



POURDAVOUD CENTER LECTURE SERIES



CONTEXTUALIZING THE  
ACHAEMENID-PERSIAN EMPIRE

WHAT DOES EMPIRE MEAN IN THE 1ST MILLENNIUM BCE?

FEBRUARY 6, 2019 | 4:00 P.M. | 306 ROYCE HALL

ROBERT ROLLINGER (UNIVERSITÄT INNSBRUCK/GETTY SCHOLAR)

Looking at historical handbooks of the Ancient Near East, there appears to be a general agreement on structuring the outline of political history of the first millennium BCE. The epoch is conceptualized as a succession of three clearly defined empires. The first, the Neo-Assyrian empire, is regarded to represent a turning point in history by establishing imperial structures connected with a claim to rule the world. It is succeeded by the Neo-Babylonian empire and the Persian empire which, on the one hand, follow the previously introduced imperial trajectory but, on the other hand, shape their individual and distinctive conceptions of empire and state. With the conquests of Alexander the Great a major break is generally considered to have taken place. Ancient Near Eastern empires end and a nascent, western empire emerges introducing a new era. Rollinger challenges this narrative by contemplating the meaning of empire in the first millennium BCE and the role the fringes of empire play in the dynamic relationship of interconnected regions and zones to which both the east and the west belonged.

SPEAKER



Robert Rollinger

is Professor of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Universität Innsbruck, Austria. He is a scholar of history and culture between the Aegean world and the ancient Near East. He has been a visiting professor at the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations (AKU-ISMC) and the Institute for History (Jean Monnet Chair for European History) at Universität Hildesheim. In 2008, Rollinger became the first Austrian historian to be a member of the European Network for the History of Ancient Greece, which is dedicated to changes in ancient historical research.

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.