Greatness
in Ottoman-Jewish and Italian Political Thought

Lecture by
Vasileios Syros
Academy of Finland

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
12:00pm
Andrews Conference Room
2203 Social Sciences and Humanities Bldg.

This presentation brings Moses Almosnino’s *Crónica de los reyes Otomanos* (Chronicle of the Ottoman Kings) to the fore as one of the foundational texts of Jewish political thought in the Ottoman world.

It looks at Almosnino’s ideas on the principles and foundations of effective government and the features of sound imperial organization, as exemplified by Süleyman the Magnificent’s reign and the urban organization of 16th-century Constantinople.

The talk will also attempt a comparative investigation of Almosnino’s views on imperial greatness with the ideas of early modern Italian political writers, such as Giovanni Pontano and Giovanni Botero, on the constituents and manifestations of magnificence and political greatness.

Vasileios Syros is a Senior Research Fellow at the Academy of Finland and currently Seeger Fellow at Princeton University. His teaching and research interests focus on the interaction among the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions of political thought as well as on cross-cultural encounters in the early modern period. He is also engaged in the comparative study of European and Islamic empires, and pre-modern approaches to the comparative study of diverse forms of political organization and types of government.

His publications include *Well Begun is Only Half Done: Tracing Aristotle’s Political Ideas in Medieval Arabic, Syriac, Byzantine, and Jewish Sources* (ACMRS, 2011) and *Marsilus of Padua at the Intersection of Ancient and Medieval Cultures and Traditions of Learning* (University of Toronto Press, 2012).

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