

A Workshop, organized within the framework of the Cluster of Excellence 'EurAsian Transformations' (Funded by FWF, grant-DOI: 10.55776/COE8) and in cooperation with the ERC-2020-STG 'ORTHPOL' (funded by the ERC under Horizon 2020. Grant agreement No. 950287) and the ERC-2024-CoG 'OttomanCORE' (funded by the ERC under Horizon Europe. Grant agreement No. 101170435)

Conveners: Ovidiu Olar, Mariya Kiprovska, and Grigor Boykov

Monastic repositories, which preserve a wealth of historical holdings rooted in centuries-old traditions, have long been recognized by scholars as rich resources for academic research. Researchers who engage with these collections, however, are frequently confronted with a range of practical, methodological, and ethical challenges related to access, preservation, cataloguing, and interpretation. Organized within the framework of the Cluster of Excellence 'EurAsian Transformations' and its Work Package on the multilingual archival holdings of the Athonite monastery of Zograf, this workshop focuses on the concrete practices of working with monastic archives. It brings together scholars with direct experience in accessing, handling, cataloguing, digitizing, and editing monastic manuscript and archival collections across Eurasia. By emphasizing hands-on perspectives and comparative discussion, the workshop seeks to address shared challenges, exchange effective strategies, and reflect on how everyday archival practices shape research outcomes and scholarly knowledge production in multilingual and institutionally embedded monastic environments.

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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# Working with Monastic Repositories

## Navigating Access, Preservation, and Knowledge Production

Workshop

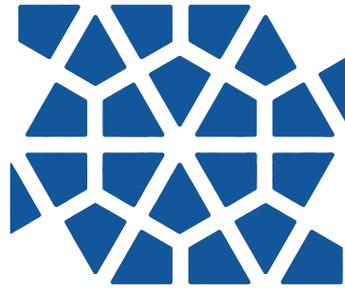
**20 February 2026 | Friday**

Venue: Apostelgasse 23, 1030 Vienna  
Seminar Room (Ground Floor)



# Working with Monastic Repositories

Navigating Access, Preservation, and Knowledge Production



<b>9:30–10:30</b>	<b>Opening session</b>
	Welcoming remarks
	Ovidiu Olar, Mariya Kiprovska, Grigor Boykov Presentation of a Sourcebook of the Ottoman-period Monastic Documents from the Monastery of Zograf
<b>10:30–11:00</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>11:00–13:00</b>	<b>Access, Collaboration, and Trust</b> <i>Institutional partnerships; permissions; sustainability of access</i>
	<b>Cesare Santus</b> (University of Trieste) The Archives of the Pontifical Armenian College in Rome: Early Modern Documents
	<b>Ovidiu-Victor Olar</b> (Austrian Academy of Sciences) A Very Private Public Archive: The First Romanian School Museum in Braşov
	<b>Yavuz Köse</b> (University of Vienna) The Armeno-Turkish Collection of the Mekhitarist Congregation in Vienna: From Building Trust to Building a Digitized Corpus
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	<b>Light finger-food lunch on site</b>

<b>14:00–16:00</b>	<b>Materiality, Preservation, and Technology</b> <i>Conservation challenges; digitization workflows; cataloguing standards and metadata</i>
	<b>Damianos Kasotakis</b> (Early Manuscripts Electronic Library) Experiences from Digitizing Diverse Languages in the Manuscripts of St. Catherine at Sinai, Egypt
	<b>Grigor Boykov</b> (University of Vienna) The Promise and the Limits of Digital Tools in Working with Monastic Collections
	<b>Mariya Kiprovska</b> (University of Vienna) Challenges of Cataloguing the Ottoman Documentary Collection at Zograf Monastery
<b>16:00–16:30</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>16:30–18:30</b>	<b>Texts in Motion</b> <i>Editing across multilingual traditions; fragmentary archives; connecting texts and (digital) editions</i>
	<b>Ekaterini Mitsiou</b> (University of Vienna) Byzantine Female Monasteries and their Archives
	<b>Thomas Wallnig</b> (University of Vienna) The Making of Manuscript Collections in Early Modern Central European Monasteries: The Cases of Melk and Göttweig
	<b>Giulia Rossetto</b> (University of Vienna) <i>Membra Disiecta Sinaitica</i> : Virtually Rejoining Sinai Fragments from Different Collections
	<b>Adrian C. Pirtea</b> (Austrian Academy of Sciences) Editing Christian Arabic Manuscripts from the Sinai Collection: A Few Case Studies and their Challenges
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner for the Participants</b>