



**The IHR Lectures on Archives and Manuscripts**

*present*

**Vanessa R. de Obaldía**

*Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz*

**“Place no stone exceeding its former design:”  
Reflections on Ottoman-Athonite Relations  
through Examples of Church (Re)Construction and Renovation**

*on Tuesday | 10 May 2022 | 18:00 EEST*

The construction of churches and chapels on sites where no Christian place of worship had previously existed was impermissible according to Sunni Islamic legal consensus because it contravened the prohibition against the construction of new churches. Restrictions even applied to the repair and renovation of ecclesiastical properties as well as their extension for purposes such as housing monks. In the event that such construction activities were carried out, the buildings could be destroyed by permission of the *kādī*. Through the analysis of unpublished Ottoman documents from a few Athonite Monasteries, this study shall demonstrate the degree to which Ottoman legal practice varied in its application of the strict jurisprudential interpretations and to what extent Ottoman policy on the Athonite peninsula was influenced by political and economic relations. It shall also provide important insights into the successful integration of the monasteries into the Ottoman legal system and reveal the Athonites' command of Ottoman law and bureaucracy.

*Dr. Vanessa R. de Obaldía is postdoctoral researcher at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz for the ERC Starting Grant MAMEMS: Mount Athos in Medieval Eastern Mediterranean Society (MAMEMS): Contextualizing the History of a Monastic Republic, ca. 850-1550.*

**registration required**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0yCo4syeRt-GjyZkwD1bxA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0yCo4syeRt-GjyZkwD1bxA)



Imperial edict (*fermān*) dated to evāhīr zi'l-hicce 947/  
17-26 April 1541 from Konstamonitou monastery