



10th Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture gathering with guest speakers Mehmet Kentel &

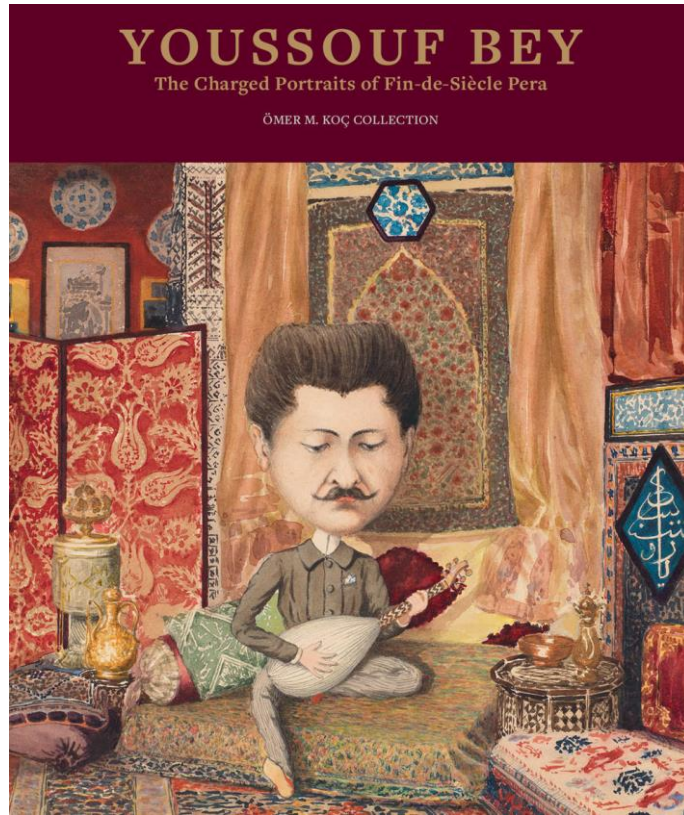
Özge Ertem

23 June 2021, 6pm (UK time)

### The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures

"The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures" exhibition was opened in Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) in January 2017. The exhibition displayed for the first time the caricatures that Yusuf Franko Kusa (1856–1933), a high-ranking bureaucrat in Ottoman administration, pictured and compiled in an album. A participant and a witty observer of high-society social circles in Pera, his "characters" included not only diplomats, consuls, bureaucrats, ambassadors, famous actors and painters, but also Pera. A special two-volume publication; a facsimile of the album and a book of research articles, *Yussouf Bey: The Charged Portraits of Fin-de-Siècle Pera* accompanied the exhibition. The latter's enlarged and revised edition in Turkish was published recently by ANAMED (2021). In this event, Özge Ertem will first summarize the background of the exhibition and the book, and will focus on the book from an editorial perspective. Ertem will outline the main themes and questions the book opens and reconsider them against the background of Pera memory. K. Mehmet Kentel will talk on Yusuf Franko's Pera, the social and spatial contours of the world where his characters were assembled in the high streets, embassy halls, restaurants, and gardens, as well as on the spaces and peoples actively excluded from this representation. Kentel will show how this spatial focus has been utilized in "The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures" exhibition.

**Booking essential:** <https://yusuf-franko-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



K. Mehmet Kentel works on the urban and environmental history of late Ottoman Istanbul. He received his PhD from the University of Washington in 2018 with his dissertation "Assembling 'Cosmopolitan' Pera: An Infrastructural History of Late Ottoman Istanbul," which he is currently revising for publication as a monograph. He is the Research Projects Manager at the Istanbul Research Institute and the Managing Editor of *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies*. His curatorial work includes *Memories of Humankind: Stories from the Ottoman Manuscripts* at the Istanbul Research Institute (curator, 2019) and *The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures* at Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (advisor and author, 2017).



Özge Ertem received her PhD in European University Institute's History and Civilization Department (Florence, 2012). Her research topics have included the history of childhood, famine and hunger in the late Ottoman era, communal relations, disaster and everyday life, relief and charity networks, and famine memory. She is the co-editor of *Ottoman Arcadia: The Hamidian Expedition to the Land of Tribal Roots (1886)* (2018) and *Yusuf Bey: On Dokuzuncu Yüzyıl Sonunda Pera'nın Yüklü Portreleri [Yussouf Bey: The Charged Portraits of Fin-de-Siècle Pera]* (2017, 2021). Currently, she is coordinating Transformative Activism and Curious Steps: Gender and Memory Walks of Istanbul programs at Sabancı University's Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence (SU Gender).

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