

# 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 **Agnieszka Wojciechowska** (University of Wrocław)  
Epigraphic Culture and Empires in Central Asia Minor
- 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 *Kochevnik* 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 Odirājas (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 **Christos Nikolaou** (University of Cambridge)  
Class Relations and Religious Hybridization in Urban Sites in (post-)Hellenistic Bactria and Gandhāra
- 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 **Patryk Skupniewicz** (Independent researcher) On "Heroic Encounters" in Art of post-Hellenistic Central Asia
- 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 Kuṣāṅṅ 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) Hellenistic Tajik Bactria: Translating a Greek Presence into the Heart of Asia

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) Pāṭaliputra 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: [hcarn6@gmail.com](mailto:hcarn6@gmail.com)  
See [bactria.org](https://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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