



## Call for papers

**Fifteenth Symposium of the Melammu Project**  
**“Clash of Civilizations? Sedentary and non-sedentary populations”**  
**Graz (Austria), 21-24 September 2022**

We are very pleased to announce that the Call for Papers for the 15<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Melammu Project with the topic **Clash of Civilizations? Sedentary and non-sedentary populations** hosted by the Institute of Classics at the University of Graz is now open.

With his book “The Clash of Civilizations”, published in 1996, Samuel P. Huntington started a very controversial debate about the possibility of conflicts between different cultural areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially between Western civilization and Chinese and Islamic cultures. The 15<sup>th</sup> Melammu Symposium in Graz puts 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. There are four research-panels: (1) Entanglement and interactions, (2) Conflicts, (3) Mobile groups and state formation and (4) Religious interactions.

Conference languages are: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish.

We welcome **proposals for 20-minute papers**. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should be submitted by **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022** to **melammu\_2022@uni-graz.at**. Abstracts for posters are also welcome.

Organisers:

Wolfgang Spickermann, Hannes D. Galter, Laerke Recht, Michaela Zinko

### **Panel 1: Entanglement and interactions – September 21, 2022**

This panel focuses on entanglement and the nature of the interactions both within West Asia and between West Asia and other areas of the ancient world. Papers may, for example, explore movement of people, ideas, and material culture, and how their reception may, for example, be characterised as adaptation, imitation, hybridisation, resilience or entanglement.

### **Panel 2: Conflicts – September 22, 2022**

This panel deals with the topic *conflicts* in the broadest sense. Does the clash of civilizations lead to conflicts or not? How are conflicts managed? Are they managed in a hostile manner, peacefully or in other ways? How is power expressed? Who becomes the superior part and why? Does the contact of sedentary and non-sedentary populations affect language and culture, and if so, how?

### **Panel 3: Mobile groups and state formation – September 23, 2022**

This panel is dedicated to the questions of how mobile groups came to form states, what the causes were, which mechanisms were at work, and whether differences in time and space played a role. We will pay particular attention to the role of elites, to different conceptions of state and rule in sedentary and non-sedentary societies, and to the economic and military factors that went along with state formation. Finally, questions will also be asked about the reactions of the sedentary populations and about their acceptance of the new distribution of power.

### **Panel 4: Religious interactions – September 24, 2022**

This panel is dedicated to Polytheistic religions in a diachronic perspective. Polytheism generally is an open system which allows the coexistence of several religions if they are not exclusive. Every political action was always connected with religious rituals. This led to local and regional panthea, whose deities coexisted, combined, or even competed with each other, which also could lead to conflicts.