

AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

28 JUNE 2022
START: 3.30 P.M.
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF BYZANTINE RESEARCH
VIA ZOOM

Inscription on the portal of the Ribat-i Malik
(Uzbekistan, late 11th century) (© Viola Allegranzi)



The inter-disciplinary epigraphic research initiative
EPIGRAPHIK IN DER HOLLANDSTRASSE invites you to the

FOURTH ONLINE LECTURE

OUT OF BRICKS AND VERSES

**POETIC INSCRIPTIONS FROM MEDIEVAL IRAN,
11TH TO 13TH CENTURY**

VIOLA ALLEGRANZI

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Following the Islamic conquest (7th–8th century), Arabic epigraphy became widespread on monuments and objects produced across the Iranian region. New Persian (i.e., Persian written in Arabic letters) only made its appearance in inscriptions from Islamic Iran in the 11th century and its use remained sporadic until the modern era. Most early Persian inscriptions consist of poetic texts and coexist with Arabic inscriptions of different natures, adding layers of meaning and aesthetic appeal to the epigraphic repertoire of their time. This paper will introduce a selection of poetic inscriptions recorded on palatial architecture, funerary monuments, and luxury objects. The content of these texts reveals that they were composed either to praise and/or commemorate their patrons, or to convey a moral lesson to the readers. Observations on the location, writing style, as well as on the sources of individual inscriptions may add information about their function and expected recipients. Other questions related to the legibility and performativity of epigraphic poetry remain open to speculation. However, it is worthwhile to examine these texts from a comparative perspective, since common features characterise extant documents from distant sites, revealing a broad circulation of artistic practices, and the assimilation of traditions developed in neighbouring cultural areas.

Viola Allegranzi is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 2017, she obtained a joint PhD at the Universities Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 and “L’Orientale” di Napoli, with a dissertation focused on the Persian inscriptions from medieval Ghazni (Afghanistan). Her main fields of research are monumental epigraphy, Persian literature and historiography, and the material culture of Iran and Central Asia (8th to 14th century). She is the author of the monograph *Aux sources de la poésie ghaznavide. Les inscriptions persanes de Ghazni* (Paris 2019) and co-editor of the volume *Texts and Contexts. Ongoing Research on the Eastern Iranian World* (Rome 2020). She collaborates with the Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan and with the French-Uzbek Archaeological Mission of Sogdiana.

If you are planning to attend the lecture, please register via an email to
ekaterini.mitsiou@oeaw.ac.at.

Those who have registered will receive an email with the Zoom link on June 28th. We are keen to make the talk available to a broad audience, so please feel free to share the invitation with anyone you think might be interested. We look forward to welcoming a large audience!

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