



CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE EURASIAN TRANSFORMATIONS
3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BRIDGING EURASIA

PATHWAYS OF COMMUNICATION, MOBILITY, AND SHARED HISTORIES IN EURASIA FROM
ANTIQUITY TO TODAY

NOVEMBER 16-19, 2026
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
DR. IGNAZ-SEIPEL PLATZ, 1010, VIENNA

Background

From ancient trade routes and elite networks **to contemporary** digital networks and transnational communities, Eurasia has always been a hub of interconnectedness. To understand Eurasia as an entangled space, however, requires transcending disciplinary silos and fostering dialogue across fields (e.g., history, archaeology, linguistics, anthropology, art history, digital humanities). Adopting such a methodological perspective, *Bridging EurAsia* seeks to illuminate the complex, often unpredictable, and profoundly interconnected nature of Eurasian societies, fostering a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of their enduring shared histories.

The 2026 Annual Conference of the CoE *EurAsian Transformations* strives to critically examine the intricate **dynamics of societal interaction** across time and space throughout the vast Eurasian landmass. Moving beyond traditional Eurocentric narratives and static conceptualizations of “borders”—whether geographical, political, or disciplinary—the conference embraces the transformative potential of Global Studies. This approach foregrounds the simultaneous interplay of **global processes and local specificities**, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of how diverse societies in Eurasia have communicated, moved, and exchanged ideas, technologies, and cultures across millennia, while also seeking to unravel the complex patterns of communication—verbal, material, and symbolic—and the multifaceted forms of mobility that have shaped its shared pasts and presents.

Aims of the Conference

The paradigm of “Bridging Eurasia” offers new directions for both the academic field and the education of early career scholars. Accordingly, the conference pursues three main aims:



1. Foster Transdisciplinary Research:

The conference aims to overcome entrenched disciplinary silos by integrating insights into history, archaeology, linguistics, anthropology, philology, art history, environmental studies, and digital humanities. By encouraging scholars at all career stages to work across boundaries, it seeks to cultivate collaborative and hybrid scholarly identities, fostering research cultures in which complex questions can be addressed through shared methodologies and interpretive frameworks.

Building on this vision, the conference promotes a paradigm shift towards globally oriented and genuinely integrative research methodologies. It seeks to combine perspectives from diverse disciplines to analyze not only cross-regional connections but also the complex causal relationships and feedback loops between local specificities and broader Eurasian dynamics.

Particular emphasis is placed on supporting early-career scholars in cultivating a “hybrid” intellectual identity from the outset of their careers — encouraging them to think beyond single-discipline boundaries, to formulate questions that demand multi-faceted answers, and to engage actively with colleagues from different academic and cultural backgrounds.

2. Promote Decentered and Reflexive Methodologies

Moving beyond Eurocentric frameworks, research on Eurasia requires (is in need of) the integration of diverse epistemologies. The conference encourages approaches that critically examine the historical construction of knowledge, amplify local perspectives and source



materials from across the Eurasian landmass, and remain attentive to the ethical dimensions of scholarship. Scholars at all career stages are invited to engage in reflexive practices that challenge inherited academic assumptions and national ideologies, foreground contextual specificities and diverse communities, and contribute to more inclusive narratives of Eurasian entanglements.

To this end, the conference promotes methodologies that decenter analytical frameworks, interrogate universalizing theories rooted in Western academic traditions, and give equal weight to knowledge production from all parts of Eurasia. By combining critical inquiry with ethical awareness, participants are encouraged to foster a more balanced and genuinely plural understanding of the region's intellectual and cultural interconnectedness.

3. Link Past and Present / Enhance Contemporary Perspectives

We understand academia as a crucial contributor to addressing contemporary global challenges. By connecting long-term historical patterns of communication, mobility, and cultural exchange across Eurasia with present-day issues such as migration, integration, conflict resolution, and environmental interdependence, the conference highlights the continued relevance of Eurasian studies to the present.

Scholars across generations are encouraged to demonstrate how their work contributes not only to academic debates but also to broader societal conversations about global entanglements—bridging research, teaching, and public engagement.



PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

(MONDAY, 16.11.26)

Time	Event	Participants	Place
TBA	Registration	All attending	ÖAW Garderobe (cloak room)
TBA	Meeting with Austrian Study Foundation (Österreichische Studienstiftung)	Austrian Study Foundation, students of the ASF, Dr. Matthew Canepa	ÖAW
17:00 – 18:00	Keynote lecture	Dr. Matthew P. Canepa <i>Iran and the Materiality of Eurasian Transformations (550 BCE - 650 CE): Between Imperial Entanglements, Transcultural Elites and Regional Resilience.</i>	ÖAW Festsaal (banquet hall)
18:30 – 20:00	Reception	All attending	ÖAW Aula (Auditorium)

DAY 1 (TUESDAY, 17.11.26)

Time	Event	Participants	Place
09:00 – 09:30	Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks	Heinz Faßmann (President of the ÖAW) + TBA	ÖAW Festsaal
9:30 – 10:30	Roundtable discussion: EurAsian Connectivities	Heinz Faßmann + TBA	ÖAW Festsaal

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break		ÖAW Aula
11:00 – 12:30	On Russian Eurasianism	Organizer: Wolfgang Mueller Chair: Wolfgang Mueller (University of Vienna), Marina Klyshko (LMU Munich), Michal Racyn (Masaryk University, Brno), Commentary: Salvatore Liccardo (ÖAW)	ÖAW Festsaal
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 – 15:30	Diplomatic Firsts in Eurasia: Initial Encounters, Changing Relations, and Muscovite Diplomacy	Organizer: Jan Hennings (CEU) Ulfatbek Abdurasulov (ÖAW), Boris Fonarkov (CEU), Maria Golovina (CEU)	ÖAW Festsaal
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break		
16:00 – 18:00	Japonism in Austria	Organizer: Ulrike Tanzer (University of Innsbruck) Co-organizer: Lukas Nickel (University of Vienna), Christine Frank (University of Innsbruck) Mona Garloff (UIBK), Isabelle Prochaska-Meyer (University of Vienna), Christine Frank, Lukas Nickel	ÖAW Festsaal
19:30	Reception	Vienna Town Hall Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1 (Basement, „Salon Lanner“)	

DAY 2 (WEDNESDAY, 18.11.26)

Time	Event	Participants	Place
09:00 – 11:00	Languages beyond Borders: Rethinking Cultural and Political Identity through Diasporic Language Use	Organizer: Claudia Rapp (ÖAW) Emilio Bonfiglio (University of Hamburg), Giulia Rossetto (University of Vienna), Rustam Shukurov (ÖAW), Ephrem Aboud Ishac (CEU), Adrian Pirtea (ÖAW), Istvan Perczel (CEU)	ÖAW Festsaal
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 13:00	ROUNDTABLE: Linguae Francae – Bridging Linguistic Divides in Pre-Modern Eurasia	Organizers: Katalin Szende (CEU), Bernhard Palme (University of Vienna) Co-organizer: Pavlína Rychterová (ÖAW) Márton Vér (University of Hamburg), Jakub Niedźwiedz (Jagiellonian University Cracow), Anna Dolganov (ÖAW), Jack Wilson (CEU), Aliaksandra Valodzina (ÖAW IMAFO)	ÖAW Festsaal
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break		
14:30 – 16:00	Eurasia's Far West? Medieval Anatolia as a Crucible of Cultural Interaction	Organizer: Bruno de Nicola (ÖAW) Tijana Krstić (CEU), Sara Nur Yıldız (METU, Ankara), Zeynep Oktay (Boğaziçi University), Dr. Ekaterini Mitsiou (ÖAW), Polina Ivanova (ÖAW)	ÖAW Festsaal

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 18:00	Atelier Talks: Digital Methods	Organizer: Alíz Horváth (CEU) David Joseph Wrisley (NYU Abu Dhabi), Jeanine Dağyeli (University of Vienna), Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (ÖAW), Matej Ďurčo (ÖAW ACDH)	ÖAW Festsaal
19:30	Conference Dinner	Conference participants	Al Zaytouna (Stubenring 18, 1010, Vienna)

DAY 3 (THURSDAY, 19.11.26)

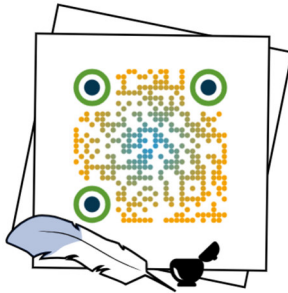
Time	Event	Participants	Place
09:00 – 11:00	Managing kinship over long-distance. Space, politics and affection from premodern to present times	Organizer: Konrad Petrovsky (ÖAW) Anna Vlachopoulou (LMU Munich), Robert Pichler (ÖAW), Reinier Langelaar (ÖAW), Francesca Fiaschetti (IMAFO)	ÖAW Festsaal
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:30	Keynote	Dr. Sebastian Fink (University of Innsbruck)	ÖAW Festsaal
12:30 – 13:30	Poster presentations	Posters: Sina Kazemirashid (University of Innsbruck), Hakan Yerebakan (CEU), Aliaksandra Valodzina (ÖAW), Aleksandar Anđelović (ÖAW), Gunhyuk Lee (CEU)	ÖAW Festsaal

13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break and poster discussions		
14:30 – 16:00	Microhistories of Coercion: Small-Scale Sources, Big Questions about Eurasian Labour Regimes	Organizers: Juliane Schiel (University of Vienna), Michael Jursa (University of Vienna) Claude Chevaleyre (Lyon Institute of Asian Studies), Michael Jursa, Juliane Schiel	ÖAW Festsaal
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 18:00	Extraction and Transformation across Eurasia: Mining, Landscapes, and Connected Histories	Organizer: Jeanine Dağyeli (ÖAW) Co-organizer: Aliosha Bielenberg (UC Berkeley), Jeanine Dağyeli, Aliosha Bielenberg, Leyla Sayfutdinova (University of Glasgow), Deren Ertaş (Harvard University), Discussant: Sebastian Felten (University of Vienna)	ÖAW Festsaal
18:00 – 18:15	Closing of the conference		

We would like to inform you that photos will be taken during the event.

These photos will be used for documentation and presentation purposes.

For information about your rights regarding data protection and the contact details of the data protection officer please see:



Suggestions for your lunch break:



ORGANIZATION

MELANIE MALZAHN, CLAUDIA RAPP, YAVUZ KÖSE, MARIYA KIPROVSKA, NINA MIRNIG, ROBERT ROLLINGER, JULIANE SCHIEL

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KEYNOTE

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

ALEXANDER SASONOW

(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ATHPULA BRIDGE (INDIA), STARI MOST (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA), DEVILS' BRIDGE (BULGARIA), MEGANE-BASHI BRIDGE (JAPAN))