

**William Visits the Battlefield:
Medieval Travelers and the Anatolian Landscape**

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This seminar will examine medieval Anatolian landscapes, paying particular attention to the perspective of travelers and how that perspective relates to our own, contemporary travel experiences.

The seminar presents the early findings from a broader project on the landscapes in medieval Anatolia, which takes in consideration both subjective, culturally-based perceptions and the physicality of the territory itself. More specifically, it is built around two central questions: (1) What physical stimuli did the medieval Anatolian countryside present to the visitors? and (2) How did medieval Anatolians interpret these physical stimuli?

Beyond shedding light on the relationship between people and the land in the medieval period, this project constitutes an attempt at integrating elements of landscape phenomenology (an archaeological method centering on the human body as the mediator between physical environment and subjective perceptions) into the text-based work of a historian. Ultimately, putting these findings in relation to our own contemporary experiences of 'being somewhere' will also help us uncover and examine some of the assumptions we have about the way we today perceive the territory around us.