

HOMILETIC DISCOURSE AND SOCIETY IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY CONSTANTINOPLE

– short description –

This research project seeks to advance the study of homiletic discourse in fourteenth-century Constantinople by examining how Patriarch Kallistos I (1350–1353; 1354–1363), one of the period's leading preachers, engaged with the turbulent social, political, and theological climate of his time. His sermons provide a revealing lens onto the intellectual vitality of the late Byzantine capital and the manifold challenges confronting its society, while also demonstrating the homily's capacity to function as an instrument of both moral guidance and communal reform.

Adopting a systematic and comparative approach, this research project offers a first comprehensive investigation of Kallistos I's homiletic corpus. It considers the manuscript tradition, situates the sermons in their historical and social contexts, and assesses their literary qualities. In doing so, the research addresses a significant gap in the study of late Byzantine preaching and evaluates its role in shaping responses to social unrest, political instability, and religious controversy.

Conducted at the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy, the project also aims to establish a research group within the ISEES dedicated to the systematic exploration of (late) Byzantine homiletics.