

FRIENDS OF ARIT LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENT



**'Cyprus and Her Sisters':
The Islands of the Byzantine Empire
between the Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages**
by
Dr. Luca Zavagno
Department of History, Bilkent University

Wednesday October 25, 2017 7 P.M. at Ankara ARIT

This talk focuses on the large islands of the Byzantine Empire (Cyprus, Sicily, Crete, Malta, Sardinia and the Balearics), which are too often regarded simply as strategic and military bulwarks or peripheral outposts along the Arab-Byzantine Mediterranean frontier in the Early Medieval era (ca. 600-ca. 900 AD). Upon using material culture, archaeology and literary and documentary evidence the lecture will look at islands as places of cross-cultural encounters and real political and economic poles across the Mediterranean religious divide. By enhancing the importance of actors performing the function of cultural brokers (micro-historical level) and following the ebbs and flows of the big polities like Caliphates, Emirates and Empires the Great Sea (macro-historical level), it will be showed how islands acted as zones of cross-religious and socio-economic interaction (although of course not always peaceful), rather than cultural barriers between confrontational political entities.

**American Research Institute in Turkey, Ankara
Şehit Ersan Caddesi 24/9, Çankaya
(312) 427 2222**