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**Between and Beyond Empires:
From the Seleucids to the Sasanians (2nd c. BC – 7th c. AD)
Wrocław/Breslau, December 3–6, 2024**

*organized by Robert Rollinger, Krzysztof Nawotka,
Agnieszka Wojciechowska and Florian Schwarz*

About

As a follow-up of the conference in Obergurgl (*The Achaemenid Persian Empire and Imperial Transformations in the Ancient Near East, 7th – 2nd c. BCE*, July 3-7, 2023) the one in Wrocław will continue to focus on the phenomenon of imperial transformations in the framework of a *longue durée* perspective and within a transdisciplinary approach. On the one hand, empire as phenomenon should no longer be thought as an organic biological “creature” with a clearly defined beginning and end. Moreover, the various paths of transformation processes that occur in phases of turmoil and crisis ought to be followed. On the other hand, special attention should be drawn on the agency of the vast imperial borderlands as these areas in particular are often entangled actively in these processes of transformation. The central focus of this conference lies on western Afro-Eurasia within a broad chronological framework that runs from the “Hellenistic” period to the early Islamic era. The various contributions are asked to address transformation processes as well as phenomena of imperial heritage and imperial “argumentation” through time and space. Although the Eastern Mediterranean, Western Asia (Near East) and the Iranian highlands are regarded to represent key zones of the inquiry, their outreach towards Central Asia, the Steppe, the Balkans and the Arabian Peninsula is not to be neglected. Therefore, the conference intends to develop a broad and transregional understanding of the various transformation processes involved as well as their spatial and chronological dimensions.

Institutions

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission “Transformation Processes and Empire in the Ancient Afro-Eurasian Worlds”	 <p>ÖAW AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES AND EMPIRE IN THE ANCIENT AFRO-EURASIAN WORLDS</p>
University of California, Los Angeles, Pourdavoud Institute for the Study of the Iranian World	 <p>Pourdavoud Institute for the Study of the Iranian World</p>
University of Wrocław, NAWA Project “From the Achaemenids to the Romans”	 <p>NAWA CHAIR</p>
University of Innsbruck, Department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies	 <p>universität innsbruck Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik</p>
University of Innsbruck, Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”	 <p>universität innsbruck Doktoratskolleg Entangled Antiquities</p>
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies	
Austrian Science Fund (FWF) [COE8], Cluster of Excellence “EurAsian Transformations. Resources of the Past & Challenges of Diversity”	  <p>FWF Austrian Science Fund</p> <p>EurAsia EURASIAN TRANSFORMATIONS</p>

PROGRAM

Tuesday, Dec 3

Arrival and Opening

- 16:00-16:30 Welcome Addresses | Robert Rollinger (Innsbruck/Wrocław), Florian Schwarz (Vienna), Krzysztof Nawotka (Wrocław)
- 16:30-17:15 Keynote 1: *The Seleucids and their Imperial Heritage*
Josef Wiesehöfer (Kiel)
- 17:15-18:00 Keynote 2: *Imperial Religions in Iran, 3rd Century BC – 3rd Century AD*
Fabrizio Sinisi (Vienna)
- 18:30 Buffet

Wednesday, Dec 4

Section 1 – Seleucid Transformations

Chair: NN

- 09:00-09:45 Keynote 3: *Imperial Heritage in the Hasmonean Judea*
Edward Dąbrowa (Kraków)
- 09:45-10:15 *Imperial Benefactions? Seleukid Munificence in the Aegean and the Question of Centre and Periphery*
Christoph Michels (Münster)

10:15-10:45 Break

Chair: NN

- 10:45-11:15 *Asia Minor Central and the East*
Julian Degen (Trier)

11:15-13:00 Lunch

Chair: NN

- 13:00-13:45 Keynote 4: *Mesene*
Stefan Hauser (Konstanz)
- 13:45-14:15 ~~*Ptolemaic Egypt*~~
~~Sitta von Reden (Freiburg im Breisgau)~~
- 14:15-14:45 *Hipparchus' Transformation of Astronomy as a Phenomenon of Hellenistic Empire-Building*
Victor Gysembergh (Paris)

14:45-15:15 Break

Chair: NN

- 15:15-15:45 *The Origins of Chorasmian Art: A Socio-Cultural Inquiry*
Michele Minardi (Naples)

- 15:45-16:15 Emesal Lamentations and their Imperial Setting from the Seleucid to the Parthian Period
Sebastian Fink (Innsbruck) and Bernhard Schneider (Wrocław)
- 16:15-16:45 Elymais between Seleucid Hellenism and Parthian Ascendancy: A Borderland in Transition?
Davide Salaris (Sydney)

16:45-17:15 Break

Intersection I: New Generation – New Thoughts

- 17:15-17:45 Hellenistic Iaitas – Roman Ietas: From Border Buffer Zone to Imperial Borderland
Erich Kistler (Innsbruck)
- Chair: NN
- 17:45-18:05 Alien Wisdom and the Cultural Legacy of the Persian Empire
Nina Mazhjo (Wrocław)
- 18:05-18:25 Interactions between Empire and City-States in the Levant from Hellenistic to Roman Times
Piotr Głogowski (Wrocław)
- 18:25-18:55 Plenary Discussion

Thursday, Dec 5

Section 2 – Arsacid Transformations

- Chair: NN
- 09:00-09:45 Keynote 5: “Referenzraum und Verstehungshorizont”. Embedding Global Diversity in the Late-Hellenistic Kingdom of Commagene at the Euphrates
Miguel John Versluys (Leiden)
- 09:45-10:15 Palmyrene tesserae: Local Innovations and Transformations in the Arsacid Period
Aleksandra Kubiak-Schneider (Warsaw)
- 10:15-10:45 ~~Hatra~~
Lucinda Dirven (Nijmegen)
- 10:45-11:15 Break
- Chair: NN (Irvine)
- 11:15-11:45 Freedom and Citizenship in Post-Hellenistic Iran
Jake Nabel (Penn State)
- 11:45-12:15 Economic Policy and Commerce in the Arsacid State
Marek Jan Olbrycht (Rzeszów)
- 12:15-12:45 All The Great King’s Men: Arsacid Crisis in Roman Authors
Leonardo Gregoratti (Durham)
- 12:45-14:00 Lunch

Section 3 – Sasanian Transformations

Chair: NN

- 14:00-14:45 Keynote 6: The Sasanians and their Imperial Heritage
James Howard-Johnston (Oxford)
- 14:45-15:15 Jewish Communities in and between the Roman and Persian Empires during
the 6th and 7th Centuries
Nikolas Hächler (Zürich)
- 15:15-15:45 Break

Intersection II: New Generation – New Thoughts

Chair: NN

- 15:45-16:05 Arabia between the Romans and the Sasanians: Agency and Transformation
of an Imperial Borderland in Late Antiquity
Clemens Steinwender (Innsbruck)
- 16:05-16:25 Seleucids and their Heritage in the Late Antique Historical Writing
Paulina Kaczmarczyk (Wrocław)
- 16:25-16:45 Coin Finds and their Significance for the Ancient Economy using the Example
of the Sasanian Empire
Andrea Pancheri (Innsbruck)
- 16:45-17:15 Plenary Discussion
- 19:00 Official Dinner

Friday, Dec 6

Section 4 – From Sasanian to Afro-Eurasian Transformations

Chair: NN

- 09:00-09:45 Keynote 7: Iran's Bridge to Africa: The Sasanian Expansion into Egypt
Bernhard Palme (Vienna)
- 09:45-10:15 The Plagues of Justinian, Sheroe and Amwās. Imperial Spaces, Epidemic Dynamics
and Geopolitical Transformations in Western Afro-Eurasia, 5th-8th Century CE
Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Vienna)
- 10:15-10:45 North African Transformations
Philipp von Rummel (Berlin)
- 10:45-11:15 Break

Chair: NN

- 11:15-11:45 The Turks and their Imperial Heritage
Sören Stark (New York)
- 11:45-12:15 The Bulgars and the Imperial Heritage
Daniel Ziemann (Vienna)

12:15-13:15 Lunch

Chair: NN

13:15-14:00 Keynote 8: [The Emergence of the Eastern Roman Empire in Late Antiquity](#)
Mischa Meier (Tübingen)

14:00-14:30 [Concluding Remarks](#) | Touraj Daryaee (Irvine) and Krzysztof Nawotka (Wrocław)

Farewell and end of conference