

Nastaran Akhavan International Conference  
on Iranian Studies (Melammu Symposia 17)

# Naval Connectivity around the Iranian Worlds – From the Persian Gulf towards the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean

UCI Jordan Center for  
Persian Studies



Organized by Touraj Daryace (Irvine),  
Robert Rollinger (Innsbruck/Wroclaw), Christoph Schäfer (Trier)

UC Irvine | June 19-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9AM to 5:30PM | HIB 135 - HG 1030

**The Melammu Symposium 17** “Naval connectivity around the Iranian Worlds” intends to change this biased view addressing two main issues. First, it highlights agency of the Iranian Worlds as an actor of its own. The chronological framework will cover two millennia, starting with the definite establishment of empire at the beginning of the first millennium BCE and ending with the Umayyad and Abbasid empire in the first millennium CE. Second, within this longue-durée perspective the conference addresses solely the naval aspect of “Iranian” agency in this lengthy period of Antiquity. Therefore, the Persian Gulf becomes a central zone of scholarly interest as an integral part of a transregional naval network that integrates the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

**Nastaran Akhavan** has been a prominent patron of the study of the Iranian World since the conception of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She and her family have supported various endeavors, including conferences on Mithra, book projects and institutional support. This conference would not have been possible without her encouragement and support.

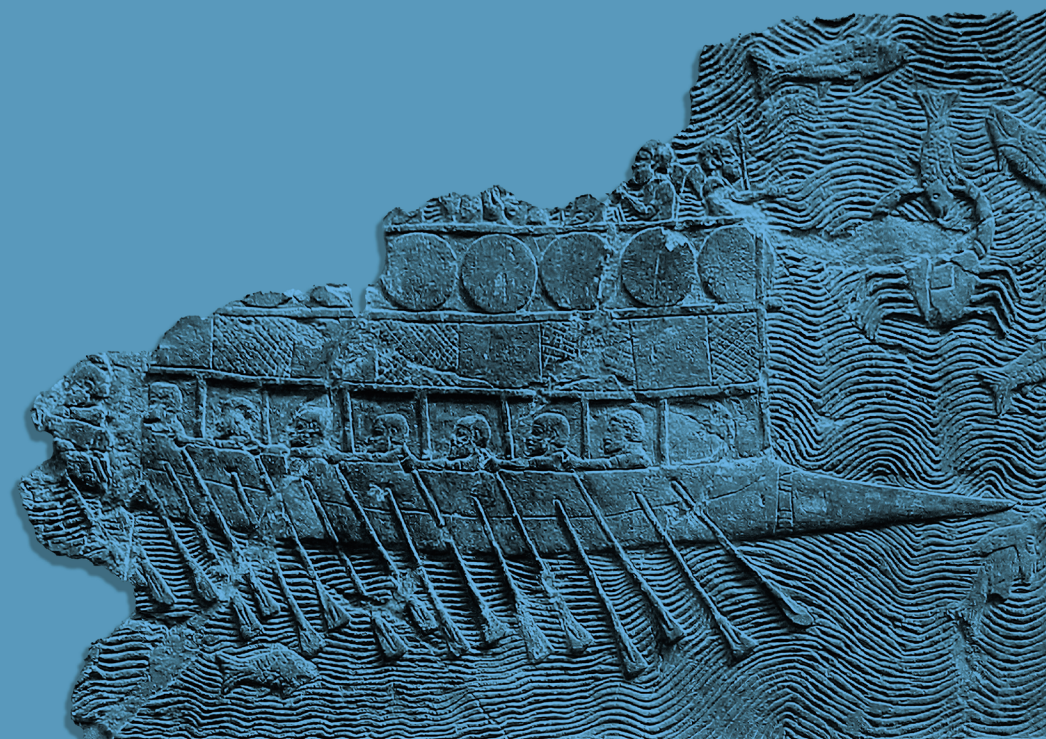
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## JUNE 19

9:15-9:30am	<b>Welcome Address</b> <b>T. Daryaei</b> (UCI), <b>Ch. Schäfer</b> (Trier), <b>R. Rollinger</b> (Innsbruck) <b>Introductory Remarks</b> <b>Sebastian Fink</b> (Innsbruck)
9:30-10:00	<b>Keynote Address</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Camille Reiko Acosta</b> (UCI) <b>Matt Canepa</b> (UCI) Iranian Naval Interconnectivity, Global Maritime Networks, and Perso-Iranian Cultures Beyond Iran
10:00-12:00	<b>PANEL I</b> <b>The Early History of the Persian Gulf and Naval Connectivity</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Elizabeth Carter</b> (UCLA) <b>Elynn Gorris</b> (Catholic University of Louvain) <b>Shadi Kalantar</b> (Napoli) Neo-Elamite Vessels: Logistic Providers for Upper Persian Gulf Connectivity”  <b>Anca Dan</b> (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris) On the way to Paradise: Greek, Roman and Jewish Sources about the Maritime Trade across the Persian Gulf  <b>Carlo G. Cereti</b> (UCI) & <b>Giulio Maresca</b> & <b>Federica Duva</b> (Rome) Kuwait Bay Project: Sea Routes meets Land Routes
12:00-2:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
2:00-5:30	<b>PANEL II</b> <b>The Indian Ocean</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Luiza Osorio G. Silva</b> (UCI) / <b>Khodadad Rezakhani</b> (Leiden) <b>Suchandra Ghosh</b> (Hyderabad) The ports of the Western Indian Sea-board and the Ports of the Persian Gulf : A <i>longue-durée</i> Narrative of Early Maritime Connectivity (1st century BCE to 13th century CE).  <b>Clemens Steinwender</b> (Innsbruck) The View from a Different Angle: The Far Eastern Perspective on the Maritime Trade with India and the Iranian World in Late Antiquity
3:00-3:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  <b>Kai Ruffing</b> (Kassel) Commercial Networks in the Worlds of the Indian Ocean and their Socio-Cultural Background  <b>Julian Heinz</b> (Trier) Simulating Roman Indian Trade with DIMAG  <b>Patrick Reinard</b> (Trier) Infrastructure and Roman Indian Trade

## JUNE 20

9:30-12:00	<b>PANEL III</b> <b>The Sea Silk Road</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Sara Elizabeth Cole</b> (Getty Museum) <b>Christoph Schäfer</b> (Trier) Sailing on the Silk Road - Ancient Seafaring in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean <b>Peter Johann</b> (Trier) Red Sea Routes, Structures and Agents in Roman Times <b>Mateo González Vázquez</b> (Trier) Hellenistic and Late Republican Transport Amphorae in Arabia and its Implications for Mediterranean-Near Eastern Sea Trade <b>Bernhard Palme</b> (Vienna) Controlling, Protecting, and Exploiting the ‘Maritime Silk Road’: The Roman Authorities and Overseas Trade with India <b>Kerstin Dross-Krüpe</b> (Hamburg)   (Zoom) Documentary Sources and the Maritime Silk Road: Unveiling Players in the Ancient Red Sea Trade via Egypt
12:30-2:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
2:00-4:30	<b>PANEL IV</b> <b>Ancient Seafaring</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Hilmar Klinkott</b> (Kiel) <b>Pascal Warnking</b> (Trier) Nearchus' Voyage in the Light of Recent Research on Ancient Seafaring  <b>Florian Posselt</b> (Innsbruck)   (Zoom) Babylonians, Persians, Greeks - the Conception of the Outer Ocean  <b>Denise Demetriou</b> (UCSD) Bridging the Bitter River: Greek and Persian Perceptions of the Phoenician Navy and the Mediterranean Sea During the Persian Wars  <b>Stefan Hauser</b> (Konstanz)   (Zoom) The Arsacid Center of Maritime Trade: Alexandria-Charax  <b>Jörg Schwarz</b> (Innsbruck) "Fleets and harbors in Context: the Eastern Mediterranean as a Hub Towards East, West and South – What can we Learn from the Crusades?"
4:30-5:00pm	<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b> <b>T. Daryaei</b> (UCI), <b>Ch. Schäfer</b> (Trier), <b>R. Rollinger</b> (Innsbruck)

## JUNE 21

### TRAVEL TO CATALINA ISLAND

The Island is about an Hour Away from us and the Ferry will Take us in the Morning and Return in the Afternoon.