

Symposium:

History of Austrian/Austro-Hungarian Archaeology in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, Mid-19th to Mid-20th Centuries

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 21–22 September 2026

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.

Abstracts and Biographical Notes

Panel I: Slovenia and Viennese Art

Črtomir Lorber (Ljubljana): Balduin Saria and Archaeology in Slovenia and Wider Central Europe

Balduin Saria (1893–1974) was one of the key figures in the development of archaeology, epigraphy, and history of antiquity in Central Europe. He wrote over 200 scholarly texts, participated in numerous projects and conferences, and was actively involved in politics. He established classical archaeology and ancient history at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts (1927–1942) and lifted them to a European level, despite being partially excluded from other parts of Europe after the collapse of Austria-Hungary. Saria was also a committed German nationalist, who lived and worked through major political and scholarly upheavals. His life offers an important perspective on the changes in archaeological practices and organisation in South-eastern and Central Europe.

My paper first discusses how Austria-Hungary's collapse changed, or did not change, archaeology in the region between 1918 and 1941. Second, I use Saria's voice to trace the changing relationships between the region's archaeologists of different nationalities during that period.

Črtomir Lorber (Assist. Dr.) is currently employed at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, to conduct the post-doctoral project *Balduin Saria and His Role in the Development of Archaeology and History in Southeastern Europe*, funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS). Lorber completed his Bachelor's degree in 2013 and his Master's degree in 2016. He

obtained his PhD in 2022 with the thesis *The Archaeological Society of Yugoslavia and Its Significance for the Development of the Archaeological Discipline in the Period from 1949 to 1991*, which has since been revised and published as a book. Since 2013, Lorber has mostly been employed in the private sector, as a contractor in preventive archaeology.

Mina G. Radovanović (Belgrade): The Old Shaping the Modern: Archaeology and Viennese Painting in the Late 19th Century

Urban renovations and the construction of the Viennese *Ring* subtly altered the cultural *status quo* in the 19th century. On the emperor's orders, important buildings were constructed in the fashion appropriate for the *Gründerzeit*: historicism. Referencing (but not outright copying) the styles of past *golden ages* served a dual intention: 1) to signal an unbroken connection to history's great empires; 2) to follow the present empire in surpassing the past.

Historical "correctness" was particularly important in painting. Monumental painting was the most respected in the hierarchy of genres as per André Félibien. His definition spread as art academies formed, and it became part of an academic credo. The increasing availability of archaeological finds, no longer confined to *wunderkammers* but institutionalised in museums such as the *Kunsthistorisches*, co-shaped the visual culture of everyday Vienna. Newly constructed buildings required painted decoration, which artists such as August Eisenmenger, Hans Makart, and Gustav Klimt sought to provide. Painters specialising in historical narratives and orientalism were able to model their works on a concrete visual reference. Image components such as costumes, architecture, everyday objects, and weapons no longer had to be imagined.

This paper explores the connection between Austrian archaeology and contemporary art production by analysing the form and context of paintings by selected artists from late 19th-century Vienna. I will also address the *why* by discussing the broader (and much older) visual rhetoric of empires fashioning themselves as heirs to Rome and guardians of classical culture and grandeur.

Mina G. Radovanović (b. 1998, Užice, Serbia) completed her BA and MA studies in Art History at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, in 2021 and 2022, respectively. She is currently a PhD candidate at the same faculty, with the project *Classical Antiquity in Viennese Painting, 1870–1914*, supervised by Prof. Dr. Igor Borozan. Radovanović's research interests include Serbian and European art of the 19th and early 20th centuries, with a special focus on Greek and Roman antiquity and mythology in fin-de-siècle visual art and culture.

Radovanović has worked as a curator and exhibition guide for several galleries and museums in Belgrade. She participates in conferences and symposia in Serbia and abroad, and contributes papers and articles to relevant scientific journals, catalogues, and yearbooks. She has spoken at numerous educational and cultural events on Serbian and European art history and culture, such as *Klepsidra*, *Kritika na delu*, and *HistoryCast*. She also organises and participates in the *Art Talks* panels, as part of the Seminar for European Art and Visual Culture of the Early Modern and Modern Age, and she is a member of the Communications Committee of Serbia's National Council of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Panel II: Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina

Tatjana Koprivica (Podgorica): Austro-Hungarian Archaeological Missions in Montenegro in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

Based on archival sources and relevant literature, this paper gives an overview of Austro-Hungarian archaeological research missions in Montenegro in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which significantly contributed to the study of Montenegro's cultural heritage. At the same time, the scholarly interests of Austro-Hungarian, Italian, and French institutions were closely intertwined with their respective governments' pursuit of political and economic influence in the Balkans.

The most important missions dispatched to Montenegro by Austro-Hungarian institutions – the Archaeological-Epigraphic Seminar, the Austrian Archaeological Institute, and the Balkan Commission – were led by Piero Sticotti in 1892 together with Luka Jelić, and in 1902 and 1907 together with Ćiril Iveković. Their research focused on the Roman city of Doclea. The excavations' results were published in Vienna in 1913 under the title *Die römische Stadt Doclea in Montenegro*. Later, during the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Montenegro in 1916, Camillo Praschniker and Arnold Schober undertook fieldwork and carried out reconnaissance of ancient sites such as Doclea.

Tatjana Koprivica (PhD) is an art historian and Senior Scientific Associate at the University of Montenegro, Institute of History, Podgorica. Since 2016, she has been employed as Professor of European and Montenegrin Art History.

She is the author and co-author of three monographs and has published over thirty articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, as well as six professional and educational manuals. She has also participated in the implementation of twenty national and international scientific research projects, serving both as project leader and as a research team member.

Koprivica is or has been a member of several professional and academic bodies, including Montenegro's National Commission for UNESCO, the Committee for Arts of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Association of Art Historians of Montenegro, and the Editorial Board of the *Lexicon of Visual Art of Montenegro* (Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts).

Maximilian Georg (Vienna): Archaeology and Colonialism in Austro-Hungarian Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1878–1918

Austria-Hungary ruled Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had previously been under the Ottomans, from 1878 to 1918, under circumstances often described as “colonial”. Austro-Hungarian rule was accompanied by extensive archaeological activities. This paper investigates how that archaeology was colonial in its purpose and practice. The Austro-Hungarians regarded Bosnia-Herzegovina as an archaeological “El Dorado”, largely inaccessible in Ottoman times. While their occupation opened it up, archaeological remains now had to be saved from modernisation works as well as the “ignorance” and “vandalism” of local inhabitants. The new government emphatically supported the collection and excavation of archaeological objects across Bosnia-Herzegovina. It decreed their protection, while encouraging subordinate authorities and private citizens to make and report discoveries. Moreover, it established a Provincial Museum in the capital of Sarajevo, which exhibited and published prehistoric and Roman remains, and medieval tombstones. The objects were to teach the population their supposed Bosnian, pro-Habsburg identity, legitimise the Austro-Hungarian rulers

as the new Romans, and demonstrate to Europe and the world the success of Austria-Hungary's "civilising mission" in an "oriental" country. This "civilising mission" under military occupation was the strongest indicator of an Austro-Hungarian colonialism. The individual archaeologists, most of whom came from other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, worked in that colonial situation, whether they supported it or not. Although their finds were not exported to the imperial capital of Vienna, and their archaeology openly relied on local assistance, the science of archaeology served the government as one of the non-violent tools for its soft-power style of rule.

Maximilian Georg holds a PhD in global history from the University of Leipzig. His research focuses on the history of science in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, namely the history of archaeology in Egypt and the Balkans as well as the history of geography. Since 2024, he has been a Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Culture Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, with the project *Power and the Past: European Empires and Archaeology in the Balkans, 1860s–1941*.

Maximilian Hartmuth (Vienna): Late Ottoman Material Culture in the Bosnian Museum

The focus of my paper is the ethnographic "pavilion" that forms part of the grand late Habsburg-era complex known as the Bosnian-Herzegovinian "Landesmuseum" and, correspondingly, "Zemaljski muzej" in the local languages. Built and inaugurated in Sarajevo just before the outbreak of World War I, the pavilion incorporated six "rooms" representing the residential culture of late Ottoman Bosnian elites, with objects the museum had purchased from the late 19th century onwards. While I have addressed the planning history of the museum complex and the Orientalising interior architecture of the pavilion elsewhere, this paper examines the "rooms" in terms of architecture as well as their role as showcases of material culture.

Maximilian Hartmuth (PhD, Privatdoz.) is a permanent faculty member at the University of Vienna's Department of Art History. His research focuses on the architectural history of Central and Southeast Europe. His recent publications include *Architektur einer austro-islamischen Kaderschmiede: Die Scheriatrichterschule in Sarajevo (1886–1889) = Rasadnik austro-islamske elite: Arhitektura Šerijatske sudačke škole u Sarajevu (1886–1889)* (Leykam, 2026) and *The Kaiser's Mosques: Islamic Architecture and Orientalizing Style in Habsburg Bosnia, 1878–1918* (Peter Lang, 2024).

Panel III: Carl Patsch in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Beyond

Nirvana Silnović (Vienna): “... als Mensch zum Menschen”: The Correspondence between Carl Patsch and Mihovil Abramić

Correspondence offers a particularly valuable perspective on the personal relationships and professional networks that shaped archaeological practice in the early 20th century. This paper focuses on the correspondence between Carl Patsch (1865–1945), a curator at the Landesmuseum in Sarajevo, and Mihovil Abramić (1884–1962), a classical archaeologist trained in Vienna who later became an important figure in the archaeology of the eastern Adriatic. Their surviving letters, extending from 1906 to 1921, document a long-standing relationship encompassing scholarly exchange, professional advice, institutional affairs, and personal concerns.

Among the various subjects they discussed, particular attention will be given to the Archaeological Exhibition held in the Baths of Diocletian in Rome in 1911, as part of the 50-year celebration of Italian unification. The correspondence, together with other archival documentation, offers insights into the preparation and presentation of the Bosnian contribution. The paper will examine the objects and other materials from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the exhibition as well as their selection and display in the broader context of how the exhibition represented Rome and its provinces.

Nirvana Silnović is a postdoctoral researcher at the Austrian Archaeological Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, where she is affiliated with the Religious Studies research group. She is currently the recipient of an APART-GSK Excellence Fellowship, leading a project on the cult of Mithras in Roman Dalmatia. Her research interests include religion and cult practices in the Roman provinces, ancient polychromy, and the history of archaeology in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Felix Teichner & Tobias Heuwinkel (Marburg): Carl Patsch in Herzegovina

From 1899 to 1914, Karl Patsch conducted excavations at the Mogorjelo archaeological site near Čapljina (Bosnia and Herzegovina). This reveals a specific cultural-political agenda, which was also expressed, amongst other things, in the founding of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Institute for Balkan Research in 1908 and was intended to bring ancient ideals to the fore in the course of Austro-Hungarian nation-building. Patsch kept a diary of his excavations, now held in the Bavarian Main State Archives. Its first-ever complete transcription and analysis allow us to reinterpret the excavations.

For instance, a list of visitors includes high-ranking representatives of the academic community of the time, such as Hans Dragendorff of the Roman-Germanic Commission in Berlin, raising questions about the influence these contemporary luminaries had on the excavation methods at Mogorjelo and on Patsch's scholarly interpretations. Purely archaeological considerations regarding the origins of the site, today a National Monument, can also be gleaned from the records. Whilst the late antique villa is now a museum, both its predecessor buildings and the Christian basilicas likely erected on their ruins in the mid-5th century have largely disappeared. Precisely these structures are likely to have shaped the continuous use of the site as an important focal point for the local population, a trend evident from the early Middle Ages up to the 19th century. Patsch's records offer us a unique insight into the state of the site at the time, which can no longer be ascertained from the site itself today.

Felix Teichner (Prof.) has headed the Prehistory Department of Marburg University since 2024. His research focuses on provincial Roman archaeology, the Migration

Period, and geoarchaeology. He has conducted fieldwork and excavations in Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Croatia, Italy, France, England, Tunisia, Portugal, and Spain, with a special focus on the Iberian Peninsula.

Tobias Heuwinkel (MA) has been a research assistant at the Prehistory Department of Marburg University since late 2025. He studied archaeology and history, a choice driven by a special focus on historical-archaeological issues. His research focuses on the archaeology of the Early to High Middle Ages and the early modern period as well as “historical archaeology”.

Daniel Baric (Paris): Carl Patsch in Dalmatia

Carl Patsch is mostly noted for his work within the activities of the *Landesmuseum* (Provincial Museum) in Sarajevo, surveying and covering the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, his professional network extended to neighbouring Dalmatia, where he also conducted exploratory journeys, namely to islands. This corresponded to the emerging conception of Roman provincial archaeology, which considered Dalmatia as a whole, within its original boundaries, thus including Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yet Patsch also experienced his time’s political and administrative boundaries, which led him to question the way imperial Austro-Hungarian archaeology and heritage policies were organised.

Daniel Baric is associate professor at the Department of Slavic Studies of Sorbonne University. His research focuses on the cultural history of the Habsburg Monarchy in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Panel IV: Prehistoric Archaeology

Ivana Mirković (Lucca): Prehistoric Gold Spirals from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Vienna's Natural History Museum: Reconstructing Provenance and Collection History

Museums can offer new perspectives on imperial collecting, particularly when individual objects are traced through archival documentation. This paper examines a group of prehistoric gold spirals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, currently exhibited in the Gold Cabinet of Vienna's Natural History Museum. I use their provenance and collection history to reconstruct their transition from private ownership to the museum.

Two archival letters from 1914 reveal a previously unrecognised figure involved in the collecting of archaeological objects from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The attempt to identify this individual provides insight not only into the networks through which prehistoric objects entered the Natural History Museum, but also into the life and connections of a person linked to both Bosnia and Vienna in the early 20th century.

The gold spirals are one of several case studies of a broader doctoral research project on the archaeological collection from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Vienna's Natural History Museum between 1880 and 1936, with a special focus on the collecting practices and the people engaged in acquiring these objects.

Ivana Mirković is an archaeologist and PhD candidate in Analysis and Management of Cultural Heritage at the IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca. Her doctoral research focuses on the provenance and collection history of archaeological objects from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Vienna's Natural History Museum. As part of this project, she has conducted extensive research at this museum and at the State Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. She has also undertaken research stays at the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture.

Mirković's earlier academic work focused on prehistoric archaeology. She completed an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degree in Quaternary and Prehistory at the University of Ferrara, the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar, the Museum of Prehistoric Art and the Instituto Terra e Memória in Mação, and the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Archaeology from the University of Sarajevo, with one exchange year at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Florian-Jan Ostrowski (Vienna): From Rural Thrace to Imperial Austria: Moriz Eduard Weiser and His Archaeological Excavations in the 1870s

The Habsburg physician Moriz Eduard Weiser (born 1841) served the state in several ways. First of all, with his medical knowledge: he was a physician on the corvette SMS Kaiser Max and worked for the Military Liberation Commission in Dalmatia. Second, he was a private researcher loyal to imperial Vienna, with a network throughout the Habsburg Empire. From the late 1860s, Weiser was listed as a member and correspondent of the Imperial Geological Survey. From the 1870s, he was involved with the Anthropological Society in Vienna. He then moved first to Montenegro and later to Thrace, where he worked as a physician in railway construction. In this period, he organised archaeological excavations of tumuli near the railway. Afterwards, he returned to Vienna and became a local physician, involved with the Vienna Voluntary Rescue Society, the Austrian Society of the White Cross, and the monarchy's Civil Service Association. He gifted objects from his excavations and collections to

Vienna's newly founded Imperial Natural History Museum and the Imperial Coin and Antiquities Cabinet.

My paper introduces Weiser as an archaeological autodidact, who participated in Habsburg research organisations and, in his spare time, served colonial interests in the Balkans and added to the imperial museum collections.

Florian-Jan Ostrowski studied history, prehistory, and historical archaeology in Vienna, Warsaw, Veliko Tarnovo, and Tübingen. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Vienna, writing a dissertation on archaeology as media culture and on how archaeologists reach the public using the case of prehistoric pile-dwellings.

Brigitta Mader (Vienna/Trieste): Vienna and Research into the Prehistory of the Empire's Southeast: Is It Free from Imperial Bias?

In the second half of the 19th century, national tensions and aspirations for independence became increasingly obvious in the multi-ethnic Habsburg Monarchy. It was no coincidence that the Austro-Hungarian Compromise was concluded in 1867, and that the heir to the throne, Franz Ferdinand (1863–1914), was considering “trialism” with a Slavic third part of the empire.

In the empire's south, the Italian-speaking inhabitants were increasingly critical of the Austrian authorities. Trieste and Trento became strongholds of irredentism. These national ambitions were not limited to political agendas and affairs but also affected cultural and scientific spheres. Not least, they caused sharp polemics in archaeology, particularly in prehistoric research, as the excavation projects carried out by Vienna – and even more so the incorporation of finds into Vienna's Natural History Museum – were viewed as imperialism.

The validity of this accusation is the focus of this paper, which examines the activities of the “supra-regional” Viennese institutions within the Austrian part of the monarchy, analyses their motives and background as well as their possible influence, and compares this with activities and reactions at the regional level, all based on archival materials. Furthermore, the paper sheds light on the specific case of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Austrian archaeological exploration of these territories after their occupation in 1878.

Brigitta Mader (Dr. phil.) studied Slavic Studies and Prehistory and Early History in Vienna. She works as a lecturer at the Institute for Prehistory and Historical Archaeology of the University of Vienna, as an associate researcher at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (Prehistory & West Asian/North African Archaeology) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and as an associate researcher at Vienna's Natural History Museum (Prehistoric Department). Her main research interests are the history of science in the Habsburg Monarchy, the history of prehistoric archaeology, and the history of Austrian monument preservation until 1918 with a special focus on the formerly imperial coastal regions.

Keynote Lecture I

Alessandro Guidi (Rome): Relations between Italian and Austrian Prehistorians from 1861 Onwards

In Italy, prehistory emerged as a “national science” during the era of the Risorgimento uprisings, around the mid-19th century. Many of the early scholars were patriots and therefore had problems with the Austro-Hungarian police in what later became northern Italy. At the same time, several of them studied in Vienna, were familiar with Austrian publications, and in some cases collaborated with Austrian scholars.

This lecture explores some aspects of the relationship between the two countries in the field of prehistoric research, from the discovery of bronze objects in the Peschiera pile-dwelling to Luigi Pigorini's Terramare theory – which, not coincidentally, developed during the era of the Triple Alliance between Italy, Austria, and Germany. The lecture also considers “frontier” archaeologists such as Paolo Orsi and, above all, Carlo Marchesetti. Despite national contrasts, the first professor of classical archaeology in Rome was an Austrian scholar, Emanuel Loewy.

After World War I, Trentino-Alto Adige and the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia became part of the Italian state. It is extremely interesting to explore the history of archaeological research in Alto Adige (Austria's South Tyrol), the only one of those territories to have strong linguistic and cultural affinities with Austria. Fortunately, the conflicts – some of them bitter – that have arisen from the situation do not affect collaboration in the field of prehistoric archaeology, as is also demonstrated by the story of one of the most famous discoveries in 20th-century European archaeology, the “Similaun Man”.

Alessandro Guidi (b. 1952, Rome) is a retired Professor of the Methodology of Archaeological Research and of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology at the Universities of Verona and Roma Tre. His research focuses on the protohistory of the central Tyrrhenian region and the history of prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology.

Guidi served as president of the Commission on the History of Archaeology of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences. His books include *History of Pale ethnology* (Laterza 1988), *Methods of Archaeological Research* (Laterza 1994), *Prehistory of Social Complexity* (Laterza 2000), *Archaeology of Identities and Differences* (with Mariassunta Cuozzo) (Carocci 2013), and *Prehistoric Rome* (Carocci 2024).

Panel V: Istria and Dalmatia I

Marko Špikić (Zagreb): *Terra incognita* on the Eve of Revolution: Excavations in Salona in the 1840s

When he visited Dalmatia in 1818 in the retinue of Emperor Francis I, the antiquarian Anton Steinbüchel von Rheinwall (1790–1883) called it a *terra incognita* and *the Austrian Pompeii*. Impressed by the antiquities and unexplored sites, he encouraged the court to support institutionalised research. This paper discusses the archaeological research conducted in ancient Salona in the 1840s by the local priest and antiquarian Francesco Carrara (1812–1854). This was the second period of excavations after those in the 1820s, initially conducted by the physician and antiquarian Carlo Lanza (1778/1781–1834). Both campaigns were carried out with the support of the Viennese court and in collaboration with Vienna's Numismatics and Antiquities Cabinet. While Lanza's campaign consisted of isolated soundings, Carrara's discovered the topography of the entire ancient city. Both undertakings reflected the political strategy of the imperial colonisers, who sought to strengthen their subjects' loyalty by founding the Museum of Antiquities in Split in 1820. Nevertheless, the pre-revolutionary Salona excavations have a significant place in the history of Croatian archaeology. They continued intermittently during the period of national emancipation in the late 19th century, although not playing a role for collective identity until the short-lived Italian occupation of Split in 1941. The paper considers Carrara's role in organising the excavations, his contacts in Metternich's circle, results, reports on discoveries, and the interest the excavations aroused in Vienna.

Marko Špikić (b. 1973, Zagreb) is a tenured professor at the Department of Art History of the University of Zagreb (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences). He teaches the history and theory of architectural conservation in Europe from the Renaissance to the present. As an author and editor, he has published 17 books and numerous scientific articles on the history of antiquarian studies, archaeology, architectural conservation and reconstruction, and conservation systems in Croatia and Europe. From 2011 to 2017, he was the president of Croatia's National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). He is also active on the ICOMOS International Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration and in the German Working Group on the Theory and Teaching of Monument Conservation (*Arbeitskreis Theorie und Lehre der Denkmalpflege*).

Paula Špek (Zagreb): Two Models of Austro-Hungarian Archaeology: Imperial Archaeological Work and Conservation Practices in Istria and Dalmatia

Although Istria and Dalmatia today belong to the same national territory, in the 19th century they operated as two fundamentally distinct crown lands within the Habsburg imperial system. Their administrative and political separation shaped the development of archaeological research and monument conservation, which progressed at different speeds and according to distinct institutional logics.

While both regions formally fell under the authority of Vienna's Central Commission for the Preservation of Monuments (*Zentralkommission*), practices on the ground diverged, reflecting local administrative structures, political priorities, and the influence of key figures who mediated imperial policies. In Istria, Anton Gnirs, a military engineer and imperial conservator, oversaw systematic documentation, topographic surveys, and technical interventions, often emphasising Roman heritage as a symbol of imperial authority. In Dalmatia, Frane Bulić, a priest and historian, combined imperial institutional support with local scholarly and ecclesiastical networks, directing long-

term excavations at sites such as Salona and integrating early Christian and medieval monuments into broader cultural and regional narratives.

Together, these case studies illustrate how Austro-Hungarian archaeology was not a monolithic enterprise but a constellation of regionally specific practices shaped by differing degrees of central oversight, local conditions, and individual agency. The comparison also sheds light on the broader imperial objectives of archaeology: legitimising Habsburg authority, mediating between local and central interests, and producing knowledge that could be selectively mobilised for political, cultural, and national purposes up until today.

Paula Špek (b. 1999, Zagreb) completed her Master's degree in Art History and German Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, in 2023, ranking among the top 1% of students. She has participated in several research projects, including archaeological and heritage studies, with a focus on medieval art and architecture. She currently conducts a PhD project on medieval monuments in Istria and the role of Austro-Hungarian conservation officers in their research, documentation, and interpretation. In parallel, she is the office manager of the Friends of Heritage Association, where she continuously participates in national and international projects, courses, and workshops; organises events, lectures, and promotional activities related to local heritage; and works on academic and heritage-related projects.

Panel VI: Istria and Dalmatia II

Franko Ćorić (Zagreb): Archaeology as an Instrument of Identity in Istria and Dalmatia

The period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy represents a formative era for modern archaeology in Istria and Dalmatia. Austrian cultural policy was based on the vision of a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious society led by German-speaking scholars. The German-speaking academic community truly contributed to the stratification and definition of historical disciplines. The I. & R. Central Commission for Monuments based its activities on existing local researchers and professional societies and encouraged the establishment of new ones. There was a transition from amateur collecting of antiquities to systematic topography and museological processing of finds, which firmly placed Istria and Dalmatia on the archaeological map of Europe and heightened the state's international reputation.

Thanks to institutionalisation, the establishment of professional bodies, the purchase of land, and the provision of annual subsidies, systematic and science-based research began. Although the latter's focus was mainly on the heritage of classical antiquity, significant contributions were also made to prehistoric, early Christian, and early medieval archaeology. The process of identification with certain historical periods defined as nationally important was particularly significant.

Key figures included the prominent researcher of Istrian antiquities Pietro Kandler; the first Dalmatian archaeologist of the Conze school Mihovil Glavinić; another student of Vienna's Archaeological-Epigraphic Seminar, the Pula conservator Rudolf Weissshäupl; the pioneer of research into the heritage of the early medieval Croatian state Lujo Marun; the archaeologist and Central Commission conservator Frane Bulić; and Istria's eventual provincial conservator Anton Gnirs. Significant sites included Pula, Nesactium, Zadar, Biograd, Burnum, Knin, Salona, Split, and Narona.

Franko Ćorić (PhD) (b. 1976) is assistant professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb. He completed a BA and MA in Art History and German Philology at the same institution and subsequently specialised in heritage preservation. His doctoral research focused on the organisational structure and practical activities of the I. & R. Central Commission for Artistic and Historical Monuments in Vienna (1850–1918). This extensive study was published in 2025 as the monograph *Vrijeme utemeljitelja* ("The Era of the Founders"). Ćorić's primary research interests are the history and theory of conservation and restoration, the historical scholarly exchange between Croatian and German-speaking countries, and contemporary challenges within the field of heritage preservation.

Robert Matijašić (Pula): Austrian vs. Italian Archaeologists in Istria: The *Società istriana di archeologia e storia patria* (1884–1918)

During the Austro-Hungarian period, the cultural, ethnic, and political situation in Istria was complex. Relations between its main ethnic groups – Italians and Croats/Slovenes – were far from straightforward. The Austrian administration frequently found itself in conflict with both groups on various issues. Within both the Italian and Croatian-Slovenian elites, historiographical questions held a significant weight, as each community grounded its political and cultural claims in competing historical narratives: Italians used the argument of "first arrival", whereas Croats and Slovenes emphasised their demographic prevalence. While the Slavic communities developed their modern national identities later, the Italians founded the Istrian Society for Archaeology and Local History in 1884. Founders and/or members included Andrea Amoroso, Bernardo Benussi, Carlo Gregorutti, Alberto Puschi, Bernardo Schiavuzzi, and Pietro Sticotti. Although the Austrian administration lacked a permanent field-based heritage service until the 1890s, periodic inspections were carried out by Alois Hauser, Moriz Hoernes, Friedrich von Kenner, and Eduard Nowotny. In Pula, Rudolf Weisshäupl served as heritage commissioner from 1891 to 1901, succeeded by Anton Gnirs until 1918. There was no substantive collaboration between Italian and Austrian archaeologists; they rather had a largely passive and parallel coexistence. Austrian officials published in official Viennese publications, while Italian scholars published in the Istrian Society's bulletin and in Trieste journals and newspapers. Only on rare occasions did texts from one milieu appear in publications of the other.

Robert Matijašić (b. 1957) is Professor of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Juraj Dobrila University in Pula and was previously curator at Pula's Archaeological Museum of Istria. He is a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb. His areas of interest and research include the archaeology and ancient history of Istria and the northern Adriatic, especially economic history, the archaeology of Roman villas, epigraphy, and the history of archaeological research. Before and after obtaining his PhD in 1995, he pursued further training in Padua, Rome, Macerata, Oxford, and Bordeaux. Matijašić has published nine books and around 200 scholarly articles in journals and conference proceedings in Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and elsewhere. He has taken part in more than 140 conferences in these countries and has led or participated in scientific projects.

Panel VII: Turkey, Egypt, and the Levant

Martin Steskal (Vienna): Austrian Archaeology in Ephesus between Science, Empire, and Cultural Prestige (1895–1914)

The beginnings of Austrian archaeology in Ephesus at the end of the 19th century must be understood within the broader framework of imperial competition, colonial science, and cultural diplomacy. Although motivated by genuine scholarly curiosity, the exploration of classical antiquity was deeply entangled with political, economic, and ideological interests. Inspired by humanist traditions and the romantic fascination with the “Orient”, archaeological expeditions were also acts of cultural appropriation, serving the prestige of the Habsburg Empire and the enrichment of Vienna’s museums.

Following the example of earlier British initiatives, Otto Benndorf, Professor of Classical Archaeology in Vienna, secured state and private funding to launch systematic excavations in Ephesus in 1895. The enterprise combined scientific aims with imperial aspirations: to demonstrate Austria-Hungary’s participation in the great powers’ “civilising mission” and to claim a place in the international hierarchy of archaeological research. The establishment of the Austrian Archaeological Institute (*Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut*) in 1898 institutionalised these ambitions.

The work in Ephesus reflected both the modern methodological standards of the time – precise topographical surveys, architectural documentation, and historical synthesis – and the imperial structures that made such research possible. Excavation rights were granted under Ottoman legislation allowing a division of finds, which filled the museums in Vienna until 1906. The project thus exemplifies how archaeology in the late 19th century operated as a scientific, cultural, and political enterprise – an instrument of soft power that connected the intellectual ambitions of Central Europe with the colonial realities of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Martin Steskal (Priv.-Doz. Dr.) holds degrees in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History from the University of Vienna. Since 1999, he has annually participated in the Ephesus excavations. From 2001, he was a scientific employee at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (OeAI) in Vienna and responsible for several externally funded projects. In 2012, he completed his habilitation at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna (*venia docendi* for Classical Archaeology). From 2015, he was assistant director of the Ephesus excavations. Since September 2023, he has headed the OeAI’s Department of Historical Archaeology. Since 2024, he has served as chairman of ÖAW Turkey and director of the excavations in Ephesus.

Mustafa Kemal Baran (Berlin/Istanbul): Defining Antiquities: Ottoman Agency and Austrian Excavations at Ephesus

This paper investigates the history of Austrian archaeological excavations at Ephesus from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries. While traditional historiography often categorises these activities as unilateral extensions of Austro-Hungarian imperial power, this study utilises the newly accessible archives of the Ottoman Imperial Museum and other Ottoman documents to demonstrate a landscape of active negotiation and administrative control.

The focus is on how Ottoman officials defined and classified antiquities in the specific context of Ephesus and how these regulatory frameworks differed from those applied to other contemporary excavations. By examining the correspondence surrounding

the acquisition of excavation permits and the subsequent translocation of antiquities to Vienna, the paper evaluates the agency of Ottoman bureaucrats and local intermediaries. It moves beyond top-down imperial narratives to reveal direct interactions between Austrian researchers, Ottoman officials, and local communities.

The analysis thus identifies the specific mechanisms used by the Ottoman state to manage foreign archaeological ambitions. The findings indicate that the transfer of artifacts to Austrian museums was a result of calculated diplomatic exchange and administrative processes rather than unregulated imperial extraction. Ottoman archival sources allow us to reconstruct in detail how archaeological knowledge was produced through the shifting power dynamics and legal definitions of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Mustafa Kemal Baran (Dr.) was most recently the Berlin State Museums (*Staatliche Museen zu Berlin*) ANAMED Joint Postdoctoral Fellow in Provenance Research at Koç University, Istanbul. He received his PhD in archaeology and history of art from Koç University and holds Master's degrees in architectural history from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, and in classical archaeology from the University of Oxford.

Baran has been awarded several fellowships, including the Andreas Tietze Memorial Fellowship in Turkish Studies at the University of Vienna, the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship in the Humanities at the University of Oxford, and the Berlin State Museums International Scholarship. He is also a recipient of the SALT Research Award and the Princeton University Library Research Fellowship. His interdisciplinary research is grounded in cultural heritage studies, archaeology, and architectural history, and focuses on the history and politics of archaeology in the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

Julia Budka (Munich): Pyramids instead of Nubian Cemeteries: The Question of the Colonial Background to Hermann Junkers' Choice of Concession

This paper examines the possible reasons, especially of a scientific nature, for the exchange of concessions between Hermann Junker (Vienna) and Georg Steindorff (Leipzig) in 1911. The agreement resulted in the exchange of Junker's excavation concession in Nubia for the prestigious site of Giza. Consequently, the renowned Viennese excavations at the pyramids commenced in 1912.

The paper specifically addresses the theory that this was related to the contempt for Nubia as a "backwater" of Egypt, which allegedly lacked aspects desired from a civilisation, such as written culture. Viennese Egyptology in the 1910s and 20s will be considered regarding the colonial setting, racism, and Egyptological stereotypes in perceptions of Nubia. This is possible thanks to current research on the period, for example on George Reisner's excavations in Nubia. My focus is on what Junker contributed to determining an alleged civilisational boundary between "Black Africa" and "pharaonic Egypt".

Julia Budka is Professor of Egyptian Archaeology and Art at LMU Munich. She holds a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Vienna (2007). Her fields of expertise are Egyptian field archaeology and material culture, with her current research focusing on cultural diversity in the Nile Valley during the Late Bronze Age based on material remains. She conducts excavations in Egypt and Sudan, both at funerary and settlement sites, especially at Luxor (Thebes/Asasif) and between Attab and Ferka (MUAFS and DiverseNile projects).

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

The Austrian contribution to archaeological fieldwork in the Holy Land in the early 20th century CE has not only faded from the memory of the wider public interested in archaeology, but is also scarcely acknowledged within the academic community. The German Protestant theologian Ernst Sellin, who taught at the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Vienna from 1897 to 1908, succeeded in securing funds from both state and private sources for his excavations at Tell Ta'anek in 1902–4, Tell es-Sultan (1907), and Tell Balata (1913–14), with the Imperial Academy of Sciences as the main sponsor. Sellin's excavations were among the largest German-speaking scholars undertook in the decades leading up to the First World War and were received as such in the contemporary press. At the same time, they represented the first point of contact with "Oriental" archaeology for some Austrian researchers. This paper reports on current research into the origins of these archaeological expeditions, the establishment of scientific and funding networks, and the projects' wider impact.

Felix Höflmayer is head of the Research Group *Archaeology of the Levant* at the Austrian Archaeological Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and served as co-director of the Austrian excavations at Tel Lachish (Israel) from 2017 to 2023. He also studies the history of research conducted by the Academy of Sciences in the southern Levant and is currently preparing a major project to publish the Austrian and German excavations at Tell Balata (Shechem) under the direction of Ernst Sellin.

Agnes Woitzuck (MA student, University of Vienna) is a student research assistant in the Research Group *Archaeology of the Levant* at the Austrian Archaeological Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She worked on the Austrian excavations at Tel Lachish (Israel) from 2017 to 2023 and conducted a project on Ernst Sellin's connections to the Academy of Sciences. She will also publish a selection of the ceramic finds excavated at Tell Balata and now housed at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

Keynote Lecture II

Margarita Díaz-Andreu (Barcelona): Digging for Nation and Empire: European Archaeology in the Age of New Imperialism

This lecture situates 19th- and early 20th-century European archaeology within the intertwined histories of nationalism, new imperialism, and colonialism, adopting a broad pan-European historiographical lens rather than narrow regional case studies. Nationalism evolved from civic ideals to ethnic and racial frameworks during the long 19th century, reshaping archaeological priorities: classical heritage was mainly mobilised for civic national identity, while local archaeology, particularly prehistoric and medieval remains, became foundational for ethnic nation-building across Europe.

Archaeology emerged as a key instrument not only for nationalism but also for the “new imperialism” that defined European global expansion. Formal colonial regimes imposed metropolitan values, extractive practices, and racial hierarchies on colonised societies, while intra-European imperial powers deployed comparable knowledge regimes across borderlands and multi-ethnic territories.

Against this broader European backdrop, Austro-Hungarian archaeology stands as one significant manifestation of these pan-continental trends. The lecture examines shared institutional models, ideological logics, and scholarly practices across European states and empires, reflecting on how modern archaeological historiography and the later postcolonial turn continue to re-evaluate this entangled legacy of archaeology, nation, and empire.

Margarita Díaz-Andreu has been an archaeologist and Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) Research Professor of Archaeology at the Universitat de Barcelona since 2012, following academic positions in Spain (Spanish National Research Council – CSIC, Universidad Complutense de Madrid – UCM, 1993–1995) and the United Kingdom (Durham University, 1996–2011). She has widely published on the history of archaeology, including the Oxford Handbook on this topic in 2024, and other books on women in archaeology (UCL 1998, INAPH 2022), interdisciplinarity (Oxbow 2021), and archaeological tourism (Springer 2000). She received the Menéndez Pidal National Award for the Humanities in 2021 and the Neubergh Award (University of Gothenburg) in 2022.