

More than two decades have passed since the publication of Sanjay Subrahmanyam's seminal work on connected histories. Widely regarded today as canonical work to rethink the history of Eurasia outside of the research-area paradigm, Subrahmanyam's essay has also pushed many to examine specific areas within a set of global connections. While scholars of Asia have embraced this historiographical ethos in order to put long-distance relations in greater relief, relatively less has been done to pay attention at the quality, density, and fluctuations of connections. In other words, all too many have opted for the macro, while only a few have ventured into the less attractive realm of the micro. A way out of the impasse could be to bring into meaningful conversation Subrahmanyam's approach with Nicolas Purcell and Peregrine Horden's equally magisterial work. Premised upon the notion of connectivity, *The Corrupting Sea* has shown how over the centuries the Mediterranean basin has made space for ever-changing relations and served as a vessel for socio-cultural entanglements of varying scale. While thinking in terms of connected histories invites us to imagine an area outside of its fixed historiographical boundaries, a sustained attention at degrees of connectivity may help us appreciate the unifying forces of as well as the fractures within a macro-region. The present international symposium is designed to explore such a middle-ground approach by taking the Caspian Sea and its surrounding environment as point of departure for historical explorations. In doing so, the proposed event sets out to open up new academic vistas on the Caspian littoral, both as a vibrant, sprawling and mainly incoherent socio-cultural unit.

CONVENOR:

Commission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences
in partnership with
The Islamic Trust Study project of ILCAA of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
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AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

SEPTEMBER 13–14, 2023
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASSE 19
1010 VIENNA



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

MUDDYING THE WATERS TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE CASPIAN SEA

ILCAA
Research Institute for
Languages and Cultures of
Asia and Africa



Islamic Trust Studies
イスラーム信頼学

FWF Österreichischer
Wissenschaftsfonds

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

- 14:30 **Welcome and Introduction**
Paolo Sartori and **Ulfat Abdurasulov** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 15:00 **Sean Pollock** | Wright State University
Catherine II's Persian Project? Russian Imperial Ambitions in the Caspian Sea Region in the Eighteenth Century
- 15:40 **Yukako Goto** | Kwansei Gakuin University
Gilan in the First Half of the Safavid Period: From an Isolated Space to a Border Region
- 16:20 **Giorgio Rota** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dead Men Walking: Some Remarks on the Austro–Hungarian Involvement in the Southern Caucasus in 1918
- 17:00 **Shioya Akifumi** | IHHS, University of Tsukuba
Armenians in the Caspian Sea Trade in the Eighteenth Century
- 17:40 COFFEE BREAK
- 18:00 **Keynote Lecture**
Michael Khodarkovsky | Loyola University, Chicago
Before Oil, Gas and Missiles: The Caspian Region as an Imperial Frontier and Eurasia's Microcosm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

- 09:30 **Svetlana Gorschenina** | CNRS, Eur'Orbem, Paris
The Caspian in European Cartography, 13th–15th Centuries
- 10:10 **Yudai Ri** | Tokai University, Japan
Red Caviar and Soviet Sea: The Fishery Concession on the Iranian Coast of the Caspian Sea
- 10:50 COFFEE BREAK
- 10:10 **Lukas Rybar** | Comenius University of Bratislava
Russian Merchants and the Dangers and Pitfalls of the Caspian Sea
- 11:50 **Takehiko Inoue** | SRC, Hokkaido University
The Ecological Adaptation of the Kalmyks in the Nineteenth Century: Sedentarization, Migrant Works, Fishing-Pastoralisms
- 12:30 **Erika Monahan** | Dartmouth College
Networking Empire: Peter I's Foreign Policy and the Mapping of the Caspian
- 13:10 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 **Natalia Królikowska–Jedlińska** | University of Warsaw
The Catholic Missionaries on the Perilous Route through the Caspian Region (1610s–1720s)
- 15:10 **Jin Noda** | ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Languages
To Whom Did the Caspian Sea Belong? Views from the East in the 18th Century
- 15:50 COFFEE BREAK
- 16:10 **Norihito Naganawa** | SRC, Hokkaido University
Shi'ite Astrakhan in Radical Connectivity at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century
- 16:50 **Guglielmo Zucconi** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
Physicians, Soldiers and Academicians: German Speakers Exploring the Caspian Sea from Peter I to Catherine II
- 17:30 **Danielle Ross** | Utah State University
'Like Baku...300 Years from Now': The Leshan Oil Company, the Kazakhs, and the Kazn Tatar Diaspora in Gur'ev (1890s–1910s)