

ÖAW

Austrian
Academy of
Sciences



International Workshop

The Mongols and the Black Sea

Empires, Economies and Encounters in
Western EurAsia, 1200-1400 CE



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EurAsia

FWF

Österreichischer
Wissenschaftsfonds

21-23 October
2026

Austrian Academy of Sciences
Institute for Medieval Research
Georg-Coch-Platz 2,
3rd floor
1010 Vienna



The workshop will explore the impact of Mongol rule on the wider Black Sea region in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when the sea became a meeting point of the Golden Horde and the Ilkhanate, Byzantium and Trebizond, and the merchant networks linking them to Italy, Armenia and Eastern Europe.

Bringing together specialists working on different regions of EurAsia, and drawing on documentary, narrative and material evidence alongside digital methods, the workshop aims to shed new light on how people, goods and knowledge of various kinds (administrative, commercial, literary, geographical) moved into, across and beyond the Black Sea world during the Mongol period.

Program

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

17.30–19.00

Welcoming Address

Claudia Rapp, Co-Director of the Institute for Medieval Research (IMAFo) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) and Director of the FWF-Cluster of Excellence ‚Eurasian Transformations‘

Andreas Rhoby, Head of the Department of Byzantine Research (ABF) at IMAFo/OeAW

Keynote

introduced by András Barati

Lorenzo Pubblici, Università di Napoli L’Orientale

Whose Frontier? Rethinking Crimea and Azov in the Age of the Golden Horde

19.00

Reception

Thursday, 22 October 2026

09.30–11.00

Archives and Administrations

Chair: Lewis Read, IMAFo/ABF, OeAW

Samvel Grigoryan, University of Stirling
The Chancellor of Armenia at Almalik:
Reappraising the Documentary Evidence for the Mongol–Armenian Alliance

Zahir Bhalloo, University Hamburg
Aduchi’s List: A Glimpse into the Archival Practice of a Mongol Amir

András Barati, IMAFo/ABF, IFI, OeAW
What the Manual Does Not Teach: The yarligh and the Boundary of the Provincial Chancery in Mongol Anatolia

11.00–11.30

Coffee break

11.30–13.00

Merchants, Commodities and Contagion

Chair: Benedetta Contin, IMAFo/ABF, OeAW

Philip Slavin (online), University of Stirling
The Worst ‚Mongol Exchange‘: the Black Death in the Black Sea Region (1346–48) and Beyond

Alexandr Osipian, Leibniz-Institut für
Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa,
Leipzig
Operating Long-distance Trade and Diplomatic
Relations in the Black Sea Region: Armenian
Merchants in the Golden Horde and Its Neighbour
States

Sara Nur Yıldız, METU, Ankara
Allume di rocca di Colonna (Koloneian Alum) and
the Regional Economy of the Inner Pontus during
the Mongol Century

13.00–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.30

Between the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Aegean

Chair: Klaus Belke, IMAFO/ABF, OeAW

Darius Baronas, Lithuanian Institute of
History, Vilnius
Lithuania, the Tatars and the Black Sea Region in
the Late Fourteenth – Early Fifteenth Century

Daiki Sano (online), University of Edinburgh
The Emperor's Ill-Starred Decision? The Great
Comet of 1264 and Michael VIII's Expedition
against Epirus

Ekaterini Mitsiou, University of Vienna
Byzantium and the Black Sea in the 13th century

15.30–16.00

Coffee break

16.00–17.30

Digital Approaches to Mongol Eurasia

Chair: Andreas Zajic, IMAFO/MIR, OeAW

Mehmet Akif Top, Sabancı University, Istanbul
Glimpsing the Grassroots: Mongol Anatolia and the
Black Sea through Mappa Anatolicorum

Felix Müller & Johannes Preiser-Kapeller,
IMAFO/ABF, OeAW
Entangling Elites, Routes and Charters across
medieval AfroEurAsia – Networks, Virtual Reality
and Artificial Intelligence

18.00

Dinner for invited guests

Friday, 23 October 2026

09.00–10.30

Settlements and Geographic Knowledge

Chair: Katalin Szende, CEU, Vienna

Maxime Durocher & Burcu Erciyas,
Sorbonne Université, Paris & METU, Ankara
A Town in the Hinterland of the Black Sea:
Komana during the Mongol Period

Yihao Qiu, Fudan University, Shanghai
The 'Invisible' Sea Encircled by Real Toponyms:
Reconstructing the Black Sea and Its Adjacent
Regions from Yuan–Ming Chinese Sources

Antonio Garcia Espada, UNED, Madrid
The Black Sea in the Libro del conocimiento de
todos los reynos

10.30–11.00

Coffee break

11.00–12.30

The Mongol Imprint on the Black Sea World

Chair: Francesca Fiaschetti, IMAFO/HI,
OeAW

Andrew Peacock, University of St Andrews
Islamic Literary Culture at the Court of the
Golden Horde in Crimea

Nikolaos Vryzidis (online), University of
West Attica, Athens

Beyond the Mongol Moment: Byzantium and the
Material Geographies of Eurasian Connectivity

Rustam Shukurov, IMAFO/ABF, OeAW
The Empire of Trebizond and the Mongols

12.30–13.00

Concluding Remarks and Discussion

13.00–14.00

Light lunch

14.00–16.30

Guided tour

Johannes Preiser-Kapeller, IMAFO/ABF,
OeAW

From the Black Sea to the Danube – A Walk
through Vienna's historical Centre between
Mongols, Tatars and Ottomans



ORGANISERS

András Barati (OEAW)

in cooperation with Samvel Grigoryan (Univ. Stirling), Ekaterini Mitsiou (Univ. Vienna), Felix Müller (OEAW), Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (OEAW), Rustam Shukurov (OEAW)

CONTACT

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FWF-Project ENCHANT in cooperation with the Mongolia-Network of the FWF-Cluster of Excellence
EurAsian Transformations

Photo:

Detail from the Catalan Atlas of 1375 (source image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1375_Atlas_Catalan_Abraham_Cresques.jpg) with Mongol horsemen. Image digitally altered by Johannes Preiser-Kapeller using google gemini, 15.09.2026

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