



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

## Seminar in Ottoman and Turkish Studies



Ulama and Students (Levni)

Kemālpashazāde, 16th-cen. miniature from *Āşık Çelebi biographical dictionary (Meşā'irü 'ş-Şu'arā)*



### What is Ottoman Historiography? Competing and Converging Historical Narratives in 15th- and Early 16th-Century Rumeli

**Delyan Rusev**  
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University of Chicago

In the first decade of the 16th century, the historian Kemālpashazāde (d. 1534) composed an elaborate History of the Ottoman Dynasty, in which he included a lengthy account of the pre-Ottoman past of the Balkans (Rumeli) based—after a thorough redaction—on an apocryphal Christian work of medieval Bulgarian history. By taking this peculiar case of convergence between Muslim and Christian historical narratives as a starting point and trying to locate it in its proper cultural and political contexts, this talk will embark on an attempt to tackle the wider issue of the make-up and dynamics of historical writing in a period of ideological experimentation in the nascent Ottoman imperial enterprise. It will explore the competitive nature of various historiographic strands originating in Rumeli and relating its history, as well as possible venues of interaction between them, in order to demonstrate how the consolidation of the dynasty's authority in the region was paralleled by a process of appropriation of its past through the merger of these originally competing traditions.

**Tuesday | 26 March 2019 | 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Natalie Zemon Davis Room | 2098 Sidney Smith Hall | 100 St. George Street**

**Sponsored by the Departments of History and of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and  
by the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies**