"The Aramean Network: Interdependencies and Interactions in the Eastern Mediterranean"

Annual Conference of the Minerva Center for the Relations between Israel and Aram in Biblical Times
Preliminary Schedule
Held at Leipzig University, FU Berlin and the Pergamon Museum
Monday–Thursday, June 8th–11th, 2020

08.06.2020 Day 1, Albertina in Leipzig

09:00 Welcome by the rector / dean Leipzig, greetings from BIU and Aren Maeir


9:15–10:00 Shuichi Hasegawa (Rikkyo University): Geshur Revisited

10:00–10:45 Omer Sergi (Tel Aviv University): Damascus, Tyre and Israel in the 9th Century BCE: A View from the Jezreel Valley

10:45–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–11:45 Shlomit Bechar (Hebrew University Jerusalem): Changes in Stable Isotopes Analysis in Sheep from 9th and 8th Centuries BCE

11:45–12:30 Assaf Kleiman (Leipzig University): Decoration Techniques of Iron Age Vessels at the Eastern Shore of the Sea of Galilee and their Social Significance

12:30–13:15 Stefan Münger (University of Bern): Tracing “Aramean” Iconography in the Glyptic Assemblages of Jordan and (Northern) Israel

13:15–14:30 Lunch in the Albertina (Cafe Alibi)
14:30–18:45 – 2nd Session Syria and Egypt (chair: Michael Streck)

14:30–15:15 Gunnar Lehmann (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheva): Al Mina: An Aramean Harbor as an Interface between Arameans and the Mediterranean?

15:15–16:00 Nibal Muhesen (University of Copenhagen): Cultural Interaction in Syria during the Aramaic Period through the Study of Material Culture and Textual Evidences

16:00–16:45 Giulia Grassi (Georg-August University of Göttingen): Arameans in Achaemenid Egypt

16:45–17:15 Coffee Break

17:15–18:00 Katrin Sonnevelt (Leiden): The Social Contexts of Aramaic within Cuneiform Archives

18:00–18:45 Sarka Velharticka (Prague/Ankara): The Excavations and Finds from Sheikh Sa’ad and Tell Rifaat in the 1920s based on the Excavation Documentation

19:30 Dinner Max Enk

09.06.2020 Day 2, Albertina in Leipzig

09:00–13:15 3rd Session: Biblical Aspects (Chair: Yigal Levin)

09:00–09:45: Anne de Hemmer Gudme (University of Oslo): Memory and Materiality: Yahwistic God Concepts in the Hellenistic Period in the Context of Religion in the Southern Levant


10:30–11:15 Raik Heckl (Leipzig University): Herodotus’ View of the Aramaeans and Israel’s Place in the Levant according to the Concept of the Pentateuch

11:15–11:45 Coffee Break

11:45–12:30 Emanuel Pfoh (National University of La Plata): Shifting Alliances, Shifting Identities: Political Networks and Ethnicity in the Iron Age II Southern Levant

12:30–13:15 Hannes Bezzel (Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena): Aram in the Prophetic Literature

13:15–14:15 Lunch in the Albertina (Cafe Alibi)

14:15–15:00 Stefan Schorch (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg): The Poetical Form of early Samaritan Aramaic Prayers

15:00–15:45 Viktor Golinets (Center for Jewish Studies Heidelberg): Greek Transcriptions of Aramaic in Comparison with Greek Transcriptions of Hebrew

15:45–16:30 Leeor Gottlieb (Bar Ilan University): The Targums WordMap: Searches Beyond the Twentieth Century’s Wildest Dreams

16:30–17:00 Coffee Break

17:00–17:45 Wido van Peursen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam): Navigating through the Aramaic Bible Translations with the Targums WordMap

17:45–18:30: Eleonora Cussini (Bologna): Palmyrene Aramaic

18:30–19:15 Willem Smelik (University College London) Targum and Zohar

19:15–20:00 Public Lecture (chair: Aren Maeir)

Claudia E. Suter (University of Basel): Luxurious Ivory Objects in the Iron Age Levant: Stylistic Variation and Sociocultural Identities

20:15 Dinner Max Enk

10.6.2020 Day 3, Berlin Freie Universität: „Style Complexity and Style Diversity in the Aramaean Kingdoms of the Northern Levant“

07:30 Departure to Berlin

09:00 Arrival at the FU Berlin coffee and gathering

09:30–13:00 5th Session: The Aramaean Paradigm (chair: Federico Manuelli)

09:30–10:15 Alessandra Gilibert (Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia): Bending, Breaking and Blending Images: Visual Creativity in the Aramaean Kingdoms of the Northern Levant

10:15–11:00 Marina Pucci (Università degli Studi di Firenze): Public Space and Sense of Community: Architectural Styles in the Aramean Kingdoms of the Northern Levant

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break
11:30–12:15 Helene Sader (AUB Beirut): In Search of an Aramaean Identity


13:00–14:30 Lunch and Check in Hotels

14:30-19:30 5th session: Zones of Influences and Contacts (continued; chair – Dominik Bonatz)

14:30–15:15 Dominik Bonatz (FU Berlin): The Relevance of Cognitive Styles in Aramaean, Luwian and Neo-Assyrian societies

15:15–16:00 Mirko Novàk (University of Bern): Diffusion or Common Roots? Hilani and Temple-in-antis as architectural features of Luwians and Aramaeans in the Iron Age

16:00–16:45 Stefania Mazzoni (Università degli Studi die Firence): Discussing Ivories in the Light of the Aramaean Kingdoms

16:45–17:15 Coffee Break


18:00–18:45: Rana Zaher (AUB Beirut): Investigating Patterns of Differentiation in Syro-Anatolian Sculptural Design and Technology: The Case of Portal Lions

18:45–19:30 Lorenzo Nigro (Sapienza Università di Roma): The Phoenicians in the West and their Interaction with Arameans: the Case of Motya in Sicily

19:30 Reception

11.06.2020 Day 4, Berlin Archäologisches Zentrum, VAM and Storage Facilities

09:00 Meeting in the Archäologisches Zentrum

09:15–12:30 Pergamon Museum Collection

12:30 Departure to Friedrichshagen

13:30–15:00 Lunch at the Lake
15:00–17:30 Storage Facilities

17:30-18:00 Coffee break

Final Greeting Words and Information about Publication (Aren Maeir)

18:30 Return to Berlin (Arrival ca. 20:30); Transfer to the Airport or to Leipzig