Program of Iranian Studies

The Program of Iranian Studies at UCLA, established half a century ago, in 1963, is one of the largest and most comprehensive doctoral programs of its kind in the Americas. It covers the entire spectrum of Iranian studies across disciplines, linguistic boundaries, and periods. Among its distinctive strengths is the focus on Old and Middle Iranian philology, ancient Iranian history and religions, archaeology, as well as the study of classical and modern Persian literature. In addition, courses in Judeo-Persian literature and Bahá’í history and religion are regularly read in the Program.

For more information
UCLA Iranian Studies
378 Humanities Building
(310) 825–4165
iranianstudies@humnet.ucla.edu
wwwiranianucla.edu

Registration
The lecture is free. Advance Registration is required. To RSVP, please email at iranianstudies@humnet.ucla.edu. Please note that seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Changes may occur, please visit www.iranian.ucla.edu for updates and information.

Parking
Parking spaces are available at Parking Structure 3 (215 Charles E. Young Drive North, Los Angeles CA 90095). Parking attendants will be present at the gate from 8 am to 10 am to collect payments in cash. Parking permits can be purchased for $12 each day.
On the occasion of the Cyrus Cylinder being exhibited in Los Angeles, Iranian Studies at UCLA is convening an international symposium “Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore” to discuss the historical figure of Cyrus the Great, his world, and later reception in antiquity and beyond. This gathering of prominent scholars from a wide variety of disciplines shall, as we hope, contribute not only to the important discussion on Cyrus’ new political order and religious policy, but also gauge his impact on posterity.

On the first day of the symposium “The World of Cyrus,” we shall be addressing such themes as the origins of Cyrus’ Teispid house, and the complex dossier of Elamo-Persian acculturation; the Mesopotamian context of Cyrus’ edict and religious policy; Cyrus, the Babylonian exile, and the Bible; Pasargadae and the making of an empire; and the Achaemenid world order from Cyrus to Darius.

On our second day “The Reception of Cyrus,” we shall be investigating the image of the emperor in the Greco-Roman, Iranian, and Muslim traditions. Among the particular topics examined are: Cyrus’ portrayal in Greek narratives of the classical age, and Roman compositions; Cyrus’ lasting presence in the Seleucid and Parthian periods, in contrast to his eclipse under the Sasanians; the reception of Cyrus and the Achaemenids in the Zoroastrian tradition; Cyrus’ palimpsestic occurrence in the Iranian epic Book of the Kings; and finally the depiction of Cyrus in Arabic historiography.

Program Description

This conference was made possible with the major support of Farhang Foundation and IHF America and the generous support of Semnani Family Foundation.

Day I: The World of Cyrus

9:00-9:30  Coffee and Cookies
( Herbert Morris Seminar Room, Royce Hall 306)

9:30-10:00  Introductions

David Schaberg, Dean, Humanities Division, UCLA

William Schniedewind, Chair, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

M. Rahim Shayegan, Director, Iranian Studies, UCLA

10:00-11:00  La Perse avant l’Empire: Elamite and Persian Acculturation

From Elam to Persia: Cyrus Rising, Matthew Waters, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

The Cyrus Cylinder and the Identity of Cyrus, David Stronach, UC Berkeley

Chair: Kathryn (Kara) Cooney, UCLA

BREAK

11:30-12:30  Cyrus’ Edict and its Mesopotamian Context

The Cyrus Cylinder and its Literary Models, Hanspeter Schaudig, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Ich bin ein Babylonier: The Political-Religious Message of the Cyrus Cylinder, Beate Pongraz-Leisten, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU

Chair: Jacco Dieleman, UCLA

12:30-2:00  Lunch Break

2:00-3:00  Cyrus and the Bible

Cyrus and the First Return, William Schniedewind, UCLA

Contrasting Portrayals of the Achaemenid Monarchy in Isatah and Zechariah, Marvin Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology

Chair: Aaron Burke, UCLA

BREAK

3:30-4:30  Cyrus at Pasargadae and Darius at Persepolis

Cyrus and Pasargad: Forging an Empire – Fashioning “Paradise,” Rémy Bouchardel, Université Lyon 2, France

Cyrus, Darius and the Achaemenid World Order, M. Rahim Shayegan, UCLA

Chair: Elizabeth Carter, UCLA

4:30-6:30  Reception at Royce Hall Terrace
( Herbert Morris Seminar Room, Royce Hall 306)

Day II: The Reception of Cyrus

9:30-10:00  Coffee and Cookies
( Herbert Morris Seminar Room, Royce Hall 306)

10:00-11:00  The Cyrus Reception in the Greco-Roman World

The Bourne Identity’s Prequel: Cyrus the Great, Maria Brosius, University of Toronto, Canada

Cyrus the Great and Roman Views of Ancient Iran, Jason Schlude, Duquesne University

Chair: Sarah Morris, UCLA

BREAK

11:30-12:30  Cyrus and Achaemenid Reminiscences in (post-)Hellenistic and Late Antique Iran

Cyrus and the Achaemenids in the Royal Ideologies of the Seleucid and Parthian Periods, Marek Olbrzycki, University of Rzeszów, Poland

On Forgetting Cyrus and Remembering the Achaemenids in Late Ancient Iran, Touraj Daryaee, UCI

Chair: Ali Mousavi, UCLA

Lunch Break

2:00-3:30  Cyrus and Achaemenid Reception Among Zoroastrians, and in the Muslim World

Cyrus, the Achaemenids, and Zoroastrians Past and Present, Jamsheed Choksy, Indiana University, Bloomington

Traces of Poetic Traditions About Cyrus the Great and His Dynasty in the Shahnameh of Firdowsi and in the Cyrus Cylinder, Olga Davidson, Boston University

Cyrus in Arabic Historiography, Michael Cooperson, UCLA

Chair: Domenico Ingenito, UCLA

BREAK

4:00–5:00  Roundtable Discussion
Reception at Royce Hall Terrace
( Herbert Morris Seminar Room, Royce Hall 306)