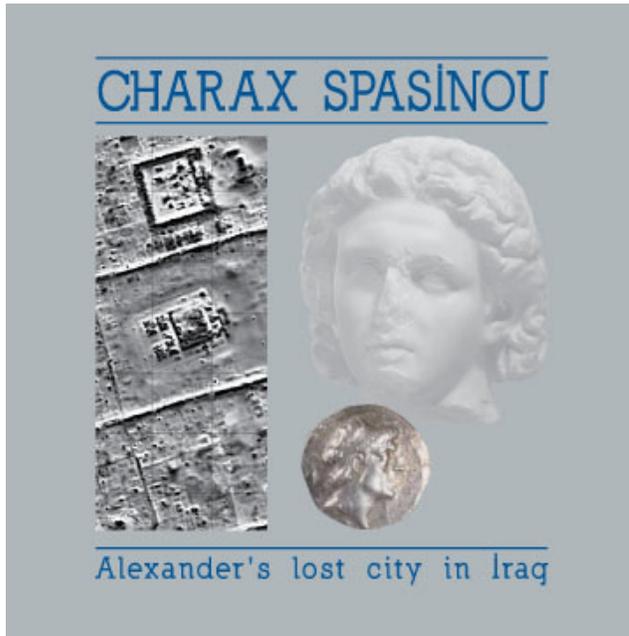




**POURDAVOUD CENTER LECTURE SERIES**



**CHARAX SPASINOU**  
RESEARCH ON THE CAPITAL OF MESENE  
AND THE ARSACID CENTER OF TRADE

**MARCH 13, 2019 | 4:00 P.M. | 306 ROYCE HALL**

**STEFAN R. HAUSER**  
(UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ/GETTY SCHOLAR)

The city of Charax Spasinou was a major trading center of the Arsacid Empire. Located near the head of the Persian Gulf, it was the primary port of entry for sea-borne goods from India destined for the imperial court at Ctesiphon, the Elamais, and for places further afield such as Palmyra and the Mediterranean. Originally founded by Alexander the Great, the time of its greatest prosperity was from the late 2nd century BC through to the 3rd century AD. The city was first identified in 1965 as modern Jebel Khayaber, near Basra, but until 2016 it had never been subjected to archaeological exploration. This lecture summarizes the work carried out by the current Charax Spasinou Project, set up to survey and document the site and its vicinity. It will show that much of the ancient city is in fact still extant, with considerable potential for future investigation of long-distance trade in antiquity and of the political history of the wider region.

**SPEAKER**



**Stefan R. Hauser** is professor of Archaeology of Ancient Mediterranean Cultures and their Relations to the Ancient Near East and Egypt at Universität Konstanz. His work

is characterized by very wide interests, illustrated by more than 100 articles and books on topics as diverse as production and trade, death and funerary ritual, and the visibility of nomadic groups in the archaeological record. More recently, the 2017 exhibition "Rebuild Palmyra?", which he conceived and designed with students and colleagues from design, architecture, information sciences, and history, confronted a wider public with the important topic of the precarious situation of cultural heritage under threat. He is also the co-director of a British-German archaeological research project at Charax Spasinou and its hinterland in modern southern Iraq.

**The mission of the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World** is to engage in transformative research on all aspects of Iranian antiquity, including its reception in the medieval and modern periods, by expanding on the traditional domains of Old Iranian studies and promoting cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary scholarship.

**Advanced registration is requested. For more information and to RSVP, please click [here](#).**

Self-pay parking in Structure 4 is recommended. Light refreshments will be served.