



Irrigation Technologies and Water Management across Eurasia

Workshop, 5-6 February 2026

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Postsparkasse,

Georg Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, 3rd floor

organised by the

Cluster of Excellence *EurAsian Transformations*

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Irrigation Technologies and Water Management across Eurasia

Workshop organized by Nina Mirnig, Robin Coningham, Yavuz Köse, Bernhard Palme, Johannes Preiser-Kapeller, Robert Rollinger, Florian Schwarz, Rita Garstenauer and Philipp Abel-Dunner
on behalf of the Cluster of Excellence *Eurasian Transformations*
Conference assistance: Angeliki Kolovou

Thursday, 5 February

13:00–13:15 Welcome and Introduction

Session 1: Irrigation & Administration (Chairs: Bernhard Palme, Hannes Fellner)

- 13:15–14:05 Yazdan Safaee (Univ. Innsbruck), *Irrigation in Achaemenid Pārsa: Perspective from the Persepolis Fortification Archive*
- 14:05–14:55 Kai Ruffing (Univ. Kassel), *Irrigation and Administration in the Roman Empire*

14:55–15:20 Coffee break

- 15:20–16:10 Patrick Reinard (Univ. Trier), *Irrigation in Graeco-Roman Egypt*

16:10–17:00 Panel Discussion: Irrigation in its Broader Eurasian Context – Authorities and Written Evidence (Moderators: Robert Rollinger and Robin Coningham)

17:00–17:30 Coffee break

17:30–18:30 Evening lecture by Manfred Bietak (Austrian Academy of Sciences): *The Introduction of the Shadūf Irrigation System in Egypt by Immigrants from the Northern Levant*

19:00 Conference Dinner (for participants and invited guests)

Friday, 6 February

Session 2: Irrigation & Climate History (Chair: Florian Schwarz)

- 9:00–9:50 Jenny Reddish & Dániel Kondor (Complexity Science Hub, Vienna), *Early State Formation, Infrastructures, and Historical Dynamics: Combining Regional Archaeological Data and Large Language Models (LLMs)*
- 9:50–10:40 Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences), *Watering the Gardens of Queen Semiramis: Irrigation, Climate Change, and Power in a Long-Term Perspective*

10:40–11:10 Coffee break

- 11:10–12:00 Simone Mantellini (Univ. of Bologna), *Water, Canals, and Landscape Transformation in the Samarkand Oasis*

12:00–13:00 Panel Discussion: Irrigation in its Broader Eurasian Context – Climate Proxies, Archaeology and Other Data (Moderator: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller)



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