

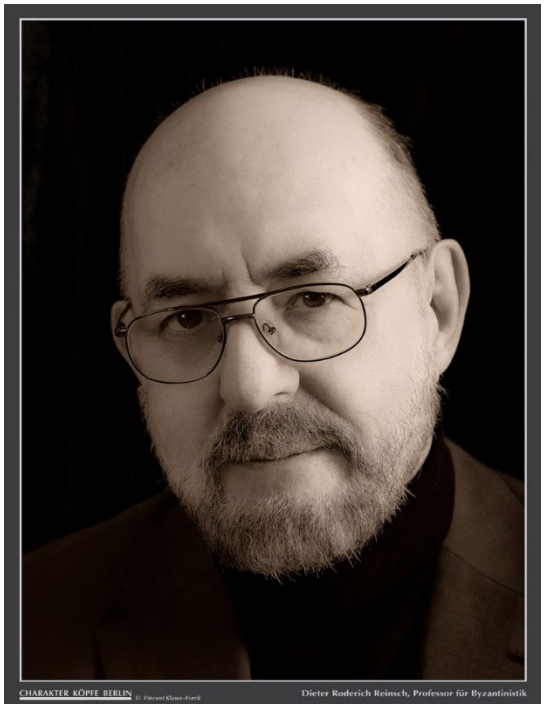
Gustav Karlsson Lectures on Byzantine Culture and Literature

The 2026 Gustav Karlsson Lecture

Prof. Diether Roderich Reinsch

Free University of Berlin

Gustav Karlsson in Berlin and what I learnt from him



Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 19h (Athens)

with live presence at the
Danish Institute at Athens, Chairefontos 14, Plaka,
and online via Zoom
20:00 (Istanbul), 19:00 (Athens), 18:00 (Stockholm)

To participate, please register at:
https://www.sia.gr/en/events.php?eid=630#ParticipationForm

ABSTRACT
The first part of the lecture covers Gustav H. Karlsson's time in Berlin (1966–1995) and recounts, amongst other things, the speaker's personal experiences with his doctoral supervisor at the time. The second part illustrates what the speaker considers to be the most important lesson he learnt from his academic mentor, Karlsson: the rigorous interpretation of Byzantine texts within their linguistic and historical context, always verified by an exact translation. Using selected passages from the Byzantine historians Niketas Choniates and Anna Komnene, the lecture demonstrates the consequences of disregarding this Karlssonian principle and how, conversely, following it can help to refute erroneous historical theories.

ISTANBUL SVENSKA FORSKNINGSINSTITUTET

SWEDISH INSTITUTE at ATHENS