

Einladung zu einem Vortrag von

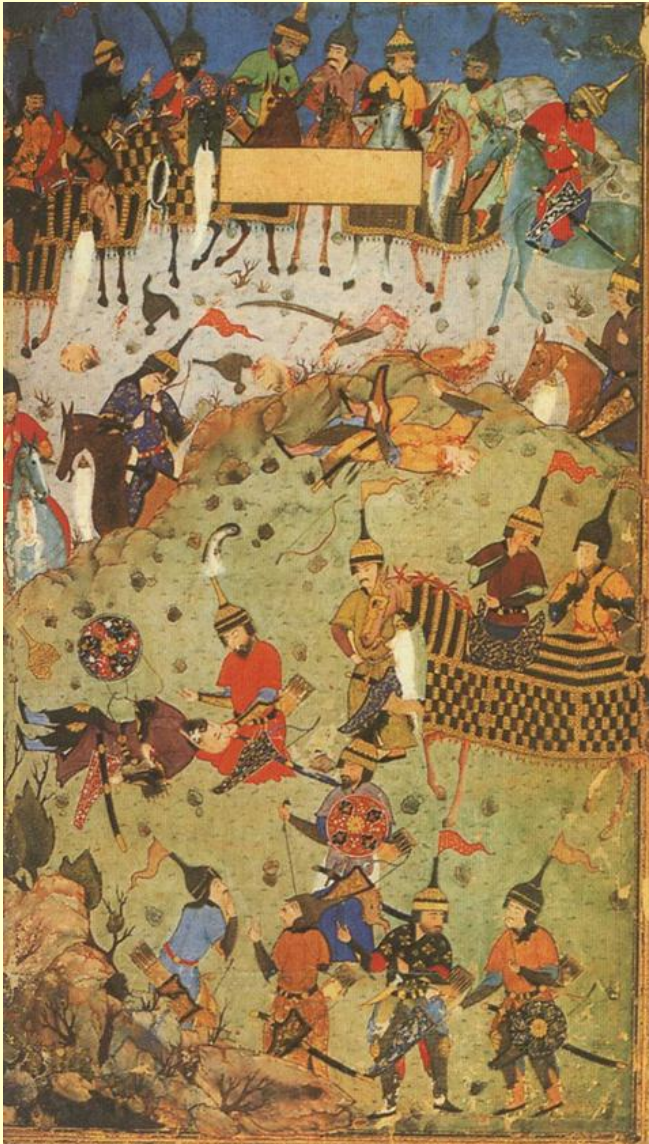
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Did the Byzantines read Persian literature?

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Vernacular Byzantine romances are casually considered to be insular. In a tendency that culminates in the scholarship of the Early Modern period, external connections, if any at all, are sought in the West. And yet Eastern literature, Arabic and Persian, was a powerful tradition which could inspire Byzantine authors in multivalent ways. Such contacts remain largely uncharted. This lecture identifies a set of analogues shared by the Persian chronicle *Haft Paykar* (1197 BCE) and the Byzantine romance *Velthandros* (late 13th century). The common ground supplies us with the frame we need to imagine a cultural context in which medieval mobility and exchange were the norms.