Final Report Summary - ISLAMANATOLIA (The Islamisation of Anatolia, c. 1100-1500)

The 'Islamisation of Anatolia, 1100-1500' research project aimed to investigate the processes by which Anatolia was transformed in the medieval period from a largely Christian society into one which was dominated culturally and politically by Islam. To date this transformation has largely been studied on the basis of sources in Greek originating from Anatolia's Christian communities, and the project aimed to make use of the mass of texts produced by mediaeval Anatolian Muslims to understand not just the process of transformation and proselytisation, but to investigate the question of the characteristics of the Islamic intellectual culture of the region, a topic which has rarely been investigated by scholars. To this end the project created a database of the textual production of mediaeval Anatolia in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, allowing for the first the contours of intellectual life in the region to be understood, as well as the transmission of ideas through providing information on the copying and patronage of manuscripts. The database, based largely on originally research carried out by the project team in the libraries of Turkey and other countries, thus also makes available for the first time a wealth of information about Arabic, Persian and Turkish literature in Anatolia, and available at https://www.islam-anatolia.ac.uk/?page_id=333. In addition, the project contextualised its results through a series of workshops and publications.

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