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AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE ATHENS

LEOFOROS ALEXANDRAS 26

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OEAI FELLOWS LECTURE SERIES

# THE EAST GATE OF SIDE

## DEVELOPMENT AND FUNCTION CHANGE OF CITYGATES IN THE TRANSITION OF THE LATE-HELLENISTIC TO THE ROMAN PERIOD

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The East Gate of Side at the southern coast of Turkey is part of an elaborated fortification system consisting of the so called Main Gate and a well preserved fortification wall. The gate complex – a *Hoftor* after the current terminology – has been dated to the Hellenistic period by most of the scientists dealing with fortification systems. Current excavations didn't reveal any Hellenistic context. The first building period goes back earliest to Augustan times, when the gate shows the structure of a *Hoftor* flanked by two towers. While the East Gate has always been considered in terms of a defensive aspect, a new conclusion results from the record is concerning its representative function and concerning the urban structure (not the imminent enemy). Under this changed point of view new issues arise, which are going to be presented.