sofia) Ceramic Consumption and Trade in the Sanjak of Silistra: Evidence for Imports (Mid-14th–15th Centuries)
12:15–14:15 LUNCH	
14:15–15:00	Vladimir Staykov (National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Sofia) Ottoman Burial Archaeology: What Does an “Ottoman Era Cemetery” Mean?
15:00–15:45	Mikaela Spasova (University of Sofia) The Selective Nature of Burial Records: Comparing Ottoman-Period Cowry Shell Assemblages in the Eastern Balkans with Written and Ethnographic Data
15:45–16:15	Coffee Break
16:15–17:00	Teodor Kostov (University of Sofia) Coin-Decorated Garment Components in the Eastern Balkans during the 16th–18th Centuries
DINNER	