



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

JUNE 20, 2018
START: 18.00
AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE ATHENS
LEOFOROS ALEXANDRAS 26
GR – 10683 ATHENS



OEAI FELLOWS LECTURE SERIES

POWERFUL ELITES AND THEIR FOUNDATIONS

THE CREATION OF MODERN ATHENS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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Foundations have a long tradition in Greek Orthodox society. With the establishment of the Modern Greek state in 1830, pre-national foundations were incorporated into the state's legal and political system, while new foundations were formed. Especially in Athens, large numbers of private investors sponsored major institutions. The strength of the »national benefactors« (»εθνικοί ευεργέτες«) enabled the young and financially weak state to create its educational, cultural, and welfare system, while it also led to the Greek state's dependency on private capitals, a probable cause of its institutional weakness until today. The lecture will provide an exemplary insight into the reasons for the establishment of foundations, the benefactors' motivations, and their influence on the state. It will be based on published and unedited sources covering the period between 1830 and the end of 19th century.

