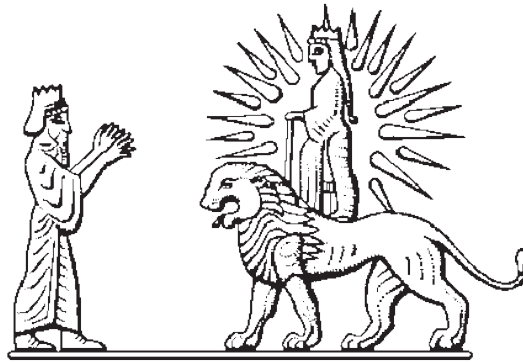


The Melammu Project

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East



Dear friends,

On the occasion of the Melammu Symposium held in Graz in September, the new board was elected. I stepped back after five years – a double mandate according to the regulations of our statutes and an extra year due to the covid-imposed postponing of the 2021 symposium.

The Graz Symposium was a very stimulating event, perfectly organized by Hannes Galter, Wolfgang Spickerman, Michaela Zinko and Laerke Recht, and together with new insights in the historical research it contributed to inject new lymph in the project with the renovation of the board.

At the end of my chairship turn I want to thank all the colleagues and friends who have variously and generously prodigated to organize symposia, workshops, publications, and the circulation of information and ideas, and to those who have taken part in these activities with their contributions. Their efforts have guaranteed the continuation and growing of the project and its network even through the pandemic and proposed intriguing perspectives of research that have progressively widened the frontiers of the project and established new links with other initiatives and research groups.

A particular thank is due to Sebastian Fink for his constant and competent support in keeping the threads of the project in these years, to Kerstin Droß-Krüpe for preparing the Newsletter layout, and to Luigi Turri for updating our webpage.

Hoping to continue contributing to the project as a board member, I express my best wishes to the new chair and the board.

Simonetta Ponchia

Dear colleagues and friends,

In first place I want to thank Simonetta Ponchia, who chaired the Melammu Project for the last five years and also through difficult times where no meetings were possible. Luckily, those times seem to be over and we gathered at a wonderful meeting in Graz, where the new board was elected. According to the statutes of our project Melammu is lead by the board, a chair (from the senior board) and a vice chair (from the junior board). I am especially grateful that Ana Arroyo took over the duty of a vice-chair and will chair the Melammu Project with me for the next two years.

The membership in the board of the Melammu project is based on activity and (known) organizers of recent and future workshops and symposia are included. I take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of Melammu in the past years and I am sure that the upcoming meetings will contribute to Melammu's aim of fostering intellectual exchange between scholars of the ancient world.

We take the opportunity to announce that the next year's Melammu Symposium will be organized by Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum and Jörg Klinger and take place in Berlin (July 12-14):

Despotism, Citizenship, Bureaucracy ...

Concepts of Governance and the Study of Ancient Near Eastern Societies

Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences „Rethinking Oriental Despotism: Strategies of Governance and Modes of Participation in the Ancient Near East“ (dir. E. Cancik-Kirschbaum, J. Klinger).

All the best,
Sebastian Fink