

Whose custom is it anyway?

Empire, cities and people through archaeology, art and written sources in Hellenistic Central Asia

Conference Programme

21st - 23rd March 2024

Paris Nanterre University

Fifth Conference of the Hellenistic Central Asia Research Network

Thursday 21st March 2024

All indicated times are in Central European Time (CET)

- 9:00 Registration
9:30 **Olivier Bordeaux** (CNRS) and **Ségolène de Pontbriand** (ArScAn laboratory)
Welcoming addresses
9:45 **Henri-Paul Francfort** (CNRS-AIBL), Introduction

Part I. The Empire

Panel 1. Building the State

- 10:00 **Lauren Morris** (Charles University)
Revisiting old problems: development in post-Hellenistic northern Bactria and its relation to the Kushan state
10:30 **Milinda Hoo** (University of Utrecht)
Frontiers of ambition: Diplomacy, peer polity interaction, and identity formation between the Graeco-Bactrian and Seleucid kings
11:00 Coffee break
11:30 **Svenja Bonmann, Jakob Halfmann** and **Natalie Korobzow** (University of Cologne, University of Würzburg)
Multilingualism in Central Asia: What "Afghanistan's Rosetta Stone" can tell us about peoples and cultures in the Kushan Empire

Panel 2. Ruling the State

- 12:00 **Marco Ferrario** (University of Trento / Universität Augsburg)
Whose Customs? Kyropolis, Baktria, and the Steppes in the Early Teispid-Achaemenid Empire. On Universal Claims and Borderland Economies
12:30 Lunch break
14:00 **Marc Mendoza** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Another Stranger Me: Sophytos' ethnicity in early Hellenistic Central Asia

- 14:30 **Alessandro Magnani** (University of Bologna)
Vima Kadphises: a double language coinage
15:00 **Tomas Larsen Høisæter** (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)
King of kings in the Tarim Basin. On the Tarim model of kingship and its precedents

15:30 Coffee break

Panel 3. Expanding the State

- 16:00 **Anvar Atakhodjaev** (Samarqand Institute of Archaeology) and **Aleksandr Naymark** (Hofstra University New York)
Hellenistic coins as prototypes of Sogdian imitations
16:30 **Victor Humennyi** (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv)
Land in revolt? Hyrcania and Arsacid political life in Roman historical tradition
17:00 Coffee break
17:30 **Olivier Bordeaux, Arnaud Bertrand, Frédérique Brunet, Ani Danielyan, Corinne Debaine-Francfort, Ségolène de Pontbriand** and **David Sarmiento-Castillo** (CNRS-ANR)
Imperialism at the edge: the ANR project 'FRONTIER'
18:00 Poster session
Daniel Bartle (University of Reading)
The Imperial Frontier: An Examination of the Cultural and Military Interactions between Mauryan India and the Hellenistic World
Claire Chesneau (Paris Nanterre University)
Eros in Bactria. Reception and adaptation of the Greco-Roman god images in the Hellenistic period
Ashley Milliken (University of Oregon)
Nike-Apsara Imagery in 1st and 2nd-century Gandharan Art and the Theoretical Framework of the Roman Image-Language

Li Sifei (Shaanxi Normal University)
Auspicious Birds in Dunhuang and Kizil Cave Murals: From the Mediterranean Basin to the China along the “Silk Road”

Friday 22nd March 2024

Part II. The City

Panel 1. Assembling the City

- 9:00 **Zacharie Silvia** (Dartmouth College)
Can we speak of “indigenous” domestic architecture in Hellenistic and post-Hellenistic Bactria and Sogdiana?
- 9:30 **Ségolène de Pontbriand** (ArScAn laboratory)
The urban development of the Ancient Termez
- 10:00 Coffee break

Panel 2. Surrounding the City

- 10:30 **John Hanson** and **Rachel Mairs** (University of Reading)
Is Ai Khanoum 'too big'?
- 11:00 **Jakub Havlik** (Charles University)
Perspectives of multiscale investigation of cultural landscape transformations in ancient northern Bactria
- 11:30 **Ladislav Stančo** and **Jan Kysela** (Charles University)
Simple Life, Flamboyant Death: Exploring Rural Settlements in the Bactro-Sogdian Borderlands through Iskandar Tepa
- 12:00 Lunch break

Panel 3. Connecting the City

- 13:30 **Mathilde Gelin** (CNRS-OrAM)
What and how can archaeology tell us about the daily lives of the Greco-Bactrians?
- 14:00 **Benjamin Abbott** (University of Pennsylvania)
(Re)Builder of Cities: Seleucid Central Asia under Antiochus I
- 14:30 Coffee break

Part III. The People

Panel 1. Local customs and traditions

- 15:00 **Moizza S. Elahi** (University of Toronto)
Local Dynamics and Local Agency in early Gandharan Art from Swat
- 15:30 **Gunvor Lindström** (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)
Bactrian Miniature Altars – whose custom do they reflect?
- 16:00 Coffee break

Panel 2. Religion and beliefs

- 16:30 **Stefan Härtel** (Freie Universität Berlin)
The Defender of Bactria: Heraklēs in the Kušan Empire
- 17:00 **Ashwini Lakshminarayan** (EFEO)
Buddhist Imagery in Central Asia: Questions on function and meaning in Mele Hairam
- 17:30 **Edward A. S. Ross** (University of Reading)
The Unity of Religious practice: Lived Religious Experience in Hellenistic Bactria

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Panel 3. Craftsmanship

- 09:00 **Mariana Castro** (New York University)
The Economic Significance of the Kyzylkum Desert in Antiquity: The Case of Turquoise Stones
- 09:30 **Nicholas Groat** (University of Sheffield)
Sociality, Systems, and Settlements: Reconsidering the Gandhāran “Receiver-Condenser” and its Associated Technological Practices

Part IV. Tools and methods

- 10:00 **Rachel Mairs** (University of Reading)
'No Silk Road!': Aurel Stein's Annotations on his Copies of the Works of W. W. Tarn, from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Gunnar Dumke** (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg) and **Simon Glenn** (University of Leeds)
BIGR – A new tool for working with Baktrian and Indo-Greek coins

11:30 **Olga Kubica** (University of Wrocław)
The Neverending Story: Local Customs and Foreign Policy in Central Asia as Presented in Teodor Parnicki's Historical Novel “The End of the ‘Concord of Nations’”

12:00 Final Remarks

12:30 Concluding buffet

Organisation

Contact: hcam5.2024@gmail.com

See bactria.org for Zoom registration

Organisers: **Olivier Bordeaux** (CNRS-Archéologie de l'Asie centrale) and **Ségolène de Pontbriand** (ArScAn laboratory)

Venue: **Université Paris-Nanterre**, Max Weber building, allée de l'Université, 92000 Nanterre

This conference benefits from the support of the CNRS Sciences humaines & sociales institute, of the UMR 7041 “Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité” (ArScAn) laboratory, of the Université Paris-Nanterre (UPN), and of the Institut français d'études sur l'Asie centrale (IFEAC).

 **Université
Paris Nanterre**

