



CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

Rethinking Global Cultures

Sex Behind the Dining Hall: Diplomacy and Domesticity in Early Modern Istanbul



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Monday, September 26, 2016

7:30 p.m.

JOE ROSENFELD '25 CENTER, ROOM 101

Free and open to the public

In 1588 word reached Venice of a not-so-secretive love affair that had blossomed between two young employee-residents—an apprentice diplomatic interpreter and a barber—in the Venetian embassy in Istanbul. Through the archival traces of this case, and the network of familial and professional ties that the various witnesses attested to, this paper considers the relationship between same-sex love, homosocial domesticity, and patriarchal authority in the workings of imperial subject-making and early modern Venetian-Ottoman diplomacy.



View of the bailo's house, ca. 1660," Hermitage, VAse-1782, fol. 48, Courtesy of the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia.



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