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**Mesopotamia in the Ancient World**  
*Impact, Continuity, Parallels*  
 University Centre Obergurgl/Tyrol, Austria  
 4-8 November 2013

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Welcome



**MESOPOTAMIA IN THE ANCIENT WORLD**  
**IMPACT, CONTINUITY, PARALLELS**  
 (Melammu Symposia 7)

*Obergurgl, Tyrol, Austria; 4-8 November 2013*



*Organisation:*

*Robert Rollinger, University of Innsbruck/University of Helsinki*  
*Erik van Dongen, Saint Mary's University (Halifax)*

### Conference Description

The conference subject is the impact of Ancient Mesopotamian culture (Sumerians, Akkadians, Assyrian, Babylonians) on southwestern Asia and the eastern Mediterranean in contemporary times (ca. 3000-1 BCE), and the survival of cultural elements in the same area until after the Arabic Conquest (ca. 1-1000 CE). In Assyriology, as well as in the study of antiquity in general, the study of intercultural connections is a relatively new development (we distance ourselves from the Panbabylonism of the past). To further this burgeoning field, the conference has three aims:

1. To bring together and improve existing knowledge on the subjects of the conference sessions
2. To further develop our knowledge of the cultural position of Mesopotamia in the wider region of the eastern Mediterranean and southwestern Asia
3. To provide scholars involved in intercultural studies (who often work in isolation due to the compartmentalisation of research) with an opportunity to discuss their work with colleagues

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The conference relevance is not restricted to study of ancient Mesopotamia and of antiquity in general. European culture is generally thought to be based mainly on two pillars, the Classical (Graeco-Roman) world and the society that produced the Bible, to which perhaps a third pillar, Arabic culture, should be added. By exploring the impact of Mesopotamia on these cultural complexes, the conference results will also affect ideas about the background of modern European culture. Moreover, studies into interaction in antiquity provide insights into the early history of the phenomenon of globalisation.

The conference will feature seven sessions. Each will discuss a specific subject, and will consist of an introduction, papers by speakers from different disciplines, a response, and a round-table discussion. The sessions will cover the following subjects:

1. Mesopotamia and the World: Interregional Interaction
2. Representations of Power: Shaping the Past and the Present
3. 'Fighting like a Lion': The Use of Literary Figures of Speech
4. Et Dona Ferentes: Foreign Reception of Mesopotamian Objects
5. The Near East after Antiquity: Iran and Early Islam
6. Talking to God(s): Prayers and Incantations.
7. The World of Politics: 'Democracy', Citizens, and 'Polis'

Additionally, each day there will be an extensive poster session, which will provide the opportunity to provide work on other topics. There will also be a closing panel and discussion on the future of the Melammu Project.

## Call for Posters

### **Mesopotamia in the Ancient World: Impact, Continuity, Parallels**

**(Melammu Symposia 7)**

**University of Innsbruck (Obergurgl University Centre), 4-8 November 2013**

From 4-8 November 2013, we are organizing the 7th Melammu Symposium, on 'Mesopotamia in the Ancient World: Impact, Continuities, Parallels'. It will take place at the University of Innsbruck conference centre in Obergurgl, a gorgeous place high up in the Alps on the border with Italy. We will discuss the impact of ancient Mesopotamian culture on southwestern Asia and the eastern Mediterranean in contemporary times, and the survival of cultural elements in the same area until after the Arabic Conquest. A general description of the conference and its preliminary program can be found at the conference website: <http://transidee-conference.uibk.ac.at/mesop2013/>.

The conference will consist of seven sessions on specific subjects, as well as daily poster sessions for which the subject is open. Posters are not a common feature of humanities conferences. Nonetheless, especially for younger scholars, they can be a very useful tool to quickly introduce new work to new audiences, to get feedback, and to get to know and be known in the academic community. We hope, therefore, that this conference will help set a trend in poster presentations. To further aid in this process, we will provide assistance on how to create a good poster. There will also be a prize for the best contribution.

We herewith invite proposals for posters. Those interested are asked to submit their proposal (title plus abstract of max. 300 words) through the conference registration website: <https://www.conftool.com/mesopotamia2013/> (create an account, then go to Your Submissions). The

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submission deadline is 15 May; results will be announced by 31 May. Note that all contributions must be in English.

As for travel and accommodation: all participants will stay in the guest rooms of the Obergurgl Conference Centre. The rate is 920€ for a single room or 770€ for a double room (i.e. shared). This rate covers the entire duration of the conference and also includes all(!) meals and breaks. There is also room for guests. Information on how to reach Obergurgl or Innsbruck is available on the conference website. Participants are encouraged to find their own funds to pay for the trip and the stay. However, we also have a limited number of grants available, so please indicate with your poster proposal in the Remarks field if you would require financial support to be able to take part in the conference.

## Program

*Last Update: 11 October*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS WITHIN SESSIONS AND ALL PRESENTATION TITLES ARE PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### **DAY 1 (Monday 4 November): Arrival Day**

16:00h Registration and get-together

*17:30h Opening of the Conference*

Opening address by the Rector of the University of Innsbruck

Opening address by the Dean

Opening address by the Organizers (Erik van Dongen)

Old Battles, New Horizons: Impulse Lecture (Robert Rollinger)

19:30h Dinner

### **DAY 2 (Tuesday 5 November)**

*08:45h, Morning Session: Talking to God(s): Prayers and Incantations*

*Chair: Tzvi Abusch (Brandeis University)*

Introduction by the Chair

Cynthia Jean (Université Libre de Bruxelles): Performing Rituals in Secluded Places: A Comparison of the Akkadian and Hittite Corpus

Alan Lenzi (University of the Pacific): The Language of Akkadian Prayers in Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi and Its Significance within and beyond Mesopotamia

David P. Wright (Brandeis University): Silence from Silence: Verbal Expression in the Priestly Sanctuary of the Pentateuch and Its Near Eastern Context

Alberto Bernabé (Complutense University of Madrid): To Swear to Heaven and Earth, from Mesopotamia to Greece

Amar Annus (Freie Universität Berlin): Ancient Mesopotamian Mythology and International Folklore

Response: Martin Lang (University of Innsbruck)

Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part I

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13:00h Lunch + Leisure time (relaxing, hiking, chatting)

*15:00h, Afternoon Session: Et Dona Ferentes: Foreign Reception of Mesopotamian Objects*  
Chair: Gerhard Tomedi (University of Innsbruck)

Introduction by the Chair

Kai Ruffing (University of Kassel): Economic Life on the Euphrates Frontier: Roman Dura  
Europos

Iulia Dumitrache (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University): Garum between East and West  
Winfried Held (Philipps-Universität Marburg) and Deniz Kaplan (Mersin University) (read by  
WH): The Residence of a Persian Satrap in Meydancikkale, Cilicia

Giacomo Bardelli (University of Innsbruck/Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz):  
Eastern Influences in Etruria between the Orientalizing and the Archaic Period: The Case of  
Rod-Tripods

Joachim Ganzert (Leibniz Universität Hannover): On the Archetype of Sacral Rulership  
Legitimization and the Lower Court in the Lüneburg Townhall

Response: Ann Gunter (Northwestern University)

Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part I

20:00h Dinner

### **DAY 3 (Wednesday 6 November)**

*08:45h, Morning Session: 'Fighting like a Lion': The Use of Literary Figures of Speech*  
Chair: Simone Paganini (RWTH Aachen University)

Introduction by the Chair

Johannes Haubold (Durham University): 'Shepherds of the People': The Many Lives of a  
Mesopotamian Metaphor

Krzysztof Ulanowski (University of Gdańsk): The Metaphor of the Lion in Mesopotamian and  
Greek Civilization

Sebastian Fink (University of Innsbruck): Metaphors for the Unrecognizability of God in  
Mesopotamian and Greek Texts

Raoul Schrott (University of Innsbruck): The Origin of the Muses or Who Is the Goddess of the  
*Iliad*

Response: Thomas Kämmerer (University of Tartu)

Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part II

13:00h Lunch + Leisure time

*15:00h, Afternoon Session: Mesopotamia and the World: Interregional Interaction*  
Chair: Giovanni Lanfranchi (University of Padua)

Introduction by the Chair

Reinhard Pirngruber (University of Vienna): "The King Paid No Heed to Any of the Words We

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Sent before”: The Interaction between the Neo-Assyrian King and the Outside World  
André Heller (University of Bamberg): Why the Greeks Know So Little about Assyrian and  
Babylonian History

Irene Madreiter and Birgit Gufler (University of Innsbruck): The Ancient Near East and the  
Genre of Greek Historiography

Julien Monerie (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): Writing Greek with Weapons  
Singularly Ill-Designed for the Purpose: The Transcription of Greek Names in Cuneiform

Krzysztof Nawotka (University of Wrocław): Alexander the Great in Babylon: Reality and  
Myth

Response: Simonetta Ponchia (University of Verona)  
Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part II

20:00h Dinner

### **DAY 4 (Thursday 7 November)**

*08:45h, Morning Session: The World of Politics: ‘Democracy’, Citizens, and ‘Polis’*

*Chair: Kurt Raaflaub (Brown University)*

Introduction by the Chair, followed by paper: Early Greek Poets and Early Israelite Prophets: A  
Comparison of Their Social and Political Thinking

Saana Svärd (University of Helsinki): Political Leadership and Femininity: Neo-Assyrian and  
Neo-Babylonian Royal Women

Kristoffer Momrak (University of Bergen): Identifying Popular Power: Who Were the People of  
Ancient Near Eastern City-States?

Aaron Tugendhaft (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich): Cosmology and Political  
Thought in Ugarit, Ionia, and Athens

Sabine Müller (University of Kiel): A History of Misunderstandings? Macedonian Politics and  
Persian Prototypes in Greek Polis-Centred Perspective

Response: Raija Mattila (University of Helsinki)  
Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part III

13:00h Lunch + Leisure time

*15:00h, Afternoon Session: Iran and Early Islam*

*Chair: Lucian Reinfandt (University of Vienna)*

Introduction by the Chair

Vladimir Sazonov and Andreas Johandi (Estonian National Defense College/University of Tartu;  
read by VS): Some Remarks Concerning Influences of Assyrian Royal Ideology on Achaemenid

Iran: Reflections of Ancient Mesopotamian Traditions in Ancient Iranian Royal Ideology and  
Official Propaganda Using the Example of Royal Titulary

Aleksandra Szalc (University of Wrocław): Semiramis, Kandake and Alexander

Timothy Greenwood (University of St. Andrews): Oversight, Influence and Mesopotamian  
Connections to Armenia across the Sasanian and Early Islamic Periods

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Lutz Berger (University of Kiel): Looking for Patterns in the *Futûh*

Response: Josef Wiesehöfer (University of Kiel)

Round-table discussion

Poster Presentations, Part III

20:00h Dinner

### **DAY 5 (Friday 8 November)**

*08:45h, Morning Session: Representations of Power: Shaping the Past and the Present*

*Chair: Sabina Franke (University of Hamburg)*

Introduction by the Chair

Mario Fales (University of Udine; read by Simonetta Ponchia): Looking the Gods in the Eye: Sennacherib's Gaze toward Destiny, from Rock Reliefs to Cylinder Seals, in Historical Light  
Dirk Wicke (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz): Assyrian or Assyrianising: Reflections of Assyrian Imperial Art in Southern Anatolia

Rocio Da Riva (University of Barcelona): The Long-Lasting Images of an Ephemeral Empire: Neo-Babylonian Representations in the Periphery

Christoph Schäfer (Trier University): Inspiration and Impact of Seleucid Royal Representation

Response: Beate Pongratz-Leisten, with and by Jonathan Valk (New York University)

Round-table discussion

*Closing Discussion: The Future of the Melammu Project*

*Chair: Simo Parpola (University of Helsinki)*

Panellist 1: The Meetings (Robert Rollinger, University of Innsbruck)

Panellist 2: Methodology and Research (Martti Nissinen, University of Helsinki)

Panellist 3: The Melammu Database and Website (Erik van Dongen, Saint Mary's University)

Panellist 4: A Young Researcher's Perspective (Sebastian Fink, University of Innsbruck)

Plenary discussion

Lunch

14:30h End of the Conference

#### *Posters*

Stéphanie Anthonioz (Université Catholique de Lille): Babel Head in the Sky

Silvia Balatti (University of Kiel): The Mountain People of the Zagros in the 1st Millennium BC

Ennio Biondi (University of Catania): The Egyptian Rebellion of Inarus: Athens between Persia and the Levant

Alexandra Bourguignon (Université Libre de Bruxelles): Semitic Loanwords in Mycenaean Greek: Multiple Roads, Multiple Ways

Sabrina Buchebner (University of Innsbruck): The Position of the Tomb of Meskalamdug within the Royal Cemetery of Ur

Jörg Erdtmann (Trier University): Egyptian-Oriental Based Welfare Ethics in Graeco-Roman Voluntary Associations?

Peeter Espak (University of Tartu): Some Influences of Mesopotamian Royal Ideology and

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### Mythology to the Biblical World and beyond

- Max Gander (University of Zurich): Ahhiyawa – Hiyawa – Que: Is There Evidence for Greek Presence in Cilicia in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages?
- Martin Gronau (University of Innsbruck): A Sheep among Wolves: Two Traditions of the Beastlike ‘Way of Life’ in Berossos?
- Melanie Groß (University of Vienna): The Structure and Organisation of the Neo-Assyrian Royal Household
- Zenobia Homan (University of Cambridge): Social Networking in Ancient Arrapha: Comparative Palaeography of Nuzi
- Claudia Horst (University of Bremen): Democracy between the Near East and Greece
- Sanae Ito (University of Helsinki): Royal Image and Political Thinking in the Correspondence of Assurbanipal
- Angelika Kellner (University of Innsbruck): Carl Friedrich Ferdinand Lehmann-Haupt: A Study about His Life and Work
- Mait Kõiv (University of Tartu): Archaic Greek Tyranny and City State Monarchy in the Near East: A Comparative Approach
- Aleksandra Kubiak (University of Warsaw): Anonymous God Revisited: A Case of Palmyrene Dedications
- John A. Lynch (University of California, Los Angeles): Gilgamesh’s Ghosts: Connecting Visions of the Dead across the Ancient Near East
- Sean Manning (University of Innsbruck): Raising an Army in Achaemenid Sparda
- Bernhard Schneider (University of Innsbruck): The Construction History of the Ekur Temple of Nippur
- Nella Sudano (University of Salento): Babylonian Motifs within Greek Fables and Proverbs
- Louisa Désirée Thomas (Philipps-Universität Marburg): Killing the King: Royal Assassinations in Achaemenid Persia
- Brigitte Truschnegg (University of Innsbruck): The Description and Perception of Ancient Cities Involved in the Campaigns of Alexander the Great in Greek and Latin Literary Sources
- Jonathan Valk (New York University): The Origins of the Assyrian King List
- Agnieszka Wojciechowska (University of Wrocław): The Babylonian Dating System and the Date of the Conquest of Egypt by Artaxerxes III

## Practical Information

### Travel

[Obergurgl](#) is a small village located 100 km away from Innsbruck in the back of the Ötztal Valley at 1930 m elevation. For information on how to get there on your own, please refer to [this site of the university centre](#). Bus transfer from Innsbruck to Obergurgl and back will be provided (information coming soon). Direct transfer from and to the airport is available [here](#).

Note that it is also possible, and sometimes easier and cheaper, to fly to Frankfurt or Munich and continue to Innsbruck by train.

### Contact Us

Robert Rollinger, University of Innsbruck / University of Helsinki: [robert.rollinger@uibk.ac.at](mailto:robert.rollinger@uibk.ac.at)

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Erik van Dongen, Saint Mary's University (Halifax): [erik.vandongen@helsinki.fi](mailto:erik.vandongen@helsinki.fi)

Fabian-Valentin Kaiser (conference Officer): [fabian-valentin.kaiser@transidee.ac.at](mailto:fabian-valentin.kaiser@transidee.ac.at)

Melammu Project Website: <http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu/>