



14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Archaeology  
of the Ancient Near East

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Connectivity in the Ancient Iranian World: Trade, Culture, and Communication

ZEHBARI Z.<sup>1\*</sup>, MARESCA G.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

This workshop delves into the multifaceted concept of connectivity in the ancient Iranian world (from the first millennium BCE to Late Antiquity). It emphasizes the intricate network of trade and communication routes that fostered cultural exchange, shaping the region's socio-cultural and socio-economic evolution. Through a *longue durée* perspective, the workshop examines archaeological findings, historical records, and linguistic evidence. This approach highlights how Iran's strategic geographic position enabled extensive interactions with neighboring areas and civilizations.

The development of trade routes, like the Silk Road/Great Khorasan Road, Achaemenid Royal Road, and advancements in infrastructure and technology further enhanced economic prosperity and cultural dynamism. The analysis delves into the exchange of ideas, artistic expressions, technologies, architectural models, and material goods. Our proposed workshop aligns with the 7th theme, "Characterizing Culture" of the ICAANE conference. We aim to investigate how these interactions influenced the social, economic, and cultural evolution of ancient Iran. Ultimately, the workshop explores how connectivity contributed to the rich tapestry of the Iranian cultural legacy. To achieve this, we are not limiting ourselves to central cultural areas within modern Iran; instead, we have invited scholars who have studied the interactions between Persia and neighboring cultures.

## Keywords

Iran, Connectivity , Cultural communication, Trade, Roads

## Program

Organizers

1. Dr. Zohreh Zehbari

Principal Researcher

Archäologisches Seminar, Philipps-Universität Marburg

2. Dr. Giulio Maresca

?Assistant Professor of Iranian Archaeology

Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Sapienza University of Rome

List of speakers

1. Shelir Amelirad (Universität Heidelberg, Germany): Bridging Worlds: Trade and Cultural Exchange in the Mannaeen Kingdom

2. Ahmad Ali Asadi (Shiraz University of Art, Iran): Stagnation of cultural material of the Sassanid period and the question of trade

3. Alisher Begmatov (Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan): Samarkand Oasis in Late Antiquity: Findings from Recent Archaeological Excavations

4. Touraj Daryaee (University of California, Irvine, USA): Cities, Roads, Inns and Coinage: The Sasanian Local Economy

5. Giuseppe Labisi (Universität Konstanz, Germany): Playing at court: chowgan and tzykanion between Sasanian Iran, Constantinople and Samarra

6. Pavel Lurje (State Hermitage Museum, Russia/French Institute of Advanced Studies): Material traces of Sogdian presence in Turfan basin and beyond

7. Alessandro Poggio (IMT Altì Studi Lucca, Italy): Connectivity between Persia and the western Achaemenid Persian Empire: a reassessment

8. Serenella Mancini (University of Bologna, Italy) + Luca Colliva (Università di Bologna): Socio-Economic Interconnections between Mesopotamia and Iran: Archaeological Evidence from the Garmian Region (KRI, Iraq) from the Parthian to Early Islamic Periods

9. Giulio Maresca (Sapienza University of Rome): From Mesopotamia to the Iranian Plateau: On the High Road in a Diachronic Perspective

10. Kourosh Mohammadkhani (Shahid Beheshti University, Iran): Achaemenid Royal Road, from Susa to Persepolis and The Resilience of the Achaemenid Empire

11. Zohreh Zehbari (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany): The Role of the Borazjan Plain in the Regional Connectivity of Southern Iran

## Session

Aucun

## Type of paper

Workshop