The bridge on the Drina, Višegrad

**Ottomans, Bosnians, and Noblemen: Elite Identity in an Early Modern Ottoman Province**

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Throughout most of its existence, the Ottoman Empire was a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual diverse entity, and the people living in it were similarly diverse and maintained multi-faceted identities. Bosnia—a crucial province on the Habsburg border—provides us with an example of the practical effects that this reality had on career trajectories of individual Ottomans as well as on the formation of Ottoman policies in the province and beyond. This presentation examines how different aspects of identity affected the self-understanding and self-representation of members of the Ottoman-Bosnian elite, and how, during the sixteenth century, the complex identities of early modern Ottomans came to serve the interests of the Ottoman state.

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