

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 Baha'i 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
www.iranian.ucla.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.

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UCLA Iranian Studies

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Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore – An International Conference, October 28-29, 2013

UCLA Iranian Studies

in collaboration with the

Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies

and the

Musa Sabi Chair in Iranian Studies

with the major support of

Farhang Foundation and IHF America

and the generous support of

Semnani Family Foundation

Present

Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore

An International Conference

October 28-29, 2013

Royce Hall 314



Program Description

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 Arsacid 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.

*This conference was made possible
with the major support of*

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Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore

UCLA Royce Hall 314 • October 28-29, 2013

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: **Kathlyn (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 Isaiah 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 Pasargadae: Forging an Empire – Fashioning “Paradise,” **Rémy Boucharlat**, 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**
The Shaping of Political Memory: Cyrus and the Achaemenids in the Royal Ideologies of the Seleucid and Parthian Periods, **Marek Olbrycht**, University of Rzeszów, Poland
On Forgetting Cyrus and Remembering the Achaemenids in Late Ancient Iran, **Touraj Daryaee**, UCI
Chair: **Ali Mousavi**, UCLA
- 12:30-2:00 **Lunch Break**
- 2:00-3:30 **Cyrus and the 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 Shâhnâme of Ferdowsi 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**
- 5:00-6:30 **Reception at Royce Hall Terrace**
(Herbert Morris Seminar Room, Royce Hall 306)