



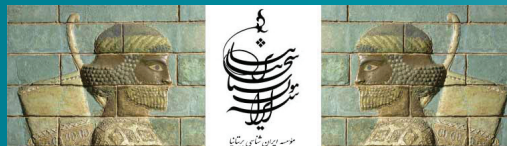
# University of St Andrews Institute of Iranian Studies



## Sasanian Historiography and Iranian Nationalism

An academic workshop to be held on 13 - 14 March 2009 at the Institute of Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews

### Programme



A British Institute for Persian Studies funded project

## FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2009

### 8.30am - 9.15am: Registration

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Foyer

### 9.15am - 9.30am: Introduction

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Seminar Room 1

An Introduction by Professor Ali Ansari (Director of the Institute of Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews)

### 9.30am - 11.00am: First Session - Ideology

This session will be chaired by Dr. Vesta Curtis (President of British Institute for Persian Studies)

9.30am - 10.15am Presentations by Professor Parvaneh Pourshariati (The Ohio State University) and Professor Dr. Josef Wiesehöfer (University of Kiel)

10.15am - 11.00am Discussion and reflection on the previous two presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- How was the Sasanian image projected?
- To what extent did the Sasanian image depend upon existing Iranian traditions?
- What role did religion play in the Sasanian state?

### 11.00am - 11.30am: Refreshments

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Foyer

Mid-morning break for tea, coffee and light snacks

### 11.30am - 1.00pm: Second Session - Authority and Identity

This session will be chaired by Dr. Tim Greenwood (University of St Andrews)

11.30am - 12.15pm Presentations by Dr. James Howard-Johnston (University of Oxford) and Dr. Rika Gyselen (Research Director CNRS/Mondes Iranien et Indien)

12.15pm - 1.00pm Discussion and reflection on the previous two presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- Who were the elite?
- How did the elite participate in the Sasanian state?
- How did non-Iranian communities participate?
- Was the Sasanian state tightly controlled or a loose amalgamation?

### 1.00pm - 2.30pm: Refreshments

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 3, Seminar Room 9

Break for Lunch

## **2.30pm - 4.00pm: Third Session - Literary Traditions**

This session will be chaired by Professor Robert Hoyland (University of St Andrews)

2.30pm - 3.15pm Presentations by Professor Zeev Rubin (Tel Aviv University), Professor Gerald Hawting (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) and Dr. Steve Rapp (Russian State Humanities University, Moscow)

3.15pm - 4.00pm Discussion and reflection on the previous presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- How did contemporaries view the Sasanian world and how did they record it?
- What impact did Sasanian literature have upon neighbouring cultures?

## **4.00pm - 4.30pm: Refreshments**

Break for Tea

## **4.30pm - 6.00pm: Fourth Session - Legacy I: From Sasanian to Islamic Iran**

This session will be chaired by Professor Charles Melville (University of Cambridge)

4.30pm - 5.15pm Presentations by Professor Hugh Kennedy (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) and Professor Richard Bulliet (Columbia University)

5.15 - 6.00pm Discussion and reflection on the previous two presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- To what extent did the fall of the Sasanian empire mark a watershed in Iranian history?
- How did contemporary authors seek to reconcile Iran with Islam?
- To what extent did the Caliphate and its successors appropriate the Sasanian heritage?

## **6.00pm - 7.30pm: Interlude**

Free time for delegates preceding Dinner

## **7.30pm - 10.00pm: Dinner**

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2009

### **9.30am - 11.00am: Fifth Session - Legacy II: Historiography of the Sasanian Period and its uses during Mediaeval and Early Modern times**

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Seminar Room 1

This session will be chaired by Professor Ali Ansari (University of St Andrews)

9.30am - 10.15am Presentations by Professor Dr. Bert Fragner (Director of Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Professor Charles Melville (University of Cambridge)

10.15am - 11.00am Discussion and reflection on the previous two presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- Can we speak of a Mediaeval Iranian renaissance?
- Consider the continuing importance of the concept of Iranshahr/zamin
- How Iranian were the Safavids?

### **11.00am - 11.30am: Refreshments**

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Seminar Room 2

Mid-morning break for tea, coffee and light snacks

### **11.30am - 1.00pm: Sixth Session - Legacy III: Historiography of the Sasanian Period and its uses from the 19th Century to the Present**

Venue: New Arts Building, Level 1, Seminar Room 1

This session will be chaired by Professor Nicholas Rengger (University of St Andrews)

11.30am - 12.15pm Presentations by Professor Ali Ansari (University of St Andrews), Dr. Paul Luft (Centre for Iranian Studies, University of Durham), Dr. Oliver Bast (University of Manchester) and Mr. Michael Axworthy (University of Exeter)

12.15pm - 1.00pm Discussion and reflection on the previous presentations

Some suggested areas for deliberation and debate:

- Consider the significance of the Bazgasht movement under the Qajars
- To what extent have modern Iranians been subject to an 'excess of history'?
- To what extent is the Islamic Republic witnessing a Sasanian renaissance?

### **1.00pm - 2.00pm: General Discussion and Conclusion**

Professor Ali Ansari will guide a general discussion considering issues raised during the course of the workshop, the current state of scholarship on Sasanian history and possible future directions.

### **2.00pm: End of Sasanian Workshop**