

Archaeology is a societal matter, in more than one respect: Apart from conducting research into the history of ancient societies, it always reflects the self-perception or self-fashioning of the people engaged in that research. Furthermore, archaeology is set in multiple societal frameworks, beginning with the social background and upbringing of the archaeologist, the social order and private as well as state institutions supporting them, but also determining their research agendas and setting a regime for the governance of scholarship. However, the societies in the (foreign) regions excavation is taking place, should not be neglected either, for local agency impacted these endeavours as much as their mission and predefined objectives.

In 2022, the Centre for Advanced Studies 2615 hosted an international online workshop on "Oriental Societies and Societal Self-Assertion. Associations, Funds and Societies for the Archaeological Exploration of the 'Ancient Near East'". It brought together historians and archaeologists, along with representatives of other disciplines from different European countries, to engage in interdisciplinary discourse. In 2024, the Proceedings of that workshop have been published within the Investigatio Orientis Series.

The organizers already decided when drafting the foreword for the publication that another conference should follow. They asked a former contributor, Hana Navratilova, to join the organisational team, in order to launch another call for papers, for even more profound research into the overall theme of societal engagement in Near Eastern Archaeology and its entanglement with national and international politics. In addition to that, however, the extended format shall also address private-public partnerships, alternative modes of state- or individually funded archaeological endeavours.

KEY NOTE LECTURE:

Orient oder Okzident? Zur Konkurrenz zwischen orientalistischer und klassischer Altertumswissenschaft
Stefan Rebenich (Bern)

Der Vortrag behandelt das Verhältnis von „klassischer“ und orientalistischer Altertumswissenschaft in Deutschland von der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zum Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges.

Das Verhältnis einer Altertumswissenschaft, die primär auf das griechisch-römische Kulturerbe fokussierte, zu der altorientalischen Philologie und Altertumskunde, die in der wissenschaftlichen und außerswissenschaftlichen Öffentlichkeit rasant aufstieg, war seit dem 19. Jahrhundert ambivalent.

Die Frage, ob der Alte Orient integraler Bestandteil der „klassischen“ Altertumswissenschaft sei oder ob diese sich ganz auf die griechisch-römische Antike beschränken müsse, wurde in der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts weiterhin kontrovers diskutiert.

Registration for the conference

Due to restricted capacity of the conference venue, guests are required to register. - Depending on availability, the organisers may either grant the possibility to attend in person or online-access via zoom. - **We kindly ask for your understanding that colleagues, who have not registered until the 24th of November will not be admitted.**

Please register at: sekretariat-kofo@geschkult.fu-berlin.de

Organisers

Dr. Thomas Gertzen, Freie Universität Berlin

Dr. Olaf Matthes, Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte

Dr. Hana Navratilova, Harris Manchester College

International Conference

ORIENTAL SOCIETIES 2.0

Governance of
Scholarship,
Imperial Agendas,
Societal Engagement
and Entanglement

With the support of
the **DFG-KFG 2615 "Rethinking – Governance
in the Ancient Near East"** and the
Max von Oppenheim-Stiftung

Further information:



Design: Leonie König & Johannes Felmy

**27.11.2025-
29.11.2025**

**Villa Engler
Altensteinstr. 2
14195 Berlin**

Programme

Thursday, November 27th

- 12:30 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*
- 13:00 **Welcoming Address**, *Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (KFG 2615 "Rethinking Governance in the Ancient Near East")*
- 13:15 **Greetings from the Max von Oppenheim Stiftung**, *Lutz Martin (Member of the Board of Trustees of the MvO-Stft.)*
- 13:30 **Introduction: Oriental Societies & Societal Entanglements**, *Hana Navratilova (Oxford)*, *Olaf Matthes (Hamburg)* & *Thomas Gertzen (Berlin)*

PANEL I: TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES OF SOCIAL CLASSES, NATIONALITIES & CULTURES

- 14:00 **Britain's Learned Societies and the British Museum**, *Paul Collins (London)*
- 14:30 **Donations and Gifts: Reciprocal funding models for the EES excavations at Amarna, 1921-1936**, *Stephanie Boonstra (Berlin)*
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:15 **The role of Alois Musil in the building and financing of the Oriental Institute**, *Adéla Jůnová Macková (Prague)*
- 15:45 **Sir Robert Mond (1867-1938): Philanthropist by Descent and Archaeologist out of Curiosity**, *Friederike Schwelle (Durham)*
- 16:15 *Coffee Break*

PANEL II: IMPERIAL CONTEXTS, ECONOMIC MOTIVES & FINANCIAL BASES

- 16:30 **The director of the Service des Antiquités in the time of early nationalism in Egypt: reconsidering P. Lacau's career**, *Felix Relats-Montserrat (Paris)*
- 17:00 **Babylon Society Aftermath: Keigo Harada's lecture in 1922**, *Reiko Maejima (Tokyo)*
- 17:30 **'Hardly the moment to worry about archaeology' - Excavating in Syria in the late 1930s**, *Juliette Desplat (London)*
- 18:00 **The Società Asiatica Italiana and the 1933 Italian excavations in Assyria: the events and their contextual background**, *Marco Bonechi (Rome)*
- 18:30 *Refreshments*
- 19:00 **Key Note Lecture: Orient oder Okzident? Zur Konkurrenz zwischen orientalistischer und klassischer Altertumswissenschaft**, *Stefan Rebenich (Bern)*

ca. 20:00 *Evening Reception*

Friday, November 28th

PANEL III: ALTERNATIVE MODES OF ORIENTALIST RESEARCH IN CENTRAL- AND EASTERN EUROPE

- 09:00 **History of studies on hieroglyphs and early excavations by Polish scholars and a new discipline in Polish academia - ZOOM**, *Joanna Popielska-Grzybowska (Warsaw)*
- 09:30 **Travel as a personal and social practice: interactions with the material culture of ancient Egypt in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Hungarian contexts**, *Katalin Kóthay (Budapest)*
- 10:00 **Funding Streams and Control Mechanisms in Russian Egyptology from the Late Empire to the Present Day**, *Alexandre Loktionov (Cambridge / Moscow)*

10:30 *Coffee Break*

PANEL IV: ORIENTAL SOCIETIES & PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OUTSIDE EUROPE

- 10:45 **The Hearst Family, George Reisner, and Ancient Egypt: A Case Study in Early 20th Century Archaeological Patronage - ZOOM**, *Peter Der Manuelian (Boston, Mass.)*
- 11:15 **National pride and self-empowerment: The Anjuman Athar-e Melli's interest in Persian and Iranian heritage**, *Stefan Hauser (Constance)*
- 11:45 **The Türk Tarih Kurumu - Turkish Historical Society and the archaeological excavations in Anatolia between national pride and international cooperation**, *Silvia Alaura (Rome)*
- 12:15 *Lunch Break*

PANEL V: NORTHERN ENGAGEMENTS AND MONARCHICAL SELF-REPRESENTATION

- 13:30 **An enterprise worthy of an empire. The involvement of the British royal family in the earliest archaeological explorations of Mesopotamia**, *Stefania Ermidoro (Rome)*
- 14:00 **Maria Mogensen, against all odds**, *Tine Bagh (Copenhagen)*
- 14:30 **European aristocracy and archaeology revisited**, *Lars Petersen (Karlsruhe)*
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:15 **Royal patronage and Egyptology's early development in Sweden**, *Ake Engsheden (Stockholm)*
- 15:45 **Ancient Egypt in Brazil: from the Imperial Age to a Global Egyptology?**, *Thais Rocha da Silva (Belo Horizonte)*
- 16:15 *Intermission*

POSTER PRESENTATION: MAKING A DREAM COME TRUE? - THE DISCOVERY OF THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN

- 16:30 **A view from the Griffith Institute Tutankhamun Archive**, *Daniela Rosenow (Oxford)*
- 17:10 **The Tutankhamun Spatial Archive: a novel way of presenting archival excavation records**, *Francisco Bosch-Puche (Oxford)*
- 17:20 **Who's who? The members of the team working on the tomb of Tutankhamun**, *Jennifer Turner (Oxford)*
- 17:30 **Opening of the Poster-Exhibition "The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun"**

ca. 19:00 *Conference Dinner*

Saturday, November 29th

PANEL VI: INFRASTRUCTURES, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 09:00 **The Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres and the Beginning of Archaeological and Philological Research in Mesopotamia**, *Dominique Charpin (Paris)*
- 09:30 **The Royal Danish Geographical Society and its role in Egyptology**, *Andreas Alm (Lund)*
- 10:00 **Financing papyrus excavations**, *Holger Essler (Würzburg)*
- 10:30 **Archäologisch-kulturhistorische Auslandsaktivitäten der DDR - Zu Inhalt und Bedeutung eines Ministerratsbeschlusses**, *Hans Neumann (Berlin)*
- 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15 **Die Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft in Ägypten**, *Susanne Voss (Berlin)*
- 11:45 **Ein (fast) vergessener Verein "zum Zweck der Förderung der vorderasiatischen Studien auf Grund der Denkmäler" - Der "Akademisch-Orientalistische Verein zu Berlin"**, *Georg Neumann (Münster)*
- 12:15 *Refreshments*
- 12:30 **Archival Insights into the Foundation of the International Association of Egyptologists**, *Lauren van Kruijssen (Leiden)*
- 13:00 **Portraits of academic colleagues and forebears at the Netherlands Institute for the Near East**, *Jacobus Cornelis Klein (Leiden)*
- 13:30 *Closing Discussion*
- 14:00 **End of the Conference**

