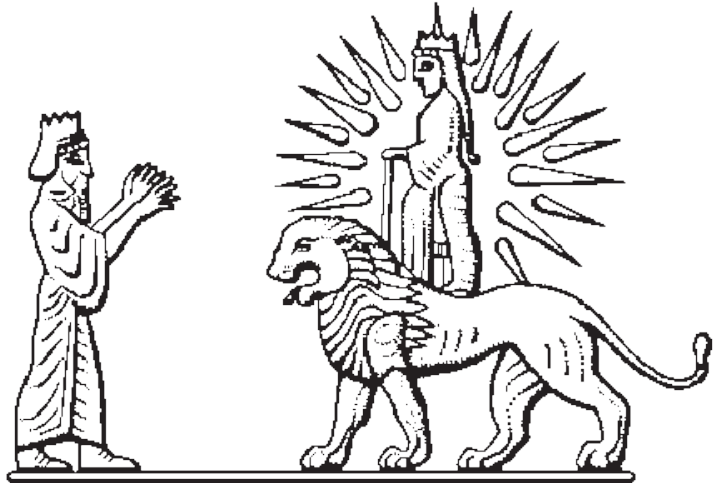


# Newsletter

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

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## Letter of Introduction

Dear colleagues and friends,

in this unexpected and strange situation – that has projected us in a somehow timeless, suspended dimension and induced a feeling of closeness with those who experienced similar circumstances in the past – we consider it important to maintain our relationships and contacts and support the continuation of our projects. We are confident that we will soon resume our usual ways and channels of interrelation and cooperation, and in the meanwhile are invited to profit from all means of communication to keep alive our dialogue and prepare the new beginning enhancing the character of our project as a research network.

If you have news, proposals, reflections, but also materials or requests you want to share with or submit to the attention of the Melammu group, please write and we will take care of circulating your messages.

In the following you can find brief reports of the last Melammu meetings: the workshops held in Trier and Barcelona and the annual Symposium, the 14th, held in Los Angeles, also with links to additional information and videos. Unfortunately, some changes in the programme of some Melammu events planned for the next future have been and, probably, will be necessary. The workshop planned in Jerusalem in June is postponed till next year, the schedule of other events is still undecided and updates will be provided as soon as possible.

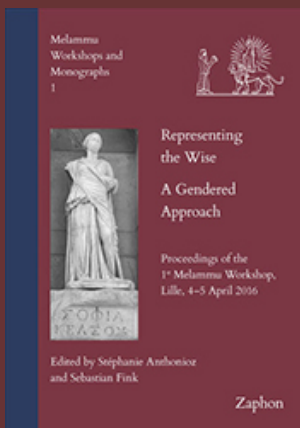
A positive note is the addition of two Symposia in our schedule: in Changchun in 2024 and in Irvine in 2025.

I wish you all to stay healthy and to enjoy the opportunity of being (though forcefully) less distracted from your favorite studies!

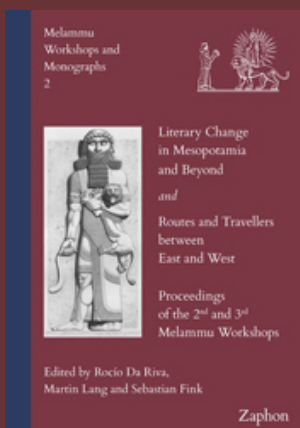
Yours,  
Simonetta Ponchia  
(Chair of the Melammu Project)



**NOW AVAILABLE**



Melammu Workshops and Monographs 1  
**Representing the Wise. A Gendered Approach**  
Proceedings of the 1st Melammu Workshop. Lille, 4-5 April 2016  
Edited by Stéphanie Anthonioz and Sebastian Fink  
2019 / ISBN 978-3-96327-068-0 / 206 pp.  
64,00 €



Melammu Workshops and Monographs 2  
**Literary Change in Mesopotamia and Beyond and Routes and Travellers between East and West**  
Proceedings of the 2nd and 3rd Melammu Workshops  
Edited by Rocío Da Riva, Martin Lang and Sebastian Fink  
2019 / ISBN 978-3-96327-066-6 / 292 pp.  
79,00 €

<https://www.zaphon.de/Melammu-Workshops-and-Monographs>

# Reports on Recent Melammu Events

**Melammu Workshop 10  
in Trier, December 11-13:  
“Domestic Trade and Maritime Trade  
in the Eastern Mediterranean and  
the Ancient Near East”  
(Christoph Schäfer & Patrick Reinard)**

The workshop approached the topic of seafaring and trade from a wide and multidisciplinary perspective, which included the consideration of far east routes, of the relationships of commercial and cultural contacts, the analysis of written and archaeological sources, comparative methods and experimental archaeology. It was the occasion for illustrating the results of the TRANSMARE-Institut projects based in Trier. The conference encompassed the following panels:

- Panel 1: Indienhandel im Altertum
- Panel 2: Häfen und Handel im Mittelmeerraum
- Panel 3: Das Trierer TRANSMARE-Institut und seine Projekte I
- Panel 4: Das Trierer TRANSMARE-Institut und seine Projekte II
- Panel 5: Handel und Mobilität im Mittelmeerraum und im Orient

**Melammu Workshop 11  
in Barcelona, January 29-31:  
“Ceremonies, feasts and festivities  
in Ancient Mesopotamia and the  
Mediterranean World: Performance  
and Participation”  
(Rocío Da Riva)**

The 11th Melammu Workshop was convened by Rocío Da Riva of the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) and financed by her ICREA Academia Research Award and the Ajuts de la Comissió de Recerca of Facultat de Geografia i Història of the UB. The workshop was made possible thanks to the kindness of the Dean of the Faculty and the Vice-dean of Research Dr. Jaume Buxeda, and of all the colleagues from the Faculty who helped at the various stages of the organization, especially Dr. Lluís Lloveras. The workshop took place in the Raval Campus of the Facultat de Geografia i Història from January 29-31, 2020, and was organized in three sessions: Egypt

Altogether the three days offered different perspectives of a topic which still holds many questions that can only be answered by interdisciplinary approaches. The different topics and ways of accession presented during the conference shed some light on maritime trade in antiquity as well as on its manifold international networks. The presented results simultaneously attested the subject as one of the important and still promising fields in research.

A more detailed report has been published by:  
J. Lehn, Tagungsbericht: Domestic Trade and Maritime Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean and Ancient Near East, 11.12.2019 – 13.12.2019 Trier, in: H-Soz-Kult, 02.03.2020, <[www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-8674](http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-8674)>.

and the Mediterranean, Assyria and Babylonia, and Anatolia. “Ceremonies, feasts and festivities...” was a survey of religious and religio-political rituals from a social perspective, stressing their political and public function. The purposes of the workshop were: to demonstrate the socio-cultural purpose of public festivities and their function in constructing identities and imagined communities; to analyse the role played by performers and participants in the ceremonies; to elucidate the political function of public ceremonies; to study cultic topography and the arrangement of sacred space on the basis of religious rituals; and to gather data on deities and their relative position in the religious pantheon.

Participants in alphabetical order and titles of the papers:

Ana Arroyo (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) Hittite open-air cult places and their relation to the community  
 Mary R. Bachvarova (Willamette University) Festivals in Coastal Western Anatolia: The Transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age  
 Céline Debourse (Universität Wien) Rethinking the Babylonian new year festival: history, ritual, text  
 Stefania Ermidoro (Newcastle University) The Rhythm of Rites: Consequences of intercalation on Mesopotamian religious ceremonies  
 Sebastian Fink (University of Helsinki) Neo Assyrian victory celebrations: a spectacle for the people  
 Uri Gabbay (Hebrew University Jerusalem) Ritual and Empathy in Ancient Mesopotamia: The Cultic Performance of Sumerian Emesal Prayers and the Acknowledgement of Divine Emotions

Tawny Holm (Pennsylvania State University) Sacrifice and Feasting in Papyrus Amherst 63  
 Raquel Jiménez Pasalodos (Universidad de Valladolid – Universitat de Barcelona) Music, Ritual and Women in the Western Mediterranean: Perspectives from Music Archaeology and Ethnomusicology  
 Mait Kõiv (University of Tartu) Hera at Argos: sanctuaries, festivals, myths and stately power  
 Jaume Llop (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) Gods and Temples in the Middle Assyrian Archival Texts  
 Rafael Micó (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) The representation of political relations in the grave goods of El Argar  
 Alice Mouton (UMR 8167 CNRS Paris) Weapons and Divine Symbols: Expressing the King's Legitimacy during the Hittite Cultic Festivals  
 Simonetta Ponchia (Università di Verona) Texts and places of Nergal's cult in Neo-Assyrian times  
 Lauren Ristvet (University of Pennsylvania) Rituals of Nostalgia:

Negotiating Imperial Politics in the Seleucid Near East  
 Gonzalo Rubio (Pennsylvania State University) Sacred Marriage: Ritualization and Textualization of Ideological Devices in Ancient Mesopotamia  
 Ian Rutherford (University of Reading) Religious Travel and Pilgrimage in Mesopotamia and Anatolia: Problems of Evidence and Typology  
 Walther Sallaberger (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich) Washing Hands  
 Kostas Vlasopoulos (University of Crete) Slaves in Greek and Roman rituals  
 Nathan Wasserman (Hebrew University Jerusalem) Magic Procedures in Early Akkadian Incantations: A Global View  
 Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) Festivals at the site of Büklükale.

Rocío Da Riva, Ana Arroyo and Céline Debourse are currently working on the publication of the proceedings, which will appear in 2021/22 in Zaphon Verlag.

**Melammu Symposium 14  
 in Los Angeles, February 18-20:  
 "Contextualizing Iranian Religions in  
 the Ancient World"**  
*(Rahim Shayegan)*

The 14th Melammu Symposium was convened at the University of California, Los Angeles on February 18–20, 2020. Hosted by the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World, this symposium was comprised of six panels and two keynote lectures. The panels, chaired by esteemed colleagues from UCLA and the J. Paul Getty Museum, explored Iranian religions in light of ancient Near Eastern traditions and precedents. They featured scholars whose work pertain to the interchange of ideas and practices between the ancient Near East, Egypt, the Classical and Hellenistic worlds, and ancient Iran. The overarching themes of the symposium encompassed:  
 I. Elam, the Ancient Near East, and Persia;  
 II. Ancient Egypt and Persia;  
 III. The Divine in Achaemenid Material Culture;  
 IV. (Post-)Achaemenid Religious Practices in Literary Traditions;  
 V. Religions and Religious Policy in the Hellenistic and Arsacid Worlds; and

VI. The Religious Landscape of the Sasanian World.  
 The first day of the conference began with opening remarks by David Schaberg, Dean of the Humanities Division at UCLA, Simonetta Ponchia, Melammu Board Chair and Associate Professor of Assyriology at the University of Verona, and M. Rahim Shayegan, Director of the Pourdavoud Center and Professor of Iranian and the Ancient Near East at UCLA.  
 On days two and three of the symposium, the keynote lectures were delivered by Robert Rollinger (University of Innsbruck) and Touraj Daryaee (University of California, Irvine), respectively. Professor Rollinger presented, "Entangled Worlds: Afro-Eurasian Networks in Achaemenid Times," which collected and reinterpreted sources relevant to the transregional networks in Achaemenid times, and demonstrated that the Great King and his elites were well aware of the (supra-)regional dimensions of

trade, income, and wealth prevalent within the empire. Professor Daryaee delivered, "The Limits of Tolerance: Jews, Christians, Buddhists, and Others in the Sasanian Empire." His lecture discussed the relation between the state and religious minorities in late antique Iran, suggesting that the Sasanian empire practiced a "rough tolerance," in order to control the multicultural and multireligious Sasanian world. These keynote lectures, as well as all presentations delivered at the symposium, were filmed and included in the Pourdavoud Center's video archive, an online repository of academic lectures available globally without restriction. These videos, as well as additional lectures from other Pourdavoud Center events, may be found at <https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/videos/>.

The proceedings will be published with Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

# Upcoming Melammu Events

## 2020 and beyond

**Melammu Workshop in Krakow,  
September 22-24, 2020  
on Autocratic Rule in Antiquity  
(Edward Dabrowa & Jakub Kuciak)**

Details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Workshop in Helsinki  
December 1-3, 2020  
on Living under Empires  
(Caroline Wallis, Marta Lorenzon &  
Sebastian Fink)**

Details still need to be fixed.

The call for papers is available here:  
[http://melammu-project.eu/  
workshops/mw12prog.html](http://melammu-project.eu/workshops/mw12prog.html)

**Melammu Workshop  
in Jerusalem, June 2021  
on the Motif of the Good Shepherd  
(Stéphanie Anthonioz, Claudia Horst &  
Philippe Abrahami)**

Details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Workshop  
2021 in Venice on Bridges  
(Paola Corò)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Workshop  
2021 in Changchun  
on Knowledge-transfer and empires  
(Sven Günther)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 15  
2021 in Berlin  
(Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 16  
2022 in Graz  
(Wolfgang Spickermann)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 17  
2023 in Turin  
(Stefano de Martino)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 18  
2024 in Changchun  
(Sven Günther)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Melammu Symposium 19  
2025 in Irvine  
(Touraj Daryaee)**

Date and details still need to be fixed.

**Impressum:**

The Melammu Project  
<http://melammu-project.eu/>

Chair: Simonetta Ponchia  
Vice-Chair: Sebastian Fink

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Kerstin Droß-Krüpe

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