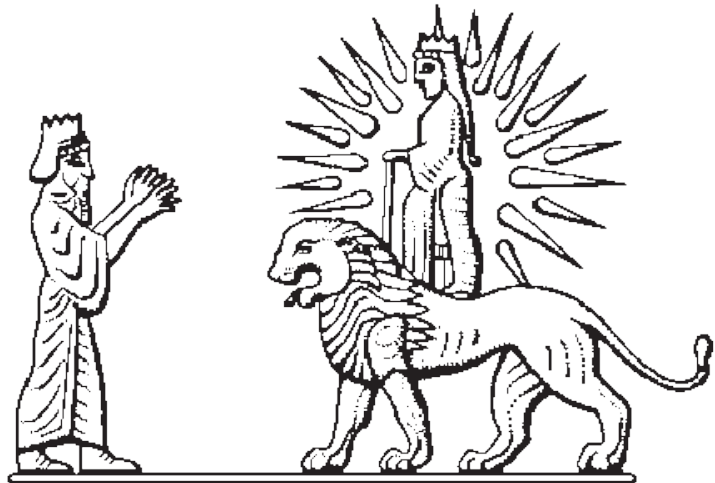


Newsletter

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

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Letter of Introduction

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great honour for me to have been elected to chair the Melammu project, after such eminent predecessors as Simo Parpola, Antonio Panaino, Tzvi Abusch, and Robert Rollinger. The interdisciplinary perspective that the project they founded and directed has inspired – and continues to inspire – is increasingly needed to balance extreme specialization in the fields of historical study. We have all benefited from their efforts and insights, and I hope to be able to maintain these high standards. I plan to encourage intense cooperation among the project's participants, thereby providing a stimulus to methodological improvement and fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue. I thank you all for electing me to coordinate such a demanding and stimulating project. The last Melammu Symposium, no. 11, was a most important step in the continuation and development of the project. Special thanks goes to: Raija Mattila, who organized the Symposium in superb style and offered us the opportunity to enjoy the marvels of Beirut and Lebanon; the generous

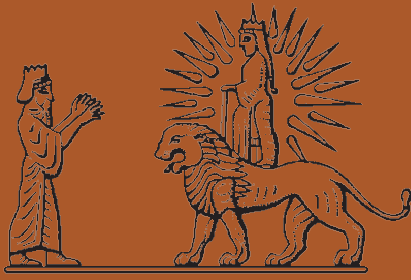
hospitality of the Finnish Institute in the Middle East and Thomas Kämmerer of Ugarit Verlag; the AUB which kindly gave us the chance to hold the Symposium on their wonderful campus; Sebastian Fink, who not only actively cooperated in the organization of this and other meetings, but also accepted the role of vice-chair; and last – but obviously not least – the participants in the Melammu Symposium who contributed such absorbing papers.

The programme for the next few years is particularly rich, as illustrated below, and it will undoubtedly increase our knowledge and ability to discern the directions and threads of cultural transmission in its synchronic and diachronic developments. We anticipate that this will lead to the conception of further projects and long-term proposals. For the pursuit of both present and future goals it is necessary to enhance a shared and coordinated effort devoted to supporting research projects, either by intensifying our communication network and looking for opportunities that allow a wider circulation of advanced students and young scholars between our universities,

and/or including new partners. This effort seems particularly pressing due to the difficulties that Humanities research encounters. One of my priorities, with the help of vice-chair Sebastian Fink and Luigi Turri, who manages the web page, and with your precious cooperation, is to look out for such opportunities and to favour communication and dialogue concerning them. I would like to encourage you to consider applying for European grants, which include various kinds of calls. Research projects and applications can be designed and delivered as individual or cooperative enterprises. All of them imply the mobility of the researchers and may therefore represent useful opportunities for enhancing our Melammu cooperation and are especially addressed to the young scholars. Please feel free to contact me for proposals, suggestions and questions.

With best wishes for relaxing and fruitful summer holidays,

Yours,
Simonetta Ponchia
(Chair of the Melammu Project)



Melammu Symposium 11: "Evidence Combined: Western and Eastern Sources in Dialogue"

The 11th Symposium of the Melammu Project was the first Melammu meeting to take place in the Middle East. The meeting "Evidence Combined: Western and Eastern Sources in Dialogue" was organized by Raija Mattila (Finnish Institute in the Middle East) and Sebastian Fink (Kassel University) in Beirut on April 3-6, 2017 in cooperation with the Finnish Institute in the Middle East and the American University of Beirut, where the event took place. In the wonderful and inspiring setting of the campus of the AUB scholars from 15 nations presented and discussed 28 papers in 5 sessions. Each of these sessions, which all aimed at "combining evidence", was organized by two scholars, who gave an introduction to the field and a response after the papers. The thematic sessions dealt with Hellenistic History and the use of cuneiform evidence, with Astrology, Astronomy and Omina, with Phoenicians as Mediators between East and West, and with Textiles. In addition, a large general session included 10 papers. Thanks to the hospitality of the Finnish Institute and the support of the Ugarit Verlag it was possible to organize a wonderful trip to the city of Tyre, that provided the participants not only with the possibility to see the impressive remains of this site, but also added depth to the discussions and gave the participants an opportunity to discuss future cooperations.

Reports on Recent Melammu Events

Melammu Workshop 3: "Routes and Travellers between East and West"

The Melammu Workshop 3 "Routes and Travellers between East and West: Cultural Exchange in the Ancient World" took place at the University of Barcelona on March 22-23, 2017. It was organized by Rocío Da Riva (University of Barcelona) and Sebastian Fink (Kassel University), and sponsored by the Faculty of Geography and History, the vice-rector for Research and the Water Research Institute of the University of Barcelona, the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) and the Austrian Cultural Forum of Madrid (Österreichisches Kulturforum Madrid) BMeiA.

A lot of work has been done concerning the comparison of documentary material and the identification of significant parallels and influences. To understand how these parallels came into being we must concentrate on individuals that transmitted this knowledge. The routes linking the East with the West in the 1st millennium BCE were vehicle for people and goods and they fostered the spread of ideas, technologies and cultural exchange in both directions. Therefore, we tried to answer the following questions:

a) Which were the routes between East

and West? What was the role played by the Mediterranean in the cultural exchange? How were land-routes articulated? Was there a difference between the routes used for commerce and those used by the armies?
b) Which were the political, economic, social and cultural consequences of the routes? How did they transform the societies that made use of them?
c) Which cuneiform sources do we have at our disposal to study Western travellers in the Near East? Are there differences in the documentation before and after the Persian conquest of the Near East?
d) What is the view from the Classical sources? How useful are these sources to study the presence of historians, philosophers and armies from the West in the East?
e) How can we study the presence of Mesopotamian people in the West? What kinds of sources are at our disposal?

The workshop was organized into three sessions: I. Routes between East and West; II. Movements from West to East; and III. Movements from East to West. A concluding section was dedicated to conclusions, comparative thoughts and final discussion.



Upcoming Melammu Events

2017

Melammu Session at the Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT) in Jena, September 19: "The foundations of Europe and the Ancient Near East"
(Manfred Krebern timer)

The Deutsche Orientalistentag (DOT) is the largest professional meeting of Oriental Studies in Germany and one of the most important scholarly Orientalist congresses in the world. The range of disciplines encompasses the Ancient and Modern Middle East, including North Africa, as well as all of Asia, with particular emphasis on Central, South and South East Asia. The DOT is administered by the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG), which entrusts a university with the organization of the congress. The first DOT took place in 1921 in Leipzig. On September 18-22, 2017, for the first time in history, the DOT will be held at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Thuringia. The theme of the DOT 2017 is "Asia, Africa and Europe." By this, the organizers wish to emphasize two main topics:

- the transfer of knowledge between East and West, especially Eastern influence on Europe in antiquity and the Middle Ages,
- the rising interest of Western scholarship in Oriental cultures and history, including the history of Oriental research in more recent times.

The theme is intended to promote contributions addressing these topics, but papers, panels, and workshops devoted to other branches of scholarship are equally welcome. All colleagues are cordially invited to present the results of their research, and to discuss them with an expert audience.

The one-day Melammu panel on the topic "Die Grundlagen Europas und der Alte Orient / The foundations of Europe and the Ancient Near East" will be held on September 19, 2017.

Program online soon.

Melammu Workshop 4 in Marburg, December 1-2: "The Impact of Xenophon's Kyrupaideia"
(Robert Rollinger, Sabine Müller & Bruno Jacobs)

The conference is concerned with the impact of the enigma of ancient literature, Xenophon's Kyrupaideia. It will scrutinize in which dimension Xenophon's work mirrors authentic information on ancient Persia and in addition, in which dimension ancient authors relied on him as they thought him to be an expert on Cyrus and Persia. Thus, questions of the perception, interpretation and invocation of the Kyrupaideia in ancient and early modern times are on focus.

Program online soon.

2018

Melammu Workshop 5 in Kiel on Hellenistic Cities, May?
(Hilmar Klinkott)

Date and details still need to be fixed.

Melammu Symposium 12 (+ RAI) in Innsbruck, July: "The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East"
(Robert Rollinger, Cinzia Pappi, Martin Lang, Irene Madreiter & Sebastian Fink)

The Innsbruck conference, to be held in July 16-20, 2018, will have as a topic "The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East." The organising committee is particularly interested in welcoming lectures and comparative studies on the Ancient Near Eastern cultures and their cultural reception. Papers related to the main topic are expected to investigate the continuity, transformation, and diffusion of Mesopotamian and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures through the western classical world to the later Islamic times and to the modern world.

This conference will combine for the first time a RAI with a symposium of the Melammu Project. The topic of the 64th RAI will coincide with the scientific aims of the Melammu Project corresponding to the investigation of the continuity, transformation, and diffusion of Mesopotamian and Ancient Near Eastern cultures from the 3rd millennium BCE through the Ancient World until the Islamic periods and after.

2019

Melammu Workshop 6 in Changchun, September: "At the Edges of Empires: Territories and Processes nearby and between Developing Great Powers in Antiquity"

(Sven Günther)

The rise and fall as well as all developments of empires and great powers have not only effects within the realm but also radiate to territories at the edge-zones and cause various processes, e.g. with regard to diplomatic policies, economy, social structures, legal and religious changes etc. Particularly interesting are territories between two such empires where one can observe multiple facets of actions and reactions. The workshop will explore those processes in territories nearby and between empires and great powers via case-studies in Western and Eastern ancient civilizations and, in the tradition of IHAC, will include the fields of Assyriology/Hittitology, Ancient Egypt, Classics as well as Chinese ancient civilizations. Our excursion will lead us to one of such fringes nearby the conference location.

Exact date still needs to be fixed.

Melammu Workshop 7 in Padova, November 5-8: "Making Peace in the Ancient World"

(Giovanni B. Lanfranchi & Simonetta Ponchia)

On November 3, 1918 the armistice that ended the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Italy and World War I was signed in Padova. The 100th anniversary of this event will be duly commemorated and a conference concerning the events of that period will be held by modern historians. The organizers of the Melammu workshop consider this occasion particularly stimulating to likewise discuss dynamics, conditions and instruments of peace in the ancient world.

Further details concerning the organization of the workshop will be soon communicated.

Melammu Workshop 8 in Kassel, January 30-February 1: "(Self-)Portrayal of Powerful Women in the Ancient World – Classical Sources and Cuneiform Texts"

(Kerstin Droß-Krüpe & Sebastian Fink)

Though we often consider the ancient world a male dominated and patrimonial world, our sources provide rich evidence for powerful, influential and even ruling women as well. Women in power are often perceived as an absolute Otherness, as oxymora and remarkable – and too often highly critically judged – exemptions or deviations, challenging the common order. This is particularly true for the portrayal of such women in classical sources – one may only think of Semiramis, Olympias, Cleopatra, Agrippina or Iulia Domna. But even in this source material exemptions occur, as Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi. But powerful women are by no means a 'classical' phenomenon – when it comes to the ancient Near East a remarkable number of similarly influential women appear, as for example Enheduanna or Adad-guppi. The workshop aims at combining papers on the portrayal of powerful ancient women in classical sources and cuneiform text, aiming at bringing together both a "western" and "eastern" perspective on these exceptional women. The overall question would be if and how classical sources and cuneiform texts apply different narrative patterns when dealing with powerful women. In addition the workshop will focus on how the self-presentation of these women differs from their discursive/ narrative treatment by (later, male) outsiders.

Key questions are e.g. what information we can get about their actual radius of action, their social and economic status and if it is possible to detect if these women were considered role models (and if so when and by whom) and what these details tell us about different gender roles in the Classical and Mesopotamian worlds.

Melammu Workshop in Venice on Bridges

(Paolo Corò)

Date and details still need to be fixed.

Melammu Symposium 13 in Wrocław, May 13-16: "The Ancient Near Eastern Legacy and Alexander vs. Alexander's Legacy to the World"

(Krzysztof Nawotka)

Details still need to be fixed.

Melammu Workshop in Tartu, May/June?: "Responses to the 12th Century BC Collapse: Recovery and Restructuration in the Early Iron Age Near East and Mediterranean"

(Mait Koiv & Peeter Espak)

Exakt date and details still need to be fixed.

Melammu Workshop in Trier, autumn: "Water Carriage and Maritime Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East"

(Christoph Schäfer)

Date and details still need to be fixed.

2020

**Melammu Workshop in Krakow
on Autocratic Rule in Antiquity**
(Edward Dabrowa & Jakub Kuciak)

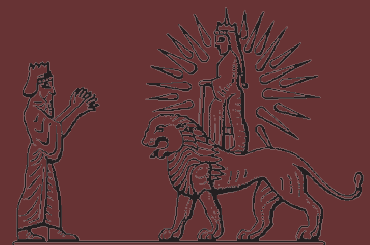
Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 14 in
Los Angeles on Persian Religion**
(Rahim Shayegan)

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Workshop in Jerusalem on
the Motif of the Good Shepherd**
(Stéphanie Anthonioz & Claudia Horst)

Date and details still need to be fixed.



Impressum:

The Melammu Project
<http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu/>
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Vice-Chair: Sebastian Fink
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