

Translating the Past: Transtemporal Mediations of Central Asia

Conference Programme

MARCH 26–28, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF WROCLAW, POLAND

Thursday 26th March 2026

All indicated times are in Central European Time (CET).

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcoming addresses
- 9:10 **Rachel Mairs** (University of Reading) Introduction

PART I. TRANSLATING IDEAS

- 9:40 **Krzysztof Nawotka** (University of Wrocław)
Keynote Lecture: The Arsakid Empire and Hellenism
- 10:30 Coffee break

PANEL 1. CONTEMPORARY FRAMEWORKS

- 11:00 **Ileana De Giuseppe** (UC Irvine)
The Colonial Frame: Nineteenth-Century Photography of Greco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek Coinage
- 11:30 **Victor Humennyi** (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv)
Translating to "Marxist-Leninist": Soviet Historiography of the 1940s–1960s, the Nomads of Central Asia in the 3rd–2nd Centuries BCE, and the Beginnings of the Parthian State
- 12:00 **Emily Hanako Everest-Phillips** (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University)
Sogdian Sovereignty under Shadows of Hellenism. Historiographical Mediation of Fragments in the Construction of the *nāf*
- 12:30 Lunch break

PANEL 2. ANCIENT HISTORIOGRAPHY

- 14:00 **Marek Jan Olbrycht** (University of Rzeszów)
City Foundations of Alexander the Great in Central Asia
- 14:30 **Michael Iliakis** (National Hellenic Research Foundation)
Hic sunt leones: Hellenistic Central Asia as a Frontier of the Civilized World
- 15:00 **Alessandro Magnani** (University of the Republic of San Marino)
The Great Imperial Translation: Kuṣāṅs, kṣatrapas, and Sātavāhanas at the Crossroads
- 15:30 Coffee break

PANEL 3. LAND AND PEOPLE

- 16:00 **Arnaud Bertrand** (Musée Guimet), **Olivier Bordeaux** (Centre national de la recherche scientifique [CNRS], Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité [ArScAn]), **Corinne Debaine-Francofort** (CNRS-ArScAn), **Ségolène de Pontbriand** (CNRS-ArScAn)
Across the Mountains and the Desert: Exploring Imperial Borderlands in the Karategin Valley and Xinjiang
- 16:30 **Arnaud Bertrand** (Musée Guimet), **Christophe Decoudun** (Catholic University of Paris)
Into the Far West: Information Networks and the Shaping of Space between Han China and Central Asia
- 17:00 Coffee break
- 17:30 **Jakub Havlík** (Charles University)
The Land of [Someone Else's?] Ancestors. Evaluating Transfers of Land Use Strategies in the Antique Period Bactria
- 18:00 **Mariana Castro** (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University)
What Makes a Nomad? Interpreting Kocchevniki through Assemblages in the Kyzylkum and Aral Sea Regions

Friday 27th March 2026

PART II. TRANSLATING OBJECTS

- 9:00 **Luca Maria Olivieri** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Keynote Lecture: Morphology and Adaptations. Forms of Early Buddhist Art in Swat during the Odi rajas (1st Century CE)

PANEL 4. TRANSLATING IMAGES AND MATERIAL SIGNS

- 9:30 **Fawad Khan** (Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan)
Sculptors Marks and Kharoṣṭhī Letters on the Recently Discovered Sculptures from Baho Stupa, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan
- 10:00 **Ashwini Lakshminarayanan** (Cardiff University)
Translating Visual Narratives on the So-called Toilet Trays
- 10:30 Coffee break

PANEL 5. TRANSLATING TRADITIONS: CONTINUITY AND TRANSFORMATION

- 11:00 **Laurianne Martinez-Sève** (Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan, DAFA) Translations in Ai Khanoum, from Achaemenid to Macedonian Traditions
- 11:30 **Marco Ferrario** (Northeast Normal University, Changchun) Παντοκράτωρ: Contesting Cosmologies through War Spolia. Eukratides I's Indian Triumph
- 12:00 **Charlotte Maxwell-Jones** (DAFA) Ceramics from DAFA's Bactra Excavations: Translating the Past
- 12:30 Lunch break

PANEL 6. TRANSLATING ICONOGRAPHY AND RELIGIOUS MEANING

- 14:00 **Gunvor Lindström** (New York University) Translating Satyrs: The Denavar Vase and Cultural Reimagination in Parthian Iran
- 14:30 **Tomas Larsen Høisæter** (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) Was It All Greek to Them? How Were "Hellenistic" Seal Designs Used and Understood in the Southern Tarim Basin in the 3rd and 4th Century CE
- 15:00 **Stefan Härtel** (Free University of Berlin) It's All Greek to Me. Cultural Implications from Case Studies of Religious Iconography on Kuṣāṇ Coins
- 15:30 Coffee break

PANEL 7. TRANSLATING COINAGE: AUTHORITY, IDENTITY, MEMORY

- 16:00 **Olivier Bordeaux** (CNRS-ArScAn) Three Kings for Which Kingdom? Numismatic and Textual Translations on the Coinages of Lysias, Antialkidas, and Heliokles II
- 16:30 **Ladislav Stančo** (Charles University), **Joe Cribb** (Hebei Normal University) Dozens of Lost Euthydemuses: Numismatics of the Bactrian Surface
- 17:00 **Lauren Morris** (Charles University) Small Change, Big Stories: Archaeological Approaches to the Monetary Economy in Ancient Bactria

17:30 Coffee break

18:00 Poster session

Valère Bombeau (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) Meridional Tajikistan during Hellenistic and Kuṣāṇ Eras: Analysis of the Ancient Landscape and the Modalities of Land Occupations

Christos Nikolaou (University of Cambridge) Class Relations and Religious Hybridization in Urban Sites in (post-)Hellenistic Bactria and Gandhara

Saturday 28th March 2026

PART III. TRANSLATING WORDS

PANEL 8. CULTURAL TRANSLATION

- 9:00 **Marc Mendoza** (Autonomous University of Barcelona) It's All Greek to Me: Linguistic and Intercultural Translation in Early Hellenistic Central Asia
- 9:30 **Dariusz R. Piwowarczyk** (Jagiellonian University) From Prestige to Pragmatics: Greek Loanwords in Bactrian
- 10:00 **Edward A.S. Ross** (University of Reading) Transplanting the Grove through the Trees: Heliodotus' Grove of Zeus in Central Asia
- 10:30 Coffee break

PANEL 9. TRANSLATING PHILOSOPHY

- 11:00 **Daniel Bartle** (University of Reading) Pataliputra and the Barbarian Periphery: Yavanas and the Magadhan Worldview
- 11:30 **Kacper Lepionka** (University of Warsaw) Aśoka and Greek Philosophy: Aligning Greek Thought with Imperial Policies
- 12:00 **Olga Kubica** (University of Wrocław) Translating Aśoka: Reconsidering the Greek Versions of the Edicts
- 12:30 Lunch break

PANEL 10. TRANSLATING THE LEGEND

- 14:00 **Andreas Henn** (Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg) The Byzantine Buddha: Translation and Transformation in the Transmission of Barlaam & Josaphat
- 14:30 **Chia-Wei Lin** (University of Lausanne) Georgian as the Bridge Language: *Balavariani* and *Abukura* in the Context of Arabic-Georgian-Greek Translation
- 15:00 **Gościwił Malinowski** (Ignatianum University in Cracow) Daxia, Dayuan, Daqin: Why the Chinese Called the Countries of the West in Central Asia "Great" (Da)
- 15:30 Final Remarks

ORGANISATION

Contact: hcar6@gmail.com

See bactria.org for Zoom registration

Organiser: **Olga Kubica** (University of Wrocław and HCARN)
Venue: **University of Wrocław**, Św. Jadwigi 3/4, Woronczak Hall (room 115)

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