Identity, Alterity, and the Imperial Impress in the Achaemenid World

The Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is convening an international workshop on Identity, Alterity, and the Imperial Impress in the Achaemenid World, held on April 12–14, 2023 at UCLA. The symposium will include invited speakers whose research pertain to the history, structures, and impact of the Achaemenid empire. The overarching themes covered by the workshop are: current trends in Achaemenid scholarship; new horizons in art and archaeology; Achaemenid reception, and the notions of identity, alterity, and the imperial impress in Achaemenid Elam and Persis, Anatolia, the Caucasus, and Egypt.

ACHAEMENID WORKSHOPS

The present workshop introduces a new series of symposia, dubbed Achaemenid Workshops (AchWorks), which, building on the strength of Achaemenid studies in the past decades, seek to revisit and reassess the state of Achaemenid scholarship over the coming years with a dozen workshops hosted at leading institutions of ancient studies around the globe. Coordinated by the Pourdavoud Center in conjunction with AchWorks’ Organizing Board, the workshops aspire to become an intellectual hub for Achaemenid studies, while also affording an institutional framework to foster future generations of scholars working on the Achaemenid world.

POURDAVOUD CENTER

Established in 2017 as the premier research center for the study of ancient Iran, 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 interdisciplinary scholarship. The Pourdavoud Center intends to be a disciplinary home to stimulating intellectual encounters and exchanges for scholars working on ancient Iran and the ancient world, and will contribute to the development of collaborative research projects in such diverse areas as Assyriology, Biblical Studies, Central Asian Studies, Classics, Egyptology, ancient History, Indology, Sinology, and the Study of Religion.

Event Details

This hybrid event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. In-person seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Alternatively, guests unable to attend in person will be able to watch a live stream. The symposium will adhere to all COVID-19 related guidelines as set by the University of California, Los Angeles.

Registration for both in-person attendance and the live stream may be found at: https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/events/

UCLA Parking: Prices for all-day parking on campus varies by location. Parking structures 2 or 4 are recommended.

For more information, please email info@pourdavoud.ucla.edu

Cover Image: Lycian dignitary in Achaemenid style, Karaburun tomb near Elmalı, Lycia, c. 475 BCE. Photo by Roy Hessing, 2010; courtesy of Lâife Summerer.
Day 1: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

8:00 am  Morning Refreshments
8:40 am  Introductions
M. Rahim Shayegan (Director, Pourdavoud Center)
Robert Rollerling (University of Innsbruck)

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Panel I: Achaemenid Persia and the West
Chair: Robert Rollerling (University of Innsbruck)
Elspeth Dusinberre (University of Colorado Boulder)
Current Trends in Scholarship Regarding Achaemenid Material and Visual Culture
Josef Wieschöfer (University of Kiel)
The State of Achaemenid Studies
Questions & Answers

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Panel II: Perspectives on the Iranian Longue Durée I
Chair: Christelle Fischer-Bovet (University of Southern California)
Julian Degen (University of Trier)
The Achaemenids and the Desert
Rolf Strootman (University of Utrecht)
Globalization and the Iranian Longue Durée: Empire and Warfare under the Achaemenids, Argeads, and Seleukids, c. 550–150 BCE
Questions & Answers

12:30–2:00 pm
Lunch Break

2:00–3:30 pm
Panel III: Perspectives on the Iranian Longue Durée II
Chair: Catherine Bonesh (University of California, Los Angeles)
Jake Nabel (Pennsylvania State University)
Faking Bowing, From the Achaemenids to the Sassanians
Touraj Daryace (University of California, Irvine)
Persepolis: The Persistence of Achaemenid Memory?
Questions & Answers

4:00–5:30 pm
Panel IV: Art and Archaeology: New Horizons
Chair: Emma Peterson (University of California, Los Angeles)
Lindsay Allen (King's College London)
Embedded Alterity: Material Hybridity As an Achaemenid Strategy
Ali Mousavi (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Archaeology of Achaemenid Iran: A Glance at Recent Developments and Studies
Questions & Answers

Day 2: Thursday, April 13, 2023

8:00 am  Morning Refreshments
8:40 am  Introductions

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Panel V: Elam and Persis
Chair: Timothy Potts (J. Paul Getty Museum)
Daniel Potts (New York University)
Elam and Persis
Matt Waters (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)
Still Sorting the Mail: The Assyrian Imperial Impress in Elam and Parsuama
Questions & Answers

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Panel VI: Anatolia
Chair: Kai Ruffing (University of Kassel)
John O. Hyland (Christopher Newport University)
Remembering Croesus, Serving Darius: Local Elites and Imperial Administration in Early Achaemenid Sardis
Hilmar Klinkott (University of Kiel)
The Development of Local Identity as Imperial Integration Process in Achaemenid Asia Minor: The Examples of Caria and Lycia
Questions & Answers

12:30–2:00 pm
Lunch Break

2:00–4:00 pm
Panel VII: Anatolia and Caucasia
Chair: Kenneth Lapatin (J. Paul Getty Museum)
Jeffrey Spier (J. Paul Getty Museum)
Identity and Pictorial Representation in Achaemenid Lycia
Léa Sommerer (Arik University of Creative Arts and Design)
Tomb Paintings of Achaemenid Anatolia between East and West
Florian Knauf (Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek München)
Persian Strongholds in the North
Questions & Answers

Day 3: Friday, April 14, 2023

8:00 am  Morning Refreshments
8:40 am  Introductions

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Panel VIII: The Other Within
Chair: William Schniedewind (University of California, Los Angeles)
John W. L. Lee (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Intimate Relationships, Family, and Identity in the Achaemenid Empire
Charles Howley (University of California, Los Angeles)
"The Foreigners Value Eunuchs More Than Perfect Men": Gender Alterity and Its Political, Social, and Religious Implications in Achaemenid Court Culture
Questions & Answers

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Panel IX: Imperial Diaspora in Egypt
Chair: Jeffrey Newman (University of California, Los Angeles)
Elena Mahlich (University of Leipzig)
Royal Ideology and Imperialism in Hieroglyphic and Cuneiform Inscriptions from Achaemenid Egypt
Henry P. Colburn (New York University)
How (Not) to Find Persians in Egypt
Questions & Answers

12:30–2:00 pm
Lunch Break

2:00–4:00 pm
Panel X: Egyptian Religion in the Age of the Achaemenids
Chair: Sara E. Cole (J. Paul Getty Museum)
Alexander Schütze (Maximilian University of Munich)
Caro-Memphites and Aramaeo-Syeni: What the Case of the Carians Tells Us about Religious Practices and Burial Customs of Foreign Groups in Persian Egypt
Hong Yu Chen (University of California, Los Angeles)
The ba-spirits of Amun-Re: Theology and Egyptian Exegesis in the Persian Period
Jonathan Winneermann (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Hidden and the Revealed: Parallel Conceptions of the Divine at Hûpis and in Context
Questions & Answers