

In the second half of the 19th century, Austrian/Austro-Hungarian archaeology, conducted by researchers from whatever part of the empire, was formalized in new institutions such as the Central Commission for Monuments (1850), the Academy of Sciences' Prehistoric Commission (1878), and the Austrian Archaeological Institute (1898). Archaeological and related activities also increased in the Austrian Balkans (Carniola, Istria, Dalmatia) and began in newly occupied Bosnia-Herzegovina. From the 1870s onwards, they were extended to Greece, Asia Minor, the Levant, and Egypt. The symposium discusses these archaeologies within and beyond the Habsburg Empire/Austria in their colonial and imperial contexts, including the aftermath of the empire's dissolution in 1918. Like other European powers, Austria(-Hungary) used archaeology to exercise power in respective territories, gain international prestige, and fill the museums in Vienna. In the Austrian Balkans, archaeology and historic artefacts were also meant to strengthen inhabitants' loyalty to the rulers. On the other hand, certain local archaeologies within the empire served nationalist goals. Another focus is on the relations between archaeologists from different parts of the empire and beyond.

ORGANIZERS

Maximilian Georg | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Culture Studies
Felix Höflmayer | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Archaeological Institute
Agnes Woitzuck | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Archaeological Institute

No registration required

CONTACT

Maximilian.Georg@oeaw.ac.at
Felix.Hoeftmayer@oeaw.ac.at

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Illustration © "The castelli of Pizzugghi and its finds", from Die österreichisch-ungarische Monarchie in Wort und Bild: Das Küstenland, Vienna, 1891, 127

ÖAW

ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

21-22 SEPTEMBER 2026
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASSE 19,
1010 VIENNA



Symposium

HISTORY OF AUSTRIAN/AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE BALKANS AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, MID-19TH TO MID-20TH CENTURIES

ÖAW IKW

Austrian
Archaeological
Institute

Funded by
the European Union

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

- 09.00–09.15** **Welcome**
Johannes Feichtinger | Vienna, Institute of Culture Studies, OeAW
Andreas Pülz | Vienna, Austrian Archaeological Institute, OeAW
Maximilian Georg | Vienna, Institute of Culture Studies, OeAW
Felix Höflmayer, Agnes Woitzuck | Vienna, Austrian Archaeological Institute, OeAW
- 09.15–10.15** **Panel I: Slovenia and Viennese Art**
Chair: Julia Budka | Munich
Črtomir Lorber | Ljubljana
Balduin Saria and Archaeology in Slovenia and Wider Central Europe
Mina G. Radovanović | Belgrade
The Old Shaping the Modern: Archaeology and Viennese Painting in the Late 19th Century
- 10.15–10.45** COFFEE BREAK
- 10.45–12.15** **Panel II: Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina**
Chair: Agnes Woitzuck | Vienna
Tatjana Koprivica | Podgorica
Austro-Hungarian Archaeological Missions in Montenegro in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries
Maximilian Georg | Vienna
Archaeology and Colonialism in Austro-Hungarian Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1878–1918
Maximilian Hartmuth | Vienna
Late Ottoman Material Culture in the Bosnian Museum
- 12.15–14.15** LUNCH BREAK
- 14.15–15.45** **Panel III: Carl Patsch in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Beyond**
Chair: Sandra Klos | Vienna
Nirvana Silnović | Vienna
"... als Mensch zum Menschen": The Correspondence between Carl Patsch and Mihovil Abramić
Felix Teichner & Tobias Heuwinkel | Marburg
Carl Patsch in Herzegovina
Daniel Baric | Paris
Carl Patsch in Dalmatia
- 15.45–16.15** COFFEE BREAK
- 16.15–17.45** **Panel IV: Prehistoric Archaeology**
Chair: Felix Höflmayer | Vienna
Ivana Mirković | Lucca
Prehistoric Gold Spirals from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Vienna's Natural History Museum: Reconstructing Provenance and Collection History
Florian-Jan Ostrowski | Vienna
From Rural Thrace to Imperial Austria: Moriz Eduard Weiser and His Archaeological Excavations in the 1870s
Brigitta Mader | Vienna/Trieste
Vienna and Research into the Prehistory of the Empire's Southeast: Is It Free from Imperial Bias?

- 18.00–19.00** **Keynote Lecture I**
Alessandro Guidi | Rome
Relations between Italian and Austrian Prehistorians from 1861 Onwards

- 19.00** RECEPTION

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

- 09.15–10.15** **Panel V: Istria and Dalmatia I**
Chair: Maximilian Georg | Vienna
Marko Špikić | Zagreb
Terra incognita on the Eve of Revolution: Excavations in Salona in the 1840s
Paula Špek | Zagreb
Two Models of Austro-Hungarian Archaeology: Imperial Archaeological Work and Conservation Practices in Istria and Dalmatia
- 10.15–10.45** COFFEE BREAK
- 10.45–11.45** **Panel VI: Istria and Dalmatia II**
Chair: Maximilian Georg | Vienna
Franko Corić | Zagreb
Archaeology as an Instrument of Identity in Istria and Dalmatia
Robert Matijašić | Pula
Austrian vs. Italian Archaeologists in Istria: The Società istriana di archeologia e storia patria (1884–1918)
- 11.45–13.45** LUNCH BREAK
- 13.45–15.45** **Panel VII: Turkey, Egypt, and the Levant**
Chair: Franz L. Fillafer | Vienna
Martin Steskal | Vienna
Austrian Archaeology in Ephesus between Science, Empire, and Cultural Prestige (1895–1914)
Mustafa Kemal Baran | Berlin/Istanbul
Defining Antiquities: Ottoman Agency and Austrian Excavations at Ephesus
Julia Budka | Munich
Pyramids instead of Nubian Cemeteries: The Question of the Colonial Background to Hermann Junkers' Choice of Concession
Felix Höflmayer & Agnes Woitzuck | Vienna
Austria in the Holy Land: Ernst Sellin's Excavations at Tell Ta'anek (Taanach), Tell es-Sultan (Jericho), and Tell Balata (Shechem) in the Early 20th Century CE
- 15.45–16.15** COFFEE BREAK
- 16.15–17.15** **Keynote Lecture II**
Margarita Díaz-Andreu | Barcelona
Digging for Nation and Empire: European Archaeology in the Age of New Imperialism
- 17.15–18.00** **Final Discussion**
- 19.00** DINNER