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“Teenagers of Byzantium”

Scholars rarely consider Byzantine adolescents, and - unlike Byzantine portrayals of children - there have been no publications on how teenagers were depicted in Byzantine art. It is here, however, that recent work on the Byzantine Life Course, Gender, imperial portraiture and, most importantly, Byzantine visual narratives of saints and the Virgin Mary fruitfully intersect. This paper will look at how teenagers were presented, and explore the significance of how Byzantine artisans portrayed adolescent boys and girls, both those living (such as members of the imperial family) and those long dead (such as Christ and the Virgin).