



FARHAD EBRAHIMI WORKSHOP

# THE ACHAEMENID-PERSIAN EMPIRE AT ITS HEYDAY? THE ERA BETWEEN DARIUS II AND DARIUS III

NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 2, 2023  
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
PSK (EINGANG GROSSE KASSENHALLE)  
BESPRECHUNGSRAUM 4.A1  
GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2  
1010 VIENNA



NAWA CHAIR

The last 100 years of the Achaemenid-Persian Empire are commonly described as a period of stagnation and decline. However, these traditional views have been challenged in recent years giving way to a more nuanced perspective on the history of the empire. The workshop follows this new line of research. It aims at reevaluating the period between the Great Kings Darius II and Darius III focussing on processes of transformation and change. This way, the workshop intends to further develop a critical approach on a broader and more interdisciplinary level. The proceedings will be published in an international series.

## PROGRAM

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 16:00–16:30** **Opening**  
**Robert Rollinger** | Innsbruck/Wrocław  
**Touraj Daryaee** | Irvine  
**Florian Schwarz** | Vienna
- 16:30–17:00** **Robert Rollinger** | Innsbruck/Wrocław  
*A reevaluation of a neglected period and the reasons why*
- 17:00–17:15** COFFEE BREAK
- 17:15–18:15** **Mischa Meier** | Tübingen  
*The historians' manifest interest in the beginning and end of empire: problematizing a rather common approach*
- 18:15** BUFFET

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

### MORNING SESSION

#### Panel I: Approaches and Conceptions

Chair: Florian Posselt | Innsbruck, Doctoral College "Entangled Antiquities"

- 09:00–09:45 **Josef Wiesehöfer** | Kiel  
*Opening up new perspectives I: a static empire vs. an empire of ongoing change and dynamics*
- 09:45–10:30 **Julian Degen** | Trier  
*Opening up new perspectives II: the end of empire vs. a period of transmission and restructuring*

10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK

Chair: Cassandra Lamche | Innsbruck, Doctoral College "Entangled Antiquities"

- 11:00–11:45 **Gabriele Puschnigg** | Wien  
*Digging up politics: about historical narratives, mundane archaeological evidence and the difficulties in reconstructing past realities in late Achaemenid Persia*

#### Panel II: The Sources

- 11:45–12:30 **Sabine Müller** | Marburg  
*The classical world and the empire*

12:30–14:00 LUNCH BREAK

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Elisabeth Pangerl | Innsbruck, Doctoral College "Entangled Antiquities"

- 14:00–14:45 **Michael Jursa** | Vienna  
*The Babylonian world and the empire*
- 14:45–15:30 **Michael Alram** | Vienna  
*Empire and coinage*
- 15:30–16:00 COFFEE BREAK

Chair: Felix Schulz | Innsbruck, Doctoral College "Entangled Antiquities"

- 16:00–16:45 **Holger Gzella** | Munich  
*The Aramaic superstrat and the empire*
- 16:45–17:30 **Melanie Wasmuth** | Helsinki  
*The Egyptian world and the empire*
- 17:30–18:15 **Hilmar Klinkott** | Kiel  
*The dynamics of imperial administration: roads, satrapies and connectivity in the Achaemenid empire*
- 19:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

### MORNING SESSION

#### Panel III: Organization of Empire

Chair: Erich Kistler | Innsbruck

- 09:00–09:45 **Silvia Balatti** | Kiel  
*Bagoas' murders and the alleged power of the eunuchs at the court of the last Achaemenids*
- 09:45–10:00 **Kai Ruffing** | Kassel  
*Economy and empire*

10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK

Chair: Bernhard Palme | Vienna, Commission "Transformation of empire in ancient Afro-Eurasia"

- 11:00–11:45 **Shervin Farridnejad** | Hamburg  
*Zoroastrianism/Mazdaism and the empire*

11:45–13:30 LUNCH BREAK

### AFTERNOON

#### Excursion

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### MORNING SESSION

#### Panel III – Organization of Empire (continued)

Chair: Alexander Steiner | Innsbruck, Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

09:00–09:45 **Verena Lepper** | Berlin  
*A special case: Elephantine*

#### Panel IV: Reception

09:45–10:30 **Kerstin Droß-Krüpe** | Bochum  
*The European reception*

10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK

Chair: Clemens Steinwender | Innsbruck, Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

11:00–11:45 **Touraj Daryaee** | Irvine  
*Remembering the many Dariuses of the bygone kingdom(s)*

11:45–12:30 **Jörg Schwarz** | Innsbruck  
*The Achaemenid-Persian empire as a model? A typology of kingship and its Medieval outreach*

12:30–13:00 **Concluding Remarks**  
**The Organizers**

**Farewell and end of conference**

#### ORGANIZERS:

Robert Rollinger, Touraj Daryaee and Florian Schwarz

#### INSTITUTIONS:

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission “Transformation of empire in ancient Afro-Eurasia”

University of California, Irvine, Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Cultures

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies

University of Innsbruck, Department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies

University of Wrocław, NAWA Project “From the Achaemenids to the Romans”

University of Innsbruck, Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

Austrian Science Fund, Cluster of Excellence “EurAsian Transformations. Discovering the Cultural Heritage of Eurasia”

#### TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION:

Arya Moknat (Irvine), [amoknat@uci.edu](mailto:amoknat@uci.edu)

#### CONTACT:

Mag. Sabrina Radax

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Learned Society Administration

[sabrina.radax@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:sabrina.radax@oeaw.ac.at)

Photo: © Robert Rollinger