

## Historiographies of Early Modern Southeast Europe (HEMSEE)

The Vienna-based project HEMSEE (financed by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation) intends to produce a source-based handbook showing the challenges and opportunities of working with the historiographic texts of Early Modern Southeast Europe. Operating with thematic clusters, we will explore both familiar and uncharted territories and thereby analyze excerpts from both mainstream and “minor” sources.

### Life Writing and History Writing

The Early Modern period witnessed a remarkable increase in literacy including various forms of personal narratives. According to recent research by historians, literary and religious scholars, writing about the self (or the other’s self) was not geographically confined to Western Europe, but can also be found for example in the Ottoman realm. However, ego documents, selfnarratives, or *Selbstzeugnisse* (testimonies to the self) from Southeast Europe – to mention but a few terms coined to denote life writing – have largely remained under the radar in academia.

The second workshop organized within the framework of the HEMSEehandbook project intends to build upon extant literature and to discuss life writing in the light of changing historiographic practices. We suggest to operate with a flexible concept that considers the field’s diversity. Open and inclusive, the term *life writing* “encompasses the writing of one’s own or another’s life” (JOLLY 2001), both in schematic and elaborate forms. Our aim is to reflect, from a cultural-historical perspective, on the potential and limits of the concept for the study of Early Modern Southeast Europe. Where, when, and why do life writings emerge? What form do they take? Who produces them? Taking into consideration traditional and hybrid genres, as well as likely and unlikely “documents,” we address the intricate relationship between life writing and history writing.

#### CONVENORS:

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#### CAVEAT:

In case of force majeure, the workshop will be held virtually via Zoom.

Photo: Konstantinos (Kaisarios) Dapontes. Τὸ κέρασ τῆς Ἀμαλθείας [Amaltheia’s Cornucopia], Princeton University Library C0879 (Princeton Greek MS. 72).

Source: Wikimedia



### 2<sup>ND</sup> HEMSEE WORKSHOP

# LIFE WRITING AND HISTORY WRITING IN EARLY MODERN SOUTHEAST EUROPE, 15<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

# PROGRAMME

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

### 10:00–10:45 INTRODUCTORY SESSION

**Opening Remarks**  
**Konrad Petrovsky**

**Ovidiu Olar**  
*Edifying Histories: The Strange Case of Giulio Mancinelli SJ (+ 1618)*

### 10:45–11:00 COFFEE & COOKIES BREAK

### 11:00–12:30 FIRST SESSION

**Mariya Kiprovska**  
*Texts Within Texts: Reassembling the Lost Gazavatnames (Books of Holy Wars) of the Ottoman Frontier Lords*

**Marian Coman**  
*Wandering Princes of an Ill-Fated Realm: The Wallachian Pretenders' Self-Narratives (16<sup>th</sup> C.)*

**Maria Shusharova**  
*The Duty of Remembering: An Orthodox Artisan Accounting Self, Family and Home Place in the Ottoman Periphery (Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century)*

### 12:30–14:30 LUNCH BREAK

### 14:30–15:30 SECOND SESSION

**Marija Vasiljević**  
*Between Life Writing and History Writing: Serbian Hagiographies from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

**Nikolas Pissis**  
*On the Greek Biographies of Peter the Great*

### 15:30–15:45 COFFEE & COOKIES BREAK

### 15:45–17:15 THIRD SESSION

**Nadezhda Alexandrova**  
*Critical Uncertainties: Sofroniy Vrachanski's Autobiography and Sense of Authorship*

**Tatjana Paić-Vukić**  
*Records of Natural Disasters and Extreme Events from a 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bosnian Personal Notebook, Mecmua (Zoom)*

**Olga Borovaya**  
*Rabbi Moses Almosnino in Search of a Genre: Writing the First Ladino History of Ottoman Sultans for the Empire's New Subjects (Zoom)*

### 19:00 Dinner

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

### 9:30–11:30 FOURTH SESSION

**Dimiter Peev**  
*Paisiy of Hilendar between Middle Ages and the Modernity*

**Wladimir Fischer**  
*The Two Lives and Adventures of Dimitrije Obradović. Narrative Strategies in Život i priključenja vs. Basne*

**Liviu Bordas**  
*"To morrow thou wilt again be nothing, as thou hast been": Elias Habesci's Striving to Be and His (Mis)Fortune around the World*

**Marijana Mišević**  
*Fashioning Oneself as a Letter Writer During a Great Revolt: Mateja Nenadović of Serbia (1777–1854) and His Memoirs*

### 11:30–11:45 COFFEE & COOKIES BREAK

### 11:45–12:45 FINAL SESSION

**Tijana Kristić**  
*Ottoman Prince, Emperor in the East, or King of Illyria? – Making Sense of Yahya Sultan's (d. 1649) Life*

### Discussions