

## Farhad Ebrahimi Workshop

# The Achaemenid-Persian Empire at its Heyday? The Era between Darius II and Darius III

Vienna, November 29 – December 2, 2023

organized by Robert Rollinger, Touraj Daryaei and Florian Schwarz



Image: Persepolis, © Robert Rollinger

**Venue:** ÖAW – Postsparkasse (PSK)  
Besprechungsraum 4A.1 (4<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Georg-Coch-Platz 2 | 1010 Wien | Austria

## About

The last 100 years of the Achaemenid-Persian Empire are commonly described as a period of stagnation and decline. However, these traditional views have been challenged in recent years giving way to a more nuanced perspective on the history of the empire. The workshop follows this new line of research. It aims at re-evaluating the period between the Great Kings Darius II and Darius III focusing on processes of transformation and change. This way, the workshop intends to further develop a critical approach on a broader and more interdisciplinary level. The proceedings will be published in an international series.

## Institutions

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission "Transformation Processes and Empire in the Ancient Afro-Eurasian Worlds"	 AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES AND EMPIRE IN THE ANCIENT AFRO-EURASIAN WORLDS
University of California, Irvine, Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Cultures	 UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies 
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies	
University of Innsbruck, Department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies	 universität innsbruck Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik
Austrian Science Fund, Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations. Discovering the Cultural Heritage of Eurasia"	
University of Wrocław, NAWA Project "From the Achaemenids to the Romans"	 NAWA CHAIR
University of Innsbruck, Doctoral College "Entangled Antiquities"	 universität innsbruck Doktoratskolleg Entangled Antiquities

**Technical Organization:** Arya Moknat (Irvine), [amoknat@uci.edu](mailto:amoknat@uci.edu)

## PROGRAM

### Wednesday, November 29

- 16:00-16:30 **Opening** | Robert Rollinger (Innsbruck/Wrocław), Touraj Daryaee (Irvine) and Florian Schwarz (Vienna)
- 16:30-17:00 **A reevaluation of a neglected period and the reasons why**  
Robert Rollinger (Innsbruck/Wrocław)
- 17:00-17:15 Coffee break
- 17:15-18:15 **The historians' manifest interest in the beginning and end of empire: problematizing a rather common approach**  
Mischa Meier (Tübingen)
- 18:15 Buffet

### Thursday, November 30

#### Morning Session

##### **Panel I – Approaches and Conceptions**

Chair: Florian Posselt (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

- 09:00-09:45 **Opening up new perspectives I: a static empire vs. an empire of ongoing change and dynamics**  
Josef Wiesehöfer (Kiel)
- 09:45-10:30 **Opening up new perspectives II: the end of empire vs. a period of transmission and restructuring**  
Julian Degen (Trier)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break

Chair: Cassandra Lamche (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

- 11:00-11:45 **Digging up politics: about historical narratives, mundane archaeological evidence and the difficulties in reconstructing past realities in late Achaemenid Persia**  
Gabriele Puschnigg (Vienna)

##### **Panel II – The Sources**

- 11:45-12:30 **The classical world and the empire**  
Sabine Müller (Marburg)

- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break

#### Afternoon Session

Chair: Elisabeth Pangerl (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

- 14:00-14:45 **The Babylonian world and the empire**  
Michael Jursa (Vienna)
- 14:45-15:30 **Empire and coinage**  
Michael Alram (Vienna)
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break
- Chair: Felix Schulz (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”
- 16:00-16:45 **The Aramaic superstrat and the empire**  
Holger Gzella (Munich)
- 16:45-17:30 **The Egyptian world and the empire**  
Melanie Wasmuth (Helsinki)
- 17:30-18:15 **Epigraphic evidence from western Asia Minor and the islands**  
Krzysztof Nawotka (Wrocław)
- 19:00 Conference dinner

### Friday, December 1

#### Morning Session

##### **Panel III – Organization of Empire**

Chair: Erich Kistler (Innsbruck)

- 09:00-09:45 **Bagoas' murders and the alleged power of the eunuchs at the court of the last Achaemenids**  
Silvia Balatti (Kiel)
- 09:45-10:30 **Economy and empire**  
Kai Ruffing (Kassel)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- Chair: Bernhard Palme (Vienna), Commission “TransEmpire”
- 11:00-11:45 **The dynamics of imperial administration: roads, satrapies and connectivity in the Achaemenid empire**  
Hilmar Klinkott (Kiel)
- 11:45-12:30 **Zoroastrianism/Mazdaism and the empire**  
Shervin Farridnejad (Hamburg)

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

Afternoon: *Excursion*

## Saturday, December 2

*Morning Session*

### **Panel III – Organization of Empire (continued)**

Chair: Alexander Steiner (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

09:00-09:45 [A special case: Elephantine](#)  
Verena Lepper (Berlin)

### **Panel IV – Reception**

09:45-10:30 [The European reception](#)  
Kerstin Droß-Krüpe (Bochum)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

Chair: Clemens Steinwender (Innsbruck), Doctoral College “Entangled Antiquities”

11:00-11:45 [Remembering the many Dariuses of the bygone kingdom\(s\)](#)  
Touraj Daryaee (Irvine)

11:45-12:30 [The Achaemenid-Persian empire as a model? A typology of kingship and its  
Medieval outreach](#)  
Jörg Schwarz (Innsbruck)

12:30-13:00 [Concluding remarks](#) | The organizers

*Farewell and end of conference*