



Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 27 March 2023, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Elif Özgen

Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: 'Aligned Interests and Divided Loyalties: David Passi, Sultan Murad III's favourite'

During the last two decades of the 16th century, the Ottomans and the English were allied more closely than they would ever be. During this time, the Ottoman court was marked by factionalism and political instability and the British court was fervently preparing for the Spanish Armada. Succession problems in Portugal interested many capitals in Europe and beyond. A network of Jewish and New Christian actors brokered power and supplied intelligence to the Sultan, the Queen, the King and the Doge.

War-mongering in Constantinople was at an all time high, factions against Spain and Venice emerged. David Passi was at the head of the anti-Venetian party and his powerful opponent Grand Vizier Koca Sinan Pasha was heading the anti-Spanish, pro-English party. Libel, conspiracy, disgrace and rumour played a big part in this confrontation. There was a chasm between the discursive positions of the major actors and the reel politics they pursued.

I will look at the rise and fall of David Passi and through his story indicate the precarity of Jewish and New Christian actors in this period in Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim courts.

Booking essential: <https://elif-ozgen-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Elif Özgen read history at Boğazici University and completed her MA at Istanbul Bilgi University. Following one year at Leiden University's Institute for History she moved onto a new career in marketing. She's still a history buff and is happy to present this episode that can be likened to a period thriller.

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<https://www.angloturkishsociety.org.uk/>