

Time and Date:

Tuesday 1st June 2021 | 17:00-19:00 (London UTC+1) | 19:00-21:00 (Ankara UTC+3)

Speaker:

Çiğdem Özkan Aygün (Istanbul Technical University)

Discussant:

James Crow (University of Edinburgh)

Title:

Subterranean Hagia Sophia: Revealing the Waters Below the Hagia Sophia

Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Csqzthj7Sf6NKttNwRHFuQ

Summary:

Since 2005, Çiğdem Özkan Aygün has directed the interdisciplinary survey of subterranean remains in the area of Hagia Sophia, also supported by speleologists, professional photographers and divers. During this talk, Çiğdem will explain the subterranean structures and their relation to the water supply system, present their 3D models and show a short documentary. Most of the finds were new to scholarship and unexpectedly rich and informative about the history and the construction techniques of the structures. They have opened a door into the monument's unexplored relation with water management. This survey has proven that the area of Hagia Sophia was strategic in water supply distribution over the first hill of the city where the ancient water supply line ended. Further exploration beneath the Hippodrome and Topkapı Palace area revealed connections in the water supply.

Bio:

Çiğdem Özkan Aygün received her Phd from the Post-Classical Archaeology Programme of University of Roma I - La Sapienza with the scholarship of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She received funding from the Getty Foundation, Associazione Mare Nostrum and AKMED (Society of Mediterranean Civilizations) for her studies and has conducted archaeological surveys titled "Sunken Medieval Settlement at Hazar Lake Eastern Turkey " and "Survey of Subterranean Structures and Water Supply in the Area of Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace and Hippodrome" since 2005. She is co-investigator in the new BIAA/BA project [Water in Istanbul: Rising to the Challenge](#).

James Crow teaches Roman and Byzantine archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. He has directed survey projects on the Black Sea and on Naxos, and from 1994 in the west hinterland of Istanbul, surveying and documenting the Anastasian Wall and the Water Supply of Byzantine Constantinople. His previous recent project on the city's water supply (2014-17) Engineering the Water Supply of Byzantine Constantinople was a transdisciplinary project combining archaeology and engineering approaches for the study of ancient infrastructure and urbanism. He is co-investigator in the new BIAA/BA project [Water in Istanbul: Rising to the Challenge](#).