



AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES



Department of Ancient History  
and Ancient Near Eastern Studies



ACHAEMENID WORKSHOP 2

# THE ACHAEMENID PERSIAN EMPIRE AND IMPERIAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (7<sup>TH</sup> C. BC – 2<sup>ND</sup> C. BC)



Achaemenid  
Workshops

JULY 3-7, 2023  
UNIVERSITÄTSSZENTRUM OBERGURGL  
GAISBERGWEG 5  
6456 OBERGURGL, AUSTRIA

UCLA



Pourdavoud Center  
for the Study of the Iranian World



# PROGRAMME

## MONDAY, JULY 3

### Arrival and Opening

- 16:00–16:30** **Welcome addresses**  
**Robert Rollinger** | Innsbruck/Wrocław and **M. Rahim Shayegan** | Los Angeles, Organizers  
**Veronika Sexl** | Rector, University of Innsbruck  
**Dirk Rupnow** | Dean, Faculty of Philosophy and History, University of Innsbruck  
**Brigitte Truschneegg** | Vice-Dean, Faculty of Philosophy and History, University of Innsbruck
- 16:30–16:45** **Josef Wiesehöfer** | Kiel  
*Amélie Kuhrt Memorial*
- 16:45–17:15** **Robert Rollinger** | Innsbruck/Wrocław  
*The Achaemenid-Persian Empire and Imperial Transformation*
- 17:15–17:45** BREAK
- 17:45–18:15** **Keynote 1**  
**Hans Neumann** | Münster  
*Reichsbildungen im alten Vorderasien und das Problem der Periodisierung altorientalischer Gesellschaftsgeschichte*
- 18:15–18:45** **Keynote 2**  
**Miguel John Versluys** | Leiden  
*Containing Connectivity. Empires and Globalisation in the Axial Age*
- 18:45–19:15** **Discussion**

## TUESDAY, JULY 4

### SECTION 1

#### Continuity and Discontinuity of Empire in the Ancient Near East: From the Sargonids to the Teispids

*Chair: Charles Howley | Los Angeles*

09:00–09:45

#### Keynote 3

**Karen Radner** | Munich

*Assyria after the age of conquest: new approaches to crown and imperial administration in the 7th century BC*

09:45–10:15

**Irene Madreiter** | Innsbruck

*Aspects of Leadership in Times of Hegemonic Overreach – Some Thoughts on the Transformation of the Assyrian Empire*

10:15–10:45

BREAK

*Chair: Martin Lang | Innsbruck*

10:45–11:15

**Sebastian Fink** | Innsbruck

*Imperial Possibilities and the Radius of Actions*

11:15–11:45

**Giovanni B. Lanfranchi** | Padua

*The Assyrian Unification of the Ancient Near East under the Sargonid Kings: A Durable Transformation*

11:45–13:00

LUNCH

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## SECTION 2

### The Achaemenid Persian Empire and Structure: Aspects of Continuity and Discontinuity in Dialogue

Chair: Kai Ruffing | Kassel

- 13:00–13:45**    **Keynote 4**  
**Antonio Panaino** | Bologna  
*“The Gods Who Are,” and their Role. Iranian and Non-Iranian Religions in the Achaemenid Multiethnic Empire*
- 13:45–14:15**    **Walter Kuntner and Sandra Heinsch** | Innsbruck  
*The End of Urartu as an Archaeological Phenomenon of Cultural Continuity*
- 14:15–14:45**    BREAK  
  
Chair: Hong Chen | Los Angeles
- 14:45–15:15**    **Ali Mousavi** | Los Angeles  
*The Achaemenids between Tradition and Innovation: An Archaeological Perspective*
- 15:15–15:45**    **Adriano V. Rossi** | Naples  
*The Notion of “Border”, the Achaemenid Empire and its Borderlands*
- 15:45–16:15**    BREAK
- Intersection I: New Generation – New Thoughts**  
  
Chair: Alejandro Boucabeille and Elisabeth Pangerl | Innsbruck
- 16:15–16:35**    **Melanie Groß** | Leiden  
*From Assyria to Persia – putting state officials in context*
- 16:35–16:55**    **Marissa Stevens** | Los Angeles  
*Persian Influences on Egyptian Perspectives: Demonstrating Authority through Nuance*
- 16:55–17:15**    **Bernhard Schneider** | Warsaw  
*The Nippur Region: From the “Heartland of the Cities” to a Rural Imperial Landscape?*
- 17:15–17:45**    **Plenary Discussion**

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

### SECTION 3

#### The Achaemenid Persian Empire and Regionality: Aspects of Continuity and Discontinuity in Dialogue

*Chair: Robert Rollinger | Innsbruck/Wrocław*

- 09:00–09:45** **Keynote 5**  
**Matthew Canepa** | Irvine  
*Achaemenid Luxury Material and Commensal Politics and their Legacy and Reinvention after Alexander*
- 09:45–10:15** **Wu Xin** | Shanghai  
*Origin of Fire Temples and the Achaemenid Domination in Central Asia*
- 10:15–10:45** **Kristin Joachimsen** | Oslo  
*The Persian king and his Jewish queen as presented from a Jewish subaltern point of view in the book of Esther (MT)*
- 10:45–11:15** BREAK  
  
*Chair: Touraj Daryaei | Irvine*
- 11:15–11:45** **Krzysztof Nawotka** | Wrocław  
*Burning Enemy Temples in Asia Minor in the Age of Persian Wars*
- 11:45–12:15** **Hilmar Klinkott** | Kiel  
*Satrapal Power and Royal Policy – The Transformation of inner political Forces in the Achaemenid Empire*
- 12:15–12:45** **Dominik Markl** | Innsbruck  
*Transformations from Neo-Babylonian to Achaemenid Imperial Theologies and the Rise of Judean Monotheism*
- 12:45–14:00** LUNCH

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*Chair: Lindsay Allen | London*

**14:00–14:30** **Antigoni Zournatzi** | Athens  
*Changing Patterns of Organization and Control along the Western Seaboard of the Achaemenid Empire*

**14:30–15:00** **Gian Pietro Basello** | Naples  
*Echoes of the Achaemenid Imperial Signature in the Book of Ezra*

**15:00–15:30** BREAK

**Intersection II:  
New Generation – New Thoughts**

*Chair: Clemens Steinwender and Valentina Cambruzzi | Innsbruck*

**15:30–15:50** **Silvia Balatti** | Kiel  
*Conditioning the Empires: The Troops of the Medes from the Sargonid to the Early Achaemenid Period*

**16:50–16:10** **Kateryna Baulina** | Kyiv  
*Reflection of titles and statuses in the hierarchy of senior officials at the Achaemenid's royal court: from Neo-Assyrian thought to early Hellenistic periods*

**16:10–16:40** **Plenary Discussion**

## THURSDAY, JULY 6

### SECTION 4

#### Continuity and Discontinuity of Empire in the Ancient Near East: From the Achaemenids to the Seleucids, early Arsacids and Romans (around 140 BCE)

Chair: M. Rahim Shayegan | Los Angeles

- 09:00–09:45** **Keynote 6**  
**Rolf Strootman** | Utrecht  
*Iranian Office-holders in the Macedonian Empire (Argeads and Seleucids)*
- 09:45–10:15** **Charlotte Lerouge-Cohen** | Paris  
*“Philhellenes” and heirs to the Persians: the Arsacids, the Seleucids and the Greeks until the death of Mithridates I (171-138)*
- 10:15–10:45** BREAK  
  
Chair: Bernhard Palme | Vienna
- 10:45–11:15** **Fabrizio Sinisi** | Vienna  
*Dealing with Achaemenid legacies in Parthia and Chorasmia, 3rd-1st century BC: different outcomes in different contexts?*
- 11:15–11:45** **Patrick Sanger** | Munster  
*Alexander the Great and the Emergence of Hellenistic Egypt: Some Considerations in Administrative History*
- 12:00–13:30** LUNCH  
  
Chair: Jonathan Winnerman | Los Angeles
- 13:30–14:00** **Sabine Muller** | Marburg  
*The Achaemenid Empire in Lucian – More than just an ironical (re)view of past Greek historiography?*
- 14:00–14:30** **Julian Degen** | Trier  
*Narrating Imperial Success from the Achaemenid Period to the Late Roman Republic*
- 14:30–15:00** BREAK



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**Intersection III:  
New Generation – New Thoughts (Doctoral College Entangled  
Antiquities, University of Innsbruck and NAWA Project From the  
Achaemenids to the Romans, University of Wrocław)**

*Chair: Cassandra Lamche and Jörg Schwarz | Innsbruck*

- 15:00–15:20** **Florian Posselt** | Innsbruck  
*Topography and Ethnography in the Neo-Assyrian royal inscriptions*
- 15:20–15:40** **Valentina Cambuzzi** | Innsbruck  
*Of satraps and generals: discontinuity between Achaemenid and Seleukid  
roles(?)*
- 15:40–16:00** **Nina Mazhjo** | Wrocław  
*Hail to Mithridates! The Pontic King Blessed by the Achaemenid Deity*
- 16:00–16:30** **Plenary Discussion**
- 16:30–17:00** BREAK
- 17:00–17:30** **Concluding Remarks**  
**Kai Ruffing** | Kassel and **Josef Wiesehöfer** | Kiel

**FRIDAY, JULY 7**

- 10:00** **Farewell and Departure**

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**ORGANIZER:**

Organized by Robert Rollinger and M. Rahim Shayegan

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission “Transformation Processes and Empire in the Ancient Afro-Eurasian Worlds”  
University of Innsbruck, Department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies

**FINANCED BY:**

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Faculty of Philosophy and History)



Pourdavoud Center  
for the Study of the Iranian World



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