

POURDAVOUD CENTER

Established in 2017 as the premier research center for the study of ancient Iran, the mission of the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is to engage in transformative research on all aspects of Iranian antiquity, including its reception in the medieval and modern periods, by expanding on the traditional domains of Old Iranian Studies and promoting cross-cultural and interdisciplinary scholarship. The Pourdavoud Center intends to be a disciplinary home to stimulating intellectual encounters and exchanges for scholars working on ancient Iran and the ancient world, and will contribute to the development of collaborative research projects in such diverse areas as Assyriology, Biblical Studies, Central Asian Studies, Classics, Egyptology, ancient History, Indology, Sinology, and the Study of Religion.

MELAMMU PROJECT AND SYMPOSIA

The main aim of the Melammu Project is to investigate the continuity, transformation, and diffusion of Mesopotamian and ancient Near Eastern cultures from the third millennium BCE until the rise of Islam and beyond. The Melammu Symposia provide a forum, in which the cultural continuity and transformation in the ancient world may be assessed systematically in the *longue durée*. While the Melammu Symposia typically concentrate on discrete themes, their emphasis remains on cross-cultural perspectives and the continued interchange of ideas between specialists in different disciplines.

THE 14TH MELAMMU SYMPOSIUM: CONTEXTUALIZING IRANIAN RELIGIONS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

The Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is convening the 14th Melammu Symposium at UCLA. The international three-day symposium held at Royce Hall will explore Iranian religions in light of ancient Near Eastern traditions and precedents. It hosts scholars whose work pertain to the interchange of ideas and practices between the ancient Near East, Egypt, the Classical and Hellenistic worlds, and ancient Iran. The overarching themes of the symposium encompass: Elam, the Ancient Near East, and Persia; Ancient Egypt and Persia; the Divine in Achaemenid Material Culture; (Post-)Achaemenid Religious Practices in Literary Traditions; Religions and Religious Policy in the Hellenistic and Arsacid Worlds; and the Religious Landscape of the Sasanian World.

Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World

358 & 360 Royce Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Event Details

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

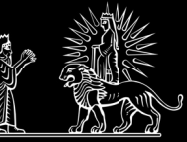
RSVP: Please visit <https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/event/14th-melammu-symposium/> and complete the reservation form to RSVP.

UCLA Parking: All-day parking on campus is \$13. Parking structures 2 and 4 are recommended.

UCLA



Pourdavoud Center
for the Study of the Iranian World



UCLA | February 18–20, 2020 | 314 Royce Hall

Contextualizing Iranian Religions in the Ancient World



14TH MELAMMU SYMPOSIUM

Convened by:

M. Rahim Shayegan (UCLA)

Oxus Treasure Votive Plaque
5th–4th Century BCE
Provenance: Takht-e Kuwad
British Museum 123949

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

- 8:30 AM **CHECK-IN AND REFRESHMENTS**
- 9:00 AM **INTRODUCTIONS**
David Schaberg (Dean, Humanities Division, UCLA)
Simonetta Ponchia (Melammu Chair/University of Verona)
M. Rahim Shayegan (Director, Pourdavoud Center, UCLA)
- 9:20 AM **PANEL I: ELAM, THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, AND PERSIA**
*Chair: **Stephanie Jamison** (University of California, Los Angeles)*
Elizabeth Carter (University of California, Los Angeles)
Crafting under Divine Protection During the Middle Elamite Period
Simonetta Ponchia (University of Verona)
Channels and Methods of Diffusion of Administrative Models and Imperial Ideology in the Neo-Assyrian Empire
Break 10:20am–10:40am
*Chair: **Aaron Burke** (University of California, Los Angeles)*
Gonzalo Rubio (Pennsylvania State University)
Axial Anxieties: The Politics and Theology of Temple Destruction in the Achaemenid Empire and the Ancient Near East
Salvatore Gaspa (University of Padua)
Constructing Religious Identities in the Age of the Empires: Remarks on the “Imperial Religion(s)” of the Early Achaemenid Period
Matthew Waters (University of Wisconsin, Eau de Claire)
By All Means, Aburāmazda: Help, Support, and Protect the King
Lunch Break 12:00–2:30pm
- 2:30 PM **PANEL II: ANCIENT EGYPT AND PERSIA**
*Chair: **Sara E. Cole** (J. Paul Getty Museum)*
Kathlyn Cooney (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Invention of Monotheism in Ancient Egypt
Damien Agut-Labordère (French National Center for Scientific Research)
Religious Interactions between Persians and Egyptians in Achaemenid Egypt
Break 3:30–3:50pm
Henry P. Colburn (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
Persian Kings and Egyptian Gods: Religious Innovation in Achaemenid Egypt
Jonathan Winnerman (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Cryptographic Titulary of Darius at Hibis
Marissa Stevens (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Utilization of Collective Memory to Legitimate Persian Kingship in Egypt
- 5:30 PM **RECEPTION**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

- 8:30 AM **CHECK-IN AND REFRESHMENTS**
- 9:15 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Robert Rollinger (University of Innsbruck)
Entangled Worlds: Afro-Eurasian Networks in Achaemenid Times
Break 10:15–10:30am
- 10:30 AM **PANEL III: THE DIVINE IN ACHAEMENID MATERIAL CULTURE**
*Chair: **Jeffrey Spier** (J. Paul Getty Museum)*
Mark Garrison (Trinity University) &
Emma Petersen (University of California, Los Angeles)
Some Observations on the Representation of the Divine and Numinous in Persepolitan Glyptic
Ali Mousavi (University of California, Los Angeles)
Achaemenid Religious Monuments: An Archaeological Perspective
Lunch Break 12:00–2:30pm
- 2:30 PM **PANEL IV: (POST-) ACHAEMENID RELIGIOUS PRACTICES IN LITERARY TRADITIONS**
*Chair: **Kenneth Lapatin** (J. Paul Getty Museum)*
Kai Ruffing (University of Kassel)
The Persian Great King and the Gods in Herodotus
Julian Degen (University of Innsbruck)
Herodotus and the Persian Priests: The Histories as a Source for Iranian Religion
Daniel Beckman (Princeton University)
Into the Ashes: Punishment at the Achaemenid Court
Break 3:50–4:10pm
Johannes Haubold (Princeton University)
The Magus in Hell
Hilmar Klinkott (University of Kiel)
The Deportation of Gods – Between Persian Policy and Ptolemaic Ideology

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

- 8:30 AM **CHECK-IN AND REFRESHMENTS**
- 9:15 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Touraj Daryaee (University of California, Irvine)
The Limits of Tolerance: Jews, Christians, Buddhists, and Others in the Sasanian Empire
Break 10:15–10:30am
- 10:30 AM **PANEL VI: RELIGIONS AND RELIGIOUS POLICY IN THE HELLENISTIC AND ARSACID WORLDS**
*Chair: **Sarah Morris** (University of California, Los Angeles)*
Christelle Fischer-Bovet (University of Southern California)
The Politics of Religion under the Ptolemies: Egyptian Statues, Achaemenid Persia, and the Seleucids
Rolf Strootman (Utrecht University)
The Marriage of Antiochos and Nanaia: Empire and Religion in Hellenistic Iran
Deirdre Klokov (University of Southern California)
Laodike III and Seleucid Royal Cult
Lunch Break 12:00–2:30pm
Stefan Hauser (University of Konstanz)
Herakles Again?
Vito Messina (University of Torino)
Religion of Parthian Iran: A Matter of Complexity – New Evidence from Ancient Elymais
Break 3:30–3:50pm
- 3:50 PM **PANEL VII: THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE OF THE SASANIAN WORLD**
*Chair: **Catherine Bonesho** (University of California, Los Angeles)*
Matthew Canepa (University of California, Irvine)
Reevaluating Divine Imagery in Late Antique Iranian Metalwork
Judith Lerner (New York University)
The “Mysterious” God Z(h)un of Zabulistan
Krzysztof Nawotka (University of Breslau)
Iranian Religions and the Alexander Romance