

Libraries in the Ottoman World



► Welcome to Dublin.

This conference brings together leading specialists in manuscript and library studies, provenance research, and collecting history to examine the Ottoman Empire's multilingual, multi-confessional book world. Across private, imperial, and institutional settings, libraries were never static: books circulated through purchase and gift, loan and confiscation, inheritance and political upheaval, while their material biographies—rebinding and re-margining, new illumination, and accumulating paratext—record successive moments of use and meaning. Read alongside systematic cataloguing, these traces now allow us to reconnect volumes with makers, owners, and readers across continents and centuries. With this conference we seek to consolidate methods, share evidence, and map the networks that carried Ottoman books into modern collections.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Marc and Hala Cochrane, the Trinity Research Incentive Scheme, Bibliotheca Arabica (Saxon Academy of the Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig), the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute, and the Chester Beatty's Provenance Research Group.

Moya Carey (Chester Beatty, Dublin)

Boris Liebreiz (Bibliotheca Arabica, Saxon Academy of the Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig)

Murat Şiviloğlu (Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Trinity College Dublin)

In association with the Trinity Centre for the Book

Libraries in the Ottoman World

5 – 8 November 2025
Conference programme



► **Wednesday**
5 November 2025

- 15.00–16.30** Visit to Chester Beatty, Dublin Castle
- 17.30–18.30** Trinity Long Room Hub: Keynote Lecture 1
Tülay Artan: *What you are looking for is in the library*
- 18.30–20.00** Reception at the Long Room Hub

► Thursday

6 November 2025

08.30–09.00 **Registration & Welcome**

09.00–10.15 **Session 1: The Palace Treasury**

- Dimitri Kastritsis – *Bayezid II's Library and Fifteenth-Century Ottoman Perspectives on World History*
- Emine Fetvacı – *The Imperial Library and Artistic Production*
- Nil Baydar: *Rebinding Practices in the Library of Sultan Mehmed II*

10.15–11.30 **Session 2: Metropolitan Elites**

- Fatih Yücel – *Beyond the List, Beneath the Shelves: Intentionality and Identity in the Library of Üveys Pasha (d. 1591)*
- Elif Derin – *Family Continuity in the Preservation and Expansion of Ottoman Waqf Libraries: The Case of the Aşir Efendi Library*
- Esra Karayel Muhacır – *Book Ownership and the Circulation of Knowledge in Ottoman Üsküdar (16th–18th Centuries)*

11.30–11.45 **Break**

11.45–13.00 **Session 3: After Köprülü**

- Amal Cavender – *From Mosque Collections to Knowledge Centres: The Materiality and Imperial Dynamics of Ottoman Libraries (1678–1754)*
- Mehmet İnbaşı & Tahsin Hazırbulan – *A Library from the Palace to the Provinces: 'Bostancı Ocağı Library' via zoom*
- Tufan Kara: *Tracing Manuscript Histories – The Paratextual Notes in the Fâzıl Ahmed Pasha Collection of the Köprülü Library*

13.00–14.00 **Lunch (provided)**

14.00–15.15 **Session 4: Imperial Reform: Sultan Mahmud I**

- Menderes Velioglu – *Light of Osman, Shadow of Mahmud, Darkness of Others: With Whose Books Was the Nuruosmaniye Library Founded?*
- Nimet İpek – *Erased Histories of Libraries: Tracing Defaced Ownership and Endowment Notes in the Libraries Founded by Mahmud I*
- Kadir Şahin & Nurefşan Ülker – *The Connection between the I. Mahmud Library and the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts in Istanbul*

15.15–16.30 Session 5: Sufi Networks

- Ekin Can Göksoy – *Libraries before Libraries: Personal and Institutional Book Collections, and Reading Networks in Early Modern Ottoman Bursa*
- Aslıhan Gürbüz – *Between the Imperial and the Local: The Tekke Library of the Gazzizade Family in Bursa*
- Tobias Heinzelmann – *The Library of an Ottoman Sufi Convent and the Waqf of Halet Efendi*

16.30–16.45 Break

16.45–18.00 Session 6: Reading across Empire

- Ghayde Ghraoui – *Arabic Literature, Ottoman Libraries: The Rayḥānat al-alibbā at the Imperial Centre*
- Renaud Soler – *The Law of the Market: Transfers of Manuscripts of a Life of the Prophet from the Arab Provinces to Istanbul (15th–19th Centuries)*
- Akif E. Yerlioğlu – *Libraries as Spaces of Medical Knowledge Production and Circulation in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*

 Friday
7 November 2025

09.30–10.45 Session 7: Ottoman Heartlands

- Büşra Aktaş Kütükçü & Esra Karayel Muhacır – *Sustaining Ottoman Intellectual Heritage: A Study on the Bolu Yıldırım Bayezid Madrasa Library and Its Collection*
- Agron Islami & Orges Drançolli – *Traces of Ottoman-Style Libraries in Kosovo: The Case of the Hadum Library*
- Rawda El Hajji – *The Corpus of Süleyman Efendi and Its Multilayered Manuscripts*

10.45–12.00 Session 8: Bilād al-Shām

- Avinoam Stillman – *The Library of Jacob Tsemah (d. 1666): A Sephardi Scholar in the Ottoman World*
- Nir Shafir – *The Private Library of ‘Abd al-Ghanī al-Nābulusī (1641–1731): An Intellectual, Cultural, and Economic Perspective*
- Boris Liebrecht – *Bibliophilia in 18th-century Damascus: The Book Collection of ‘Abdallāh b. Zayn al-Dīn al-Buṣrawī*

12:00–12:10 Break

12.10–13.00 Session 9: Miṣr: Cairo Libraries

- Stephanie Luescher – *Al-Muẓaffarī's Books: A Private Collection in Early Ottoman Cairo* via zoom
- Mohamed Abouseif Abdelazeim Khedr – *Ottoman Libraries in Cairo in Light of Archaeological Evidence and Waqf Documents* via zoom

13.00–14.00 Lunch (provided)

14.00–15.15 Session 10: Networking Peripheries

- Augustin Jomier – *Is the 19th-Century Tunisian Elite's Bibliophily an Ottoman Bibliophily?*
- Paul Love – *Migrant Manuscript Libraries in Late-Ottoman Trablus al Gharb*
- André Binggeli & Alice Croq – *Syriac Monastic Libraries and Their Networks*

15.15–16.30 Session 11: Late Urban Libraries

- Joud Nassan Agha – *Books, Endowments, and Legal Frameworks: The Library of Khālīd al-Naqshbandī in Late Ottoman Damascus*
- Matteo Pimpinelli – *Private Libraries in the Ottoman World: Yūsuf Sayfī, His Manuscript Collection, and Book Culture in 13th/19th-Century Bilād al-Shām*
- Garrett Davidson – *Two Late-Ottoman Private Libraries Preserved in Princeton University Library's Yahuda Collection*

► Saturday 8 November 2025

- 10.00–11.15 Session 12: Out of Empire: Exiles**
- Boris Adjemian – *Ottoman Armenian Heritage and History in a Diasporic Library in Paris*
 - Moya Carey – *Ottoman Exile in Cairo: Volume 4 of Darir's Siyer-i Nebi (CBL T 419)*
 - Eve Lacey – *Bound Abroad: Itinerant Collections of Ottoman Books at Cambridge University*

11.15–11.45 Break

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- 11.45–13.00 Session 13: Extractions I: Demand**
- Jonathan Haddad – *The Snake in the Library: François Sevin's Mission to Istanbul, 1728–30*
 - Michael Erdman – *Long Distance Bargaining: Constructing a Syriac Book Trade through the Letters of Jeremiah Shamer and Eduard Sachau*
 - Güler Doğan Averbek – *Planning to Plunder the Libraries of Istanbul during the Balkan Wars*

13.00–14.00 Lunch (provided)

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- 14.00–15.15 Session 14: Extractions II: Supply**
- Kiraz Perinçek Karavit – *'Portrait of a Dervish': Imaging a Sufi Bibliophile in the Long Nineteenth Century*
 - Evyn Kropf – *Lives and Afterlives of the Gümüşhanevî Foundation Libraries*
 - Dominique Akhoun-Schwarb: *The Tiflis Manuscripts – Tale of a Journey*

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- 15.15–16.30 Session 15: Retrospection: Empire in the Republic**
- Christiane Czygan: *Inaccessible Treasures – Manuscripts in the Istanbul Archaeology Museum's Library*
 - Baki Tezcan – *Endowing a Hegemony: Ottoman Libraries and Sunni Islam*

16.30–17.00 Break

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- 17.00–18.00 Keynote Lecture 2:**
- Konrad Hirschler: *Reflections on Ottoman library studies – Perspectives and challenges*







Chester
Beatty

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Bliain i gCaisleán
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Years at Dublin Castle



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