



# PROVISIONING OF LATE ANTIQUE CONSTANTINOPLE

## *ANNONA CIVILIS* AND BEYOND

DECEMBER 2-3, 2022  
ONLINE CONFERENCE



The new capital of the eternal Roman Empire, Constantinople, was a stage for most impressive imperial processions, a site for grandiose religious and imperial buildings, and a home to vast shopping streets and fora. All these activities and places found meaning when large crowds were present, but such large crowds could not reside in cities with poor provisioning capacity. Late antique Constantinople's social and cultural activities, economic life, and the interactions between its residents and the state machinery took place in the background of a provisioning system that made possible the constant movement of commodities and people in and out of the city.

In spite of its importance, the provisioning of late antique Constantinople is an understudied subject compared to the supply of the city in the Middle Byzantine period or the provisioning of Imperial Rome. The scholarly production on the subject is mostly dated to the twentieth century. The online conference, organized by the Byzantine Studies Research Center of Boğaziçi University and entitled "Provisioning of Late Antique Constantinople: *Annona Civilis* and Beyond," aims to bring together the new evidence from recent excavations in both modern Istanbul and in other regions of the Empire that contributed to the supply of Constantinople (from the fourth century to the early Middle Ages) as well as new insights resulting from the re-reading of written sources in the light of new theoretical approaches. This process will most definitely lead to a new understanding of *annona civilis*, and, as a result, to a deeper knowledge of a major facet of the economic life of the late antique Eastern Roman Empire.

The conference will be held online on  
2-3 December 2022.

Please send an email message to  
[byzantinestudies@boun.edu.tr](mailto:byzantinestudies@boun.edu.tr) for registration.

Organizing Committee:

Michael J. Decker

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**PROGRAM\*****Friday, 2 December 2022**

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| <b>2 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.</b>    | <b>Opening Speech and Introduction</b>  |
| <b>2.30 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.</b> | <b>FEEDING CONSTANTINOPLE IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM C.E.</b><br><br>Jean-Michel Carrié (EHESS emeritus)<br>The <i>annona</i> of Constantinople at the crossroads of issues: Fiscal matters, demography, ideology, archaeology<br><br>Peter Sarris (University of Cambridge)<br>The grain supply of Constantinople and the political economy of empire in the age of Justinian<br><br>James Crow (The University of Edinburgh)<br>Water and grain, comparing the demands of a consuming city   |
| <b>4.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.</b> | BREAK   |
| <b>4.30 p.m. - 5.40 p.m.</b> | <b>STATE'S ROLE IN EXCHANGE</b><br><br>Olga Karagiorgou (Academy of Athens)<br>The principle of inertia in provisioning the city<br><br>Lajos Berkes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)<br>The contribution of the Apion Estate at Oxyrhynchus to the <i>annona civica</i>  |
| <b>5.40 p.m. - 5.50 p.m.</b> | BREAK   |
| <b>5.50 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.</b> | <b>SAILING TO CONSTANTINOPLE: SHIPS AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION</b><br><br>Michael R. Jones (Koç University Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center-KUDAR)<br>Materials for building and maintaining Constantinople's merchant fleet before and after the <i>annona</i> (c. 300-1000): Evidence from shipwrecks and textual sources<br><br>Cemal Pulak (Texas A&M University)<br>Maritime provisioning of Constantinople: Comparing and contrasting ships of the Early and Middle Byzantine periods based on Yenikapı shipwrecks |
| <b>7.00 p.m. - 7.20 p.m.</b> | BREAK   |
| <b>7.20 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.</b> | <b>FEEDING THE OTHER METROPOLISES OF LATE ANTIQUITY</b><br><br>Andrea De Giorgi (Florida State University)<br>Antioch, Constantinople, and the economy of the Greek East during Late Antiquity<br><br>Michele R. Salzman (University of California, Riverside)<br>The food supply of Rome in Late Antiquity: A new interpretation   |

**Saturday, 3 December 2022**

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| <b>1 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.</b>    | <b>PORTS AND FACILITIES</b><br><br>Alkiviadis Ginalis (German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul)<br>The facilities of the Theodosian harbor as indicators for the provisioning of Constantinople<br><br>Mustafa H. Sayar (Istanbul University)<br>The role of the harbors on the Propontis coast in the provisioning of late antique Constantinople and the overseas connections<br><br>Şenel Kaya (Istanbul Technical University)<br>Granary of Tenedos: A storage and transfer point for Constantinople's provisioning |
| <b>2.45 p.m. - 3 p.m.</b>    | BREAK   |
| <b>3 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.</b>    | <b>CONNECTIONS WITH THE SOUTH</b><br><br>Engin Akyürek (Koç University/GABAM)<br>Andriake: Harbor of Myra in Late Antiquity<br><br>Stella Demesticha (University of Cyprus) and Luca Zavagno (Bilkent University)<br>"Wherever waves can roll, and winds can blow." Late antique Cyprus and the state provision systems in the eastern Mediterranean<br><br>Koray Durak (Boğaziçi University)<br>Constantinople's foreign trade with the East: Spices   |
| <b>4.45 p.m. - 5 p.m.</b>    | BREAK   |
| <b>5 p.m. - 6.10 p.m.</b>    | <b>CONNECTIONS WITH THE NORTH</b><br><br>Owen Doonan (California State University, Northridge) and Paolo Maranzana (Boğaziçi University)<br>Rural transition in the southern Black Sea and Constantinople in Late Antiquity: The state of the archaeological evidence<br><br>Florin Curta (University of Florida)<br>Garum or grain? Crimea and the provisioning of Constantinople (seventh to ninth centuries)   |
| <b>6.10 p.m. - 6.20 p.m.</b> | BREAK   |
| <b>6.20 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.</b> | <b>MERCHANTS AND MERCHANDISE</b><br><br>Pamela Armstrong (University of Oxford)<br>Amphoras from the Saraçhane excavations as indicators of the provisioning of Constantinople in Late Antiquity<br><br>Michael J. Decker (University of Florida)<br>Merchants and the provisioning of Constantinople in Late Antiquity   |
| <b>7.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.</b>    | <b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b>   |

\*Hours in the program are given according to local Istanbul time (GMT +3).