



THE AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN TURKEY

Şehit Ersan Cad. 24.9 06680 Çankaya, Ankara
Tel: (312) 427 2222; Fax: (312) 427 47979 (prefix outside Turkey: 90)
aritankara@gmail.com



presents

The 38th ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES: ART and ARCHAEOLOGY in TURKEY

co-sponsored with

THE TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (TAA) TÜRK AMERİKAN DERNEĞİ (TAD)



**By Land and by Sea:
Experience, Multivalence, and
the Mother Goddess at Zeytintepe**

by

Dr. Leticia R. Rodriguez

Boğaziçi University

Thursday, May 17, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Reşat Aktan Lounge at

Turkish American Association/Türk Amerikan Derneği

Cinnah Caddesi No:20 Kavaklıdere, Ankara

The Milesian Sanctuary of Aphrodite *Oikus* at Zeytintepe presents itself as a unique opportunity to understand an Archaic East Greek sanctuary: one shaped by local Anatolian cultural and ritual influence; one in a physical transformation of a renovation; and one whose scholarship is continually changing as excavations are ongoing and, yearly, new material emerges from the site that enriches our understanding of the space. Because of its transitional status (ancient and modern), its physical setting (straddling the sea and land), and participation in Greek, Anatolian, Near Eastern and Egyptian religious and visual cultures, the Sanctuary of Aphrodite is an opportunity to consider different, fluctuating identities, here analyzed through the methodological framework of the *borderland*. In this paper I examine the sanctuary and its finds through different ‘ways of seeing’, namely hypothetical worshippers, and demonstrate how the sanctuary and its dedications are affected by changing identities, i.e. the individual viewers, and local cult aspects, specifically Phrygian, that should influence our interpretation and understanding of the site. In moving away from traditional analysis of East ‘Greek’ identity that is often heavily reliant on categorization as defined through a decidedly Western framework, we allow for the possibility of a decidedly unique culture and identity—one with the ability to negotiate and adapt to various ‘languages’—that is the result of *borderland* processes in western Anatolia.