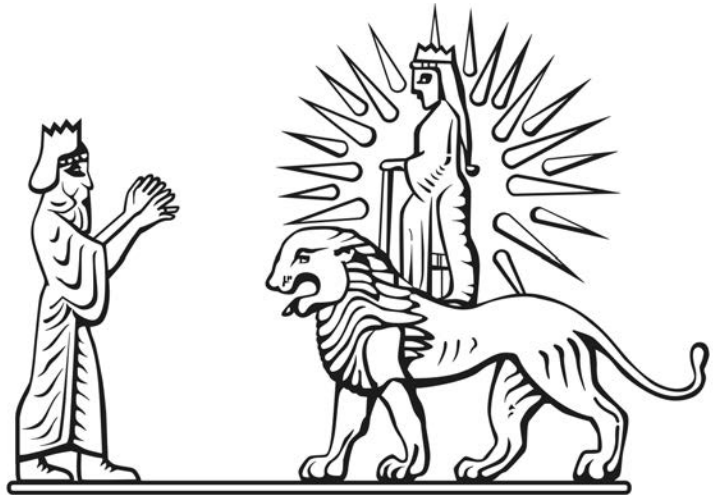


Newsletter

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

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Letters of Introduction

Dear friends of the Melammu Project,

It is my pleasure to write to send this newsletter as the new chair of Melammu and inform you that three Melammu events will take place before the end of July.

On 22 & 23 May, the 18th Melammu Workshop 'Experiencing Borders' will take place in Gdansk, as a part of the border Seminar 2023.

On 25 & 26 May the 19th Melammu Workshop 'The Linguistic Position of Sumerian: Isolate or not?' will take place in Innsbruck.

And the 16th Melammu Symposium 'Concepts of Governance and the Study of Ancient Near Eastern Societies' will take place in Berlin 12-14 July.

You will find more information about these events and the past Melammu Symposium in Graz in this newsletter.

We can already announce that the 17th Melammu Symposium organized by Touraj Darjaee will take place in Irvine, California, 18-20 June 2024. More details will follow in due time.

All the best,
Sebastian Fink

Dear colleagues and friends,

As you may already know, a new board for the Melammu Project was elected during the last meeting celebrated in Graz in 2022. At that meeting, I was elected as Vice Chair. I'm deeply honoured by this election and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board for the trust they have placed in me. I would also like to thank Simonetta Ponchia for her tireless work over the last few years and Rocío Da Riva for inviting me to the workshop she organised in Barcelona in 2020, which gave me the opportunity to meet some of the colleagues from the Melammu Project in person. Last but not least, I would also like to thank Sebastian Fink for his kind support. I'm very happy to share the duties with him. I will do my best to contribute to the work of the Melammu Project in its efforts to promote the exchange of ideas among scholars of the ancient world. And I am sure that the next Symposium, which will take place in Berlin in July, will be a good proof of that, as well as the ones to come, thanks to the effort and enthusiasm of all the members of Melammu.

All the best,
Ana Arroyo



Reports on Recent Melammu Events

Melammu Symposium 15 in Graz, September 21-24: "Clash of Civilizations? Sedentary and non-sedentary populations"
(Wolfgang Spickermann, Hannes Galter, Laerke Recht & Michaela Zinko; student helpers: Selina Eder, Marina Schutti, Hans Scherer & Isabell Tscheini)

In September 2022 the 15th Symposium of the Melammu Project took place in Graz, it was a pleasure to be able to welcome colleagues in person, to discuss together and to exchange news.

The topic of the event was chosen based on the book *The Clash of Civilizations* by Samuel P. Huntington, published in 1996, with which he started a very controversial debate about the possibility of conflicts between different cultural areas in the 21st century, especially between Western civilization and Chinese and Islamic cultures. The aim of the symposium was to put this modern discussion into a completely different context by asking whether the label "Clash of civilizations" is suitable for the manifold relations between sedentary and non-sedentary groups in ancient cultures.

Four research-panels were presented: (1) Entanglement and interactions, (2) Conflicts, (3) Mobile groups and state formation and (4) Religious interactions. On Wednesday, 22nd of September, the symposium opened with the panel "Conflicts" and its first keynote lecture, which was given by Simonetta Ponchia (Verona) on the topic "Arabs at the fringes of empires: encounters and clashes in the 9th-7th centuries BCE". In the afternoon

Klaus Tausend (Graz) presented his keynote speech, which dealt with the subject "Reitervölker - Bedrohung aus der Steppe". The second day was focused on the topic "Entanglement and interactions", with Nele Ziegler (Paris) giving a keynote presentation entitled "Nomaden zur Zeit Samsi-Addus: Widerstand oder Anpassung an ein Großreich" and Kai Ruffing (Kassel) dealing with the question "From Chang'an to Londinium: Trade and Cultural Contacts in the First Silk Roads Era". The third day of the symposium focused on the topic "Mobile groups and state formation" and was supported by keynote presentations by Seth Richardson (Chicago) with a lecture to "Incursions, Anxieties: Rest and Motion in State Formation" and Roland Steinacher (Innsbruck), who discussed the question "Rom und die Barbaren: clash of cultures oder Transformation" as a keynote speaker. The last panel on the topic "Religious interactions" started on Saturday morning with Giorgio Buccellati (Mailand) and his keynote lecture presenting the question "Polytheism vs. monotheism – A socio-epistemic culture clash" and was finished by Katharina Rieger (Warschau/Graz) with her presentation on "How mobile are deities? Religion and mobile life-strategies in the Graeco-Roman Near East". The panels and their keynote speeches were complemented by numerous extremely interesting short presentations to the main topic "Clash of Civilizations? Sedentary and non-sedentary populations", which offered insights into research projects and special themes. Thanks to all speakers and participants for exciting discussions and impressive presentations of research topics.



Graz 2022
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Upcoming Melammu Events

Melammu Workshop 18 in Gdańsk, May 22-23, 2023
Experiencing Borders in Antiquity
(Krzysztof Ulanowski & Sebastian Fink)

May 22, 2023

09.00 Simonetta Ponchia (Verona): Borders and People Movements
09.30 Sebastian Fink (Innsbruck): Crossing Borders with Gilgameš
09.50 Bernhard Schneider (Warszawa): The City Walls of Nippur during the 1st Millennium BC: Multifaceted Purposes of a City Border
10.10 Zozan Tarhan (Sofia): Expanding Borders: Religious and Imperial Aspects of Assyrian Kingship
10.30 Coffee break
11.00 Nicholas Sekunda (Gdańsk): Sacrificial Practices when the Lacedaemonian Army Crossed the Frontier
11.20 Bogdan Burliga (Gdańsk): Defenders of Order in the Midst of What is Outside: Experiencing Outlands in Xenophon's Anabasis
11.40 Krzysztof Ulanowski (Gdańsk): Taxila (Bactria) as the Frontier of the Hellenized World. Who is barbaros and who is mleccchá?
12.30 Lunch break

May 23, 2023

11.30 Vladimir Sazonov (Tartu): A Comparative Analysis of Migration and Deportation Narratives in Middle Assyrian and Hittite Texts (Imperial Period): Royal Inscriptions and Annals
11.50 James Ryan (London): There and Back Again, a King's Tale. Kingship Ideology and Divine Sanction at the 'Edge of the World': Siwah from the Neo-Assyrian Period to Alexander the Great
12.10 Aleksandra Kubiak-Schneider (Wrocław): Allat: A Goddess of the Borderland?
12.30 Amy C. Miranda: Mosaics as Metaphor: Borders in Spatial Experiences of Antiochos-on-the-Orontes

Melammu Workshop 19 in Innsbruck, May 25-26, 2023:
"The Linguistic Position of Sumerian: Isolate or not?"
(Simonetta Ponchia, Martin Lang, Sebastian Fink)

May 25, 2023

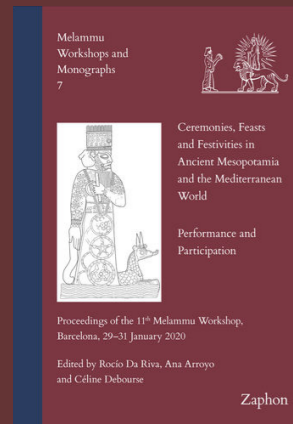
09:00 Opening
09:15 Simo Parpola (Helsinki): A change of paradigm: why Uralists should study Sumerian, and vice versa
10:00 Peeter Espak (Tartu): Sumerian and Finno-Ugric languages: Aspects of a history of research
10:45 Coffee break
11:00 Gebhard Selz (Wien): Which Sumerian? How homophones and homoiophones as well as syntactical observations might influence linguistic comparisons
11:45 Cale Johnson (Berlin): How to think about language in the proto-cuneiform texts
12:30 Lunch break
14:15 Massimo Maiocchi (Venice): Notes on the early terminology for writing and accounting in Mesopotamia
15:00 Martin Joachim Kümmel (Jena): Ob-Ugric as a relative of Sumerian?
15:45 Coffee break
16:15 Gordon Whittaker (Göttingen): Euphratic, Ugric, and Sumerian: Interlinguistic vs. intralinguistic relationships
17:00 Discussion, chaired by Raija Mattila (Helsinki)

May 26, 2023

09:00 Sampsa Holopainen (Vienna): Uralic etymologies and problems of long-range comparison
09:45 Noah Kröll (Innsbruck): Emesal as evidence for the linguistic position of Sumerian
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Marcos Such Gutiérrez (Madrid): Difficulties using the Sumerian lexicon as a basis for a comparison: the case of the semantic field of animals
11:45 Alexander Steiner (Innsbruck): Terms of Spatial Perception and their Relevance for Linguistic Affiliation
12:30 Lunch break

14:15 Aleksi Sahala (Helsinki): Sumerian and Proto-Uralic in light of finite-state machines and Comparative Linguistics: A critical review
15:00 Peter Revesz (Lincoln-Nebr.): A comparison of Proto-Ugric and Sumerian grammars
15:45 Final discussion, chaired by Simonetta Ponchia (Verona)

NOW AVAILABLE



Melammu Workshops and Monographs 7
Ceremonies, Feasts and Festivities in Ancient Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean World

Proceedings of the 11th Melammu Workshop, Barcelona, 29–31 January 2020
Edited by Rocío Da Riva, Ana Arroyo and Céline Debourse
2022 / ISBN 978-3-96327-188-5 / 301 pp.
79,00 €



Melammu Symposia 12
The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East

Proceedings of the 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale and the 12th Melammu Symposium, University of Innsbruck, July 16–20, 2018
Edited by Robert Rollinger, Irene Madreiter, Martin Lang and Cinzia Pappi
2023 / ISBN 978-3-7001-8574-1 / 904 pp.
130,00 €

Job adverts

Melammu Symposium 16 in Berlin 'Concepts of Governance and the Study of Ancient Near Eastern Societies'

July 12-14, 2023

(Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum & Jörg Klinger)

July 12, 2023

14:00 Welcome and introduction

14:30 Eva von Dassow:

Anarchy at the Origin of the State

15:15 Ingo Schrakamp:

Die „sumerische Tempelstadt“

aus heutiger Perspektive –

Forschungsgeschichte und

Neubestimmung

* * *

16:30 Andrew Pottorf:

From the Ground Up: The Foundational

Role of the Land-Tenure System

for Social Stratification in Southern

Mesopotamia during the Ur III Period

17:15 Joachim Schaper:

Towards a Hermeneutic of "Justice" in

Sumerian Texts

July 13, 2023

09:00 Regine Pruzsinszky:

Bringing Light into the Dark Age of

the Mid 2nd Millennium: Evidence

from Tigonani

09:45 Yoram Cohen & Eduardo

Torreccilla:

How to Reconstruct Political Power

Structures from Ancient Sources: The

Hittite Empire in Syria (14th-12th BCE)

* * *

11:00 İlgi Gerçek:

Dealing in Absolutes? The State and

its Discontents in Hittite Anatolia

11:45 Jörg Klinger:

Zur Diskussion um eine hethitische

„Verfassung“

* * *

14:30 Cinzia Pappi:

Assyrian Hegemonies and Local

Communities: Questioning Political

Subordination in Assyria

15:15 Poppy Tushingham:

"Vigilance" as a Tool of Governance in

the Late Assyrian Empire

* * *

16:30 Dan Socaciu:

What is Urartu? Changing Views on the

Ancient State and its Repertoires of Rule

17:15 Kristin Kleber:

„Amt“ und „Beamte“ in der

patrimonialen Gesellschaft Babyloniens

des 7. und 6. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.

July 14, 2023

09:00 Suzanne Marchand:

Herodotus's Political Lessons for Early

Modern Readers

09:45 Wouter Henkelman:

Kambyses und der Begriff der Despotie

* * *

11:00 Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum:

„Bürokratie“ und Staatlichkeit im Alten

Orient – ein Konzept und seine Folgen

11:45 Thomas Gertzen:

Some Misconceptions about Ancient

Egyptian Kingship

* * *

14:30 Markus Witte:

Konstruktionen der Richterzeit

15:15 Felix Wiedemann:

The Enlightened Hammurabi. German

Conceptions of Governance at the Turn

of the 20th Century and the Exploration

of the Ancient Near East

16:00 Hans Neumann:

Der Alte Orient in der

Weltgeschichtsschreibung der DDR –

Theoretisch-fachliche Grundlagen

und Kontroversen

**Philipps-University Marburg
(Germany) hosts a new graduate
school "Inszenierung religiöser
Atmosphäre in antiken Kulturen"
(founded by the DFG) and
invites applications for
11 PhD positions (65%, 3 years).**

Applicants need to hold a Master's degree (or equivalent) in the fields of Ancient History, Old Testament, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History, Classical Philology, Historical-Comparative Linguistics, Classical Archaeology, Latin Studies, New Testament, Religious Studies/History with a focus on Islam, or Law (with a focus on Roman Law).

<https://stellenangebote.uni-marburg.de/.../97b371f878c6c9...>

Deadline: 16 June 2023

General information on the graduate school:

<https://www.uni-marburg.de/de/mcaw/grk2844>

Subject respectives of the disciplines involved:

<https://www.uni-marburg.de/en/mcaw/grk2844/our-subject-representatives>

Impressum:

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

Chair: Sebastian Fink

Vice-Chair: Ana Arroyo

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