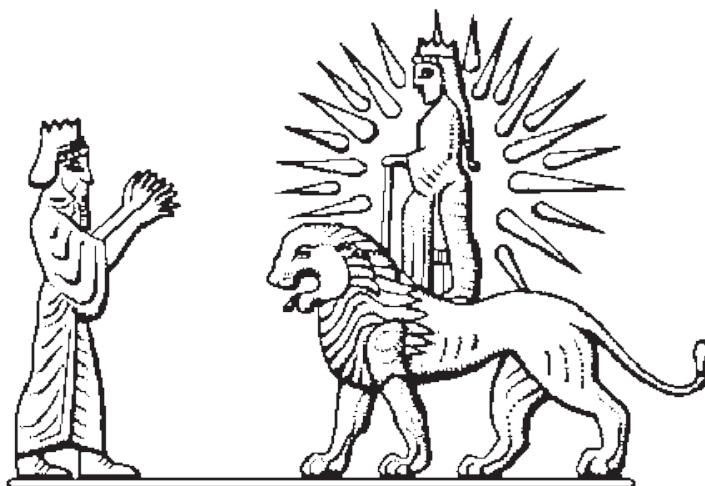


Newsletter

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

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Letter of Introduction

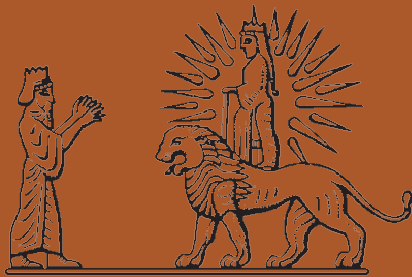
Dear colleagues and friends,

in the challenging time we are still going through we have at least some concrete hope that the goal of a gradual return to normalcy will be reached in a not too long time, if the vaccination has the expected result. However, some of our activities had to be cancelled, such as the 2021 Symposium, and others have to be postponed or rescheduled as taking place on virtual platforms. In the impossibility of organising the annual Symposium, the Board meeting will be held in such a way in the next months to plan future activities (scheduled May 25, 18:00 CET.). We are working to improve our webpage as a communication system and are engaged to find solutions useful even after the much-desired end of the emergency and the return to usual relationships. Despite all the difficulties, we invite all of you to continue contributing ideas and proposals in order to implement our network even through new means.

In the meanwhile, the research work has not stopped and in the next pages you can find news and updates concerning publications just appeared and in preparation, as well as on recent and future meetings.

All the best and stay safe!

Yours,
Simonetta Ponchia
(Chair of the Melammu Project)



Recent Publications

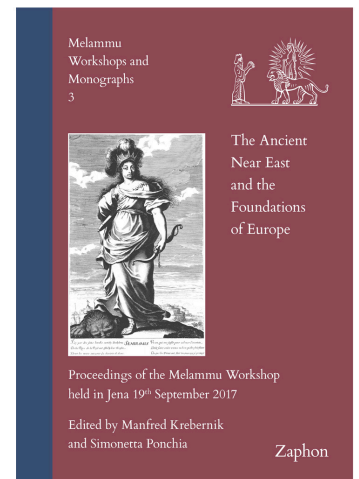
Societies at War

Proceedings of the tenth Symposium of the Melammu Project held in Kassel September 26-28 2016 and Proceedings of the eight Symposium of the Melammu Project held in Kiel November 11-15 2014
edited by K. Ruffing, K. Droß-Krüpe, S. Fink & R. Rollinger
Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften: Wien 2020
668 pages

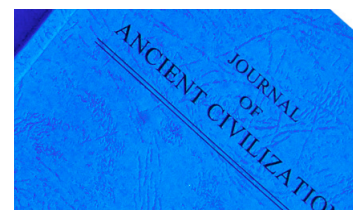


The Ancient Near East and the Foundations of Europe

Proceedings of the Melammu Workshop held in Jena 19th September 2017
edited by M. Krebernik & S. Ponchia
Zaphon: Münster 2020
160 pages



Some of the presentations delivered at the Changchun Workshop are published in **Journal of Ancient Civilizations** 35/2 and are available for the participants to the Melammu project upon request.

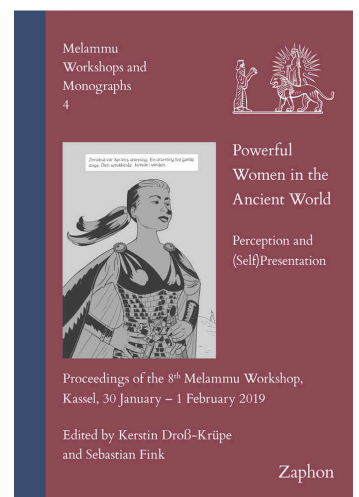


K. Droß-Krüpe Semiramis, de qua innumerabilia narrantur.

Rezeption und Verargumentierung der Königin von Babylon von der Antike bis in die *opera seria* des Barock, Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden 2020



Powerful Women in the Ancient World. Perception and (Self)Presentation,
Proceedings of the 8th Melammu Workshop, Kassel, 30 January - 1 February 2019
edited by K. Droß-Krüpe & S. Fink
Zaphon: Münster 2020
ca. 600 pages
- in print -



Reports on Recent Melammu Events

Melammu Workshop 12 in Helsinki, 1-3 December 2020:

"Living under Empires: A View from Below"

(Caroline Wallis, Marta Lorenzon and Sebastian Fink)

Back in a time when no one talked about Corona-viruses and people with masks on the streets were a feature of carnival, we planned to held a workshop in Helsinki, the birthplace of Melammu in December. Our plan was to show beautiful Helsinki to the participants and visit the Christmas market with them. As we all know, things changed a bit and the only option to actually hold the event, was to turn it into an online-workshop.

The workshop was organized within the framework of the Centre of Excellence Ancient Near Eastern Empires ANEE (funded by the Academy of Finland - PI Saana Svärd), that investigates how changing imperial dynamics impacted social group identities and lifeways over a millennium.

The CfP formulated the questions in the following way:

"All the successive Empires of the First Millennium BCE, in one form or another, claim to guarantee the collective well-being of the people living on their territory. Furthermore, providing this welfare to human beings is the main clause of the Kings contract with the gods, and hence, is the corner stone of the legitimization of their authority as rulers. What are we missing if we dismiss these claims as solely rhetorical and directed to an elite audience? Can we consider them as principles that guided concrete policies towards the population, as principles that were binding to the political elite itself?

In this workshop we aim to take the view from below, and investigate in what way imperial dynamics may have affected the lifeways of people in their territories. The basic questions of this workshop are: How did the empires of the Ancient Near East affect the life of ordinary people in their realm? To which extent was rural life and life in smaller towns permeated by imperial agents and policies, hence by imperial dynamics?"

Claudia Glatz and Mark Van de Mieroop were the two keynote speakers of the conference, and Petri Ylikoski, a philosopher of science, gave a concluding talk, referred to the papers of the

participants and tried to highlight new approaches to the topic.

The contributions brought in many different aspects of the topic and tried to approach a view from below through an analysis of literary texts, floor plans of houses, royal monuments, administrative documents or even the archaeological remains found in granaries.

Given the fact that more than 100 people visited our online workshop, we were quite happy with the audience, and thank all the speakers for their willingness to give an online talk, but still we look forward to a time when we will be able to meet and discuss in person.

Upcoming Melammu Events

2021

Melammu Workshop online May 25-26:

"The Image of the Good Shepherd – Modes of Governance in Antiquity"

(Philippe Abrahams, Stéphanie Anthonioz & Claudia Horst)

- Detailed schedule on next page -

Melammu Workshop in Krakow, October 4-6:

"Autocratic Rule in Antiquity"

(Edward Dabrowa & Jakub Kuciak)

2022

Melammu Workshop in Verona, January 19-22:

"Shaping boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean area in the first Millennium BC"

(Simonetta Ponchia & Luisa Prandi)

Melammu Symposium 15 in Graz, September:

"Clash of Civilizations? Sedentary and non-sedentary populations"

(Wolfgang Spickermann)

2023 ff.

Melammu Symposium 16, 2023 in Turin

(Stefano de Martino)

Melammu Symposium 17, 2024 in Irvine

(Touraj Daryaei)

Melammu Symposium 18, 2025 in Changchun

(Sven Günther)

Several workshops in planning remain still to be rescheduled.

***The Image of the Good Shepherd –
Modes of Governance in Antiquity***
25-26 May 2021, online

Program

25 May 2021

Welcoming Session

10.00-10:30

Claudia Horst (Munich):
*Pastoral Power and the Image of the
"Good Shepherd" in the History of Political
Thinking*

10:30-11:00

Stéphanie Anthonioz (UMR 8167):
*Foucault's pastorat (or pastoral power)
in light of Ancient Sources, Especially
Biblical Texts*

11:00-11:30

Nikolaus Dietrich (Heidelberg):
*„Searching for the Good Shepherd in
Graeco-Roman Art: On the Dialectics of
Bringing together Images and Texts"*

Keynote Lecture:

11:30-12:00

Hartmut Leppin (Frankfurt a.M.):
*Pastoral Power and Parrhesia.
Perspectives on Late Antique Syrian
Monks*

First Session

14:00-16:30

*Mesopotamia – Political and Religious
Functions of the Image of the "Good
Shepherd"*

Gebhard J. Selz (Vienna):

*The Semantic Connotations of the
Shepherd Metaphor at the Turn from the
3rd to the 2nd Millennium BCE*

Jorge Vargas-Corvacho (Jerusalem):
*The God, the Shepherd and the King in
Ugaritic Texts*

Ludovico Portuese (Berlin):

*"Pastoral" or "Imposed" Power in Ancient
Assyria? The King Sargon II as Shepherd
and Hunter*

Richard Bußmann (Cologne):
*Egyptian Pharaoh: "Good shepherd"
in a Bureaucratic State*

26 May 2021

Second Session

10:00-12:30

*Mediterranean Basin – Political and
Religious Functions of the Image of the
"Good Shepherd"*

Amir Gilan (Tel Aviv):

*The Image of the "Good Shepherd" in
Hittite Anatolia*

Johannes Haubold (Princeton):

*The Image of the "Good Shepherd" and
Athenian Democracy*

Claudia Horst (Munich):

*The Pastoral Power of Cyrus the Great and
Pericles's Style of Governance*

Kerstin Droß-Krüpe (Kassel/Innsbruck):

*Traces of Paws. Shepherd's Dogs in
Ancient Literary Sources*

Babett Edelmann-Singer (Munich):

*Boni pastores est tondere pecus, non
deglubere. How to Govern Provinces in
the Early Roman Empire?*

Third Session

14:00-16:30

*Judeo-Christian-Islamic World – Political
and Religious Functions of the Image of
the "Good Shepherd"*

Regine Hunziker-Rodewald (Strasbourg):

*Political and Religious Functions of the
Image of the "Good Shepherd" in Ancient
Israel and Judea*

Anne-Catherine Baudoin (Geneva):

*The Image of the "Shepherd" in Christian
Apocrypha*

Elżbieta Jastrzębowska (Warsaw):

*Roman Heritage – Christian Testimonies:
Images of the "Good Shepherd" in the
Roman Capital and Empire from the 3rd
to the 5th Century*

Michael Shenkar (Jerusalem):

*The Image of the "Good Shepherd" in the
Pre- and Early Islamic Iranian World*

Michael Grünbart (Münster):

Modes of Good Governance in Byzantium

16:30-17:00

Final discussion

Impressum:

The Melammu Project
<http://www.melammu-project.eu>

Chair: Simonetta Ponchia

Vice-Chair: Sebastian Fink

Layout:

Kerstin Droß-Krüpe

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