

Constantinople and the Power of its Art at the margins of the *oikoumene*

The Byzantines strongly believed that their imperium should cover the whole world, the *oikoumene*, by spreading their faith and civilization to all the peoples of the earth. Cultural contacts between them and the rest of the world served as a tool for establishing that idea. As it worked in all sort of ways and levels, the present lecture will try through different stops in an imaginary trip to examine the routes of these artistic contacts which proclaim the ideology of the ecumenical power of Constantinople in the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the imitation of Byzantine models for political purposes.

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