



**XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 9-10-11, 2024
CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE**

With a Special Section on "Connections, Mobilities, and Infrastructures
in Central Asia and the Caucasus throughout the Centuries"



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ASIAC XVIII Annual Conference is organized by the Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus, in cooperation with:



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

MAP
Centro di ricerca
Marco Polo
sulle connessioni
globali Europa-Asia
Marco Polo Centre
for Global Europe-Asia
Connections

Leibniz-Institut
für Länderkunde



OACC
OSSERVATORIO ASIA
CENTRALE E CASPIO

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE

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ABOUT ASIAC



Founded in 2004, ASIAC is the reference association in Italy for Central Asian and Caucasian area studies. It aims at promoting knowledge and collaborative relationships with the countries of the area, its activities have by definition a multi- and inter-disciplinary nature. The association is aimed primarily at universities and cultural institutions, and proposes meetings between scholars and the coordination of research activities.

THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

MAP

Centro di ricerca
Marco Polo
sulle connessioni
globali Europa-Asia
Marco Polo Centre
for Global Europe-Asia
Connections

The Marco Polo (MaP) Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections has been established in 2018 within the Department of Asian and North African Studies at Ca' Foscari University. The Centre is devoted to the study of interactions and connections between Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia from antiquity to contemporary times. The MaP Centre's mission is to foster collaborative scientific research and networking for the study of cultural, social, political, economic, and religious interactions across Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia.

The Observatory on Central Asia and the Caspian was founded in 2019 under the aegis of ASIAC, with the support of two Italian companies active in Kazakhstan and in collaboration with the Italy-Europe-Asia Export Consortium. OACC is a platform for dialogue aimed at increasing of economic and academic cooperation, in line with Italy's increased attention towards the area, demonstrated by the launch of the '1+5' Ministerial Conference in 2019.

OACC
OSSERVATORIO ASIA
CENTRALE E CASPIO



The Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IFL) is a research institute for geography concerned with spatial structures. Its Mobility and Migration research group works on spatial mobility focusing on access to and negotiations of mobility, infrastructures which enable or preclude mobility, and biographical approaches to mobility and migration decisions. Based on the mobility turn in social sciences, the group is also increasingly turning towards the mobility of goods, concepts, practices, ideas and data.

STEERING COMMITTEE

ASIAC XVIII Annual Conference is organized by **Giorgio COMAI**, **Carlo FRAPPI**, **Giulia SCIORATI**, **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, and **Frank MARACCHIONE**, in cooperation with **Edoardo LAVEZZO** and the Association's Board.

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CONFERENCE VENUES



AULA MAGNA 'SILVIO TRENTIN'

Ca' Dolfin building, Dorsoduro 3859/A - 30123 Venice

The Aula Magna 'Silvio Trentin' is a large fifteenth century room with decorated ceilings and walls with frescoes of Tiepolo's legacy, medallions with allegorical figures, Murano chandeliers and mirrors.

It is located at the **1st floor** of the Ca' Dolfin building.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



AULA 'MARIO BARATTO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

The Aula Baratto is set in the context of the historic Ca' Foscari building, a late-Gothic Venetian building built in 1453, current seat of the University Rectorate.

It is located at the **2nd floor** of the Ca' Foscari building and is accessible via the stairs located in the main hall of the building, on the right.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



AULA 'MARTINO BERENGO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

Like the Aula Baratto, the Aula 'Martino Berengo' is located in the historic Ca' Foscari building.

It is located on the **1st floor** of the building - accessible via the stairs located in the main hall of the building, on the right.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



'SALA A' - CA' VENDRAMIN

Ca' Vendramin building, Fondamenta Foscari 3462 - 30123 Venice

The 'Sala A' is located inside the Ca' Vendramin building, which hosts the Department of Asian and North African Studies. It is located on the **1st floor** and can be reached through the stairs on the left side of the palace's atrium.



AULA MILONE

Malcanton Marcorà building, Dorsoduro 3484 - 30123 Venice

is located inside the Malcanton Marcorà building, which houses the humanities pole of Ca' Foscari University. It is located on the **3rd floor** of the building and it is accessible through the elevators located to the right of the main entrance of the building

VENICEAT

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

VENICEAT is the university restaurant bar located in the courtyard of Ca' Foscari. Coffee breaks will be held at VENICEAT on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December, in the mid-morning break.



ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:00, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

WELCOMING SPEECHES

10:00 – 10:30, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

Laura DE GIORGI, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University

Aldo FERRARI, ASIAC and Ca' Foscari University

PLENARY SESSION

10:30 – 12:00, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

CROSSING BOUNDARIES: CONNECTIONS, MOBILITIES, AND INFRASTRUCTURES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

Chair. Lorenzo PUBBLICI, University of Naples L'Orientale

Giulia SCIORATI, London School of Economics and Political Science
Crafting "Attractive" Histories: (Visual) Narrative Contestation Along the Silk Road

Beril OCAKLI, University of Vienna
Whom the Roads Bypass: Rikoti's East-West Connections in a Disconnecting Georgia

Matteo FUMAGALLI, University of St Andrews
Diasporisation in Central Asia. Hybridity, Liminality and Change

Federica NARDELLA, Independent Scholar
Moving Along the Boundary, Travelling Across: Vocality as Intangible Infrastructure and
Mobility in the Golden Eagle-Man Partnerships of Kyrgyz Eagle Hunting

Alina KAMALOVA, Suleyman Demirel University
Signs of Change: English, Globalism and Neoliberalism in Kazakhstan's Coffee Shops

BREAK

12:00 – 13:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 2 - 3**

13:00 – 14:30

ARMENIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE: A THREATENED HERITAGE

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **Anna Sirinian**, University of Bologna

Alessia BOSCHIS, University of Udine

The Artistic Heritage of Medieval Armenia: An Endangered Treasure

Cecilia Maria Roberta LUSCHI, University of Florence

The Armenian Architecture in Nakhichevan as a Case Study on Cancel Culture

Nazenie GARIBIAN, Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

Khatravank Monastery in Artsakh/Karabakh as the burial place for ladies of Dopian family

Igor DORFMANN-LAZAREV, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski

Caucasian Albania and the Genesis of an Ethnogenetic Myth in Azerbaijan

CONFLICTS AND HARD SECURITY

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Marco PULERI**, University of Bologna

Alessandra RUSSO, University of Trento

Cultural Heritage Protection in Conflict-Ridden Eastern Peripheries of Europe: Mapping the Assemblage of Actors, Norms, and Practices

Helge BLAKKISRUD, University of Oslo

The War in Ukraine as a Gamechanger for the Eurasian De Facto States

Giorgio COMAI, OBC Transeuropa

What Was the Post-Soviet De Facto State? A Forward-Looking Retrospective Investigation

Elçin BASOL, University of Aydin Adnan Menderes

The Influence of the Abkhaz Diaspora in Turkey on the State-Building Process of Abkhazia

BREAK

14:30 – 14:45

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 4 - 5

14:45 – 16:15

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF PHILOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS OF IRAN, CENTRAL ASIA, AND CAUCASIA

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chairs: **Paolo OGNIBENE**, University of Bologna, and **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Andrea PIRAS, University of Bologna

The 'Parthian and Middle Persian Commonwealth' and its terminologies between Caucasus and Central Asia

Alessia ZUBANI, University of Oxford

Crafting Mechanical Devices: The Exchange of Technological Knowledge Across Medieval Iran, Central Asia, and China

Stefano DAMANINS, SOAS University of London

A Re-evaluation of the cvi-structure in Yasna 62.2-3

Nicolò BORDONI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Who Were the Sakā? Notes on the Presence of Nomads in Achaemenid Inscriptions

Velizar SADOVSKI, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Ossetic Personal Names From the Beginnings of Written Attestation up to the Present Day: Between Common Iranian Origin, Cross-Cultural Influences and Ideological Curiosities

Paolo OGNIBENE, University of Bologna

Ossetian Lexicon and Alanic Past

WHAT'S IN A JOB? RETHINKING INFORMAL, PRECARIOUS, AND MIGRANT LABOUR IN CENTRAL ASIA

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

Discussant: **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow

Franco GALDINI, University of Birmingham and **Eugenia PESCI**, University of Helsinki

Cultural Heritage Protection in Conflict-Ridden Eastern Peripheries of Europe: Mapping the Assemblage of Actors, Norms, and Practices

Binazir YUSUPOVA, Dublin City University

Reading Ugiloy's Story with Gibson-Graham: Understanding Precarisation through a Feminist Lens in Uzbekistan

Eugenia PESCI, University of Helsinki & **Giulio BENEDETTI**, Maastricht University/Stockholm

School of Economics in Riga

Women at the Birzha: Navigating Gender and Precarity in Kyrgyzstan

Franco GALDINI, University of Birmingham

Rise of the Surplus Population: Land Decollectivization, Class Stratification, and Labor Precarization in Uzbekistan

BREAK

16:15 – 16:30

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 6 - 7**

16:30 – 18:00

NOMADS AGAINST SEDENTARY CIVILIZATIONS - URBAN SOLDIERS AGAINST NOMADIC SETTLEMENTS. SIEGES IN ANTIQUITY AND MIDDLE AGES

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **István ZIMONYI**, University of Szeged

Valéria KULCSÁR, University of Szeged & **Eszter ISTVÁNOVITS**, Independent
Researcher

Historic and Archaeological Data on Sieges by and Against Iranian-Speaking (Scythians, Sarmatians) Nomads

Katalin PINTÉR-NAGY, University of Szeged

Siege Engines of the Nomadic Peoples of the Eurasian Steppe in the 6th–7th Centuries

István ZIMONYI, University of Szeged

The Mongol Campaigns Against the Volga Bulgars

Szilvia KOVÁCS, University of Szeged

Hungarian Defences Against the Mongol Conquerors

EXTERNAL ACTORS IN CENTRAL ASIA (HYBRID)

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science

Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI, Italian Institute for International Political Studies
Turkey's Public Diplomacy in Central Asia

Aloudin KOMILOV, Center for Progressive Reforms

China's Foreign Policy in Central Asia

Elżbieta Maria PRÓŃ, University of Silesia in Katowice – *Online*

China's Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia: A Critical Assessment and Future Directions

Muhayyoi RAHIMZODA, Corvinus University

Dependent on Foreign Aid in Central Asia: A Case Study of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Zhanibek ARYNOV, Nazarbayev University

Illegitimate and Unpopular? Perceptions of the Eurasian Economic Union among the Armenian, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz Publics

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**SPECIAL
SESSION**

18:00 – 19:00

THE ZHELEZKA PROJECT: ON THE TRACKS THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

Discussant: **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science

Participants:

- **Pavel DEMCHENKO**, Scuola Superiore Meridionale
 - **Sofia GAVRILOVA**, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
 - **Lyubomir POZHARLIEV**, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
 - **Akbota SADUAKASSOVA**, Corvinus University of Budapest
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ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 8 - 9**

08:45 – 10:30

LAYERS OF LEGACY: POWER, CONFLICT, AND IDENTITY IN ARMENIAN URBANISM

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **Maria GUNKO**, University of Oxford

Sarhat PETROSYAN, UrbanLab

Paving the Path to Yerevan

Harutyun VERMISHYAN, Socies Expert Centre

Narratives of Transformation in Post-Soviet Armenian Small Towns

Sona BALASANYAN, University of Vienna

Narratives of Transformation in Post-Soviet Armenian Small Towns

Aram VARTIKYAN, Yerevan State University

Biography of Industrial Cities in Armenia: Reflections on the New Urban Reality

Tigran SIMYAN, Yerevan State University

Yerevan in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Era: Historical Memory and Meanings

Maria GUNKO, University of Oxford

Demodernization: Reflections on the Changed Built Environment of Small Armenian Towns

Connectivity and Movement in Ancient and Early Medieval Central Asia and the Caucasus: People, Goods, Knowledge

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

Michele MINARDI, University of Naples L'Orientale

A Road to Asia in Late Antiquity: The Neglected Northern Branch of the So-Called Silk Road

Marta ZERBINI, University of Florence

From Trebizond to Baku. The Medieval Compound in the Historical Region of Tashir, Armenia

Manuel CASTELLUCCIA, University of Naples L'Orientale

Trading Commodities and Luxury Objects Between Nomads and Empires in Late Antique Caucasia

Lorenzo PUBBLICI, University of Naples L'Orientale

Thirteenth Century Caucasia: Crossroad of Knowledge Between Nomadism and Sedentary Societies

**COFFEE
BREAK**

VeniceEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:30 – 11:15

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 10 - 11**

11:15 – 12:45

THE FLUIDITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE: EMOTIONS, BODIES, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **Tamta TATARASHVILI**, Ilia State University

Ketevan LAPACHI, Ilia State University

Hair as a Commodity: The Infrastructure of Hair Trade in Georgia

Lika JALAGANIA, Ilia State University

Infrastructure of Sociality: Rioni Valley Movement and Protest that Flows

Esma BERIKISHVILI, Ilia State University

Navigating Ruins: The Emergence of Informal Labour within Post-Soviet Infrastructure in Georgia

Mariam URDIA, Ilia State University

Hemerging Nostalgia: The Transformed Materiality of a "Lost" River's Infrastructure

Dato LAGHIDZE, Ilia State University

Kutaisi Airport: Everyday Migration and Mobility in Post-Soviet Georgia

ROUNDTABLE: ITALY - CENTRAL ASIA. PERSPECTIVES ON CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Lorenzo TERMINE**, Sapienza University of Rome

Discussant: **Carlo Frappi**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Participants:

- **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow
- **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St Andrews
- **Fabio INDEO**, University of Siena
- **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent
- **Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento
- **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Italian Institute for International Political Studies

BREAK

12:45 – 14:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 12 - 13**

14:00 – 15:30

ROUNDTABLE: PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES OF DOING FIELDWORK IN AZERBAIJAN

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva

Discussant: **Laura LUCIANI**, University of Ghent

Participants:

- **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva
- **Sevinj SAMADZADE**, Ghent University
- **Laura LUCIANI**, Ghent University
- **Mirkamran HUSEYNLI**, Vytautas Magnus University
- **Yéléna MAC-GLANDIÈRES**, Université Paris 8
- **Bahruz SAMADOV**, Charles University in Prague

CROSS-CULTURAL ARMENIA

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Aldo FERRARI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Sona HAROUTYUNIAN, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Political Poems from the Armenian Diaspora: Alan Whitehorn

Filippo PERFETTI, University of Udine

Speaking Is Not Seeing? Ritorno a Khodorciur by Gianikian and Ricci Lucchi

Valentin MUNOWI LUNTUMBUE, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

A new Armenia that struggles to be born - The end of Artsakh, the Tavush Movement and the competing ideas of Armenia

BREAK

15:30 – 16:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 14 - 15 - 16**

16:00 – 17:30

RESILIENCE AND CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Location: Room A, Ca' Vendramin

Chair: **Thomas WIER**, Free University of Tbilisi

Thomas WIER, Free University of Tbilisi

Political Conflict and Language Endangerment in the South Caucasus

Timothy K. BLAUVELT, Ilia State University

The Russian Language in Contemporary Georgia: What a Difference a War Makes

Donnacha Ó BEACHÁIN, Dublin City University

What Has Been the Effect of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine on the Central Asian and the South Caucasus Regions?

EVERYDAY APPROACHES FOR THE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St. Andrews

Yang ZHAO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Qishloqchilik and the Remaking of a Masculine Self Amidst Urban Liminality Among Male Rural-Urban Migrants in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Steve SWERDLOW, University of Southern California

Decolonization and Human Rights in Uzbekistan: How Human Rights Can Combat Colonial Legacies

Laura LUCIANI, University of Ghent

Framing Feminism in Eurasia: Bottom-Up Strategies of De- and Re-Politicisation

Elena ZHIRUKHINA, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies Towards Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Families in Central Asia

Kamilla ASKHAT, Independent Researcher

Public Opinion and Environmental Discourse in Kazakhstan News Media

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



THE SEVEN SLEEPERS/ASHAB AL-KAHF IN THE SILK ROADS REGIONS

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Fabio L. GRASSI**, Sapienza University of Rome

Laura MAFIZZOLI, Czech Academy of Sciences

Georgian Perspectives on the Seven Sleepers: Unveiling Cultural Devotion along the Silk Roads

Chiara BARBATI, University of Pisa

The Sogdian Version of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

Anna TOZZI DI MARCO, University of Padua

Ashab al-Kahf Caves Along One of the Southern Routes of the Silk Road

**ASIAC
PLENARY MEETING**

Room A, Ca' Vendramin, 17:45 – 18:45 (in Italian)

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 17 - 18 - 19**

08:45 – 10:30

CONNECTIVITY AND DISCONNECTIVITY: EXPLORING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOBILITY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Susanne FEHLINGS**, Frobenius Institute

Discussant: **Marcello MOLLICA**, University of Messina

Franziska SMOLNIK, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Hair as a Commodity: The Infrastructure of Hair Trade in Georgia

Leyla SAYFUTDINOVA, University of Glasgow

Revisiting Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline: A Decolonial or Postcolonial Infrastructure?

Wladimir SGIBNEV, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

Ambitious, Conflicting, Equivocal: Modernisation Through Public Transport Infrastructures in Central Asian Cities

Tsypylma DARIEVA, Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien

Framing Russian Migrants in the South Caucasus: Encounters and Disconnects

POLITICS AND ECONOMY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Luca Anceschi**, University of Glasgow

Yéléna MAC-GLANDIÈRES, University of Paris 8

Silk, People, Oil, and Containers: Mapping the Evolution of Trans-Caspian Logistical Networks and Hinterland Relations Through Time and Space

Cordelia BUCHANAN PONCZEK, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

The Ties That Bind: Impact of Physical, Regulatory, and Finance Infrastructure in Central Asian Extraction Projects

Ayaz RZAYEV, University of Trento

The Middle Corridor in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Olga DOROKHINA, University of St. King Tamar

Cross-Border Mobility and Regional Tensions: The Evolution and Impact of the Railways in the Caucasus

John BRITTON SEITZ, Tennessee Wesleyan University

Global Labor, Global Capital, and Empire in the Early Oil Industry in Kazakhstan

Matthew GRAY, Morningstar and United Nations

TA Practitioner's Perspective: The Investment Trends and What It Means on the Socio-Industrial Future of Central Asia's Middle Power Engagements

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE CAUCASUS: RECENT DISCOVERIES, CHANGING PARADIGMS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES (PART I)

Location: Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà
Chair: **Elena ROVA**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Arsen BOBOKHYAN, Armenian Academy of Sciences; **Alessandra GILIBERT**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & **Pavol HNILA**, Freie Universität Berlin

Above the Treeline: The High-Mountain Sacred Landscape of Tirinkatar on Mt Aragats, Armenia as UNESCO Candidate for World Heritage Site

Andrea CESARETTI, ISMEO & **Roberto DAN**, ISMEO

Thousands of Graves and Missing Settlements: Problems and Perspectives in the Archaeology of the Middle Bronze Age in the South Caucasus

Manuel CASTELLUCCIA, University of Naples L'Orientale

Nomadic Impact in Eastern Caucasia: From the Scythians to the Khazars. An Archaeological Overview and Further Perspectives

Francesco BIANCHI, Munich University

The Southern Borders of the Southern Caucasus: An Archaeological Point of View

COFFEE BREAK

VeniceEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:30 – 11:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS # 20 – 21 – 22

11:00 – 12:30

CONNECTIVITY AND MOVEMENT IN ANCIENT AND EARLY MEDIEVAL CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS: PEOPLE, GOODS, KNOWLEDGE

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

Yipeng ZHOU, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and “Enlightened Absolutism” in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones

Elena SIMONATO, University of Lausanne

Swiss Cheesemakers in the Caucasus: History and Memory of Technological Innovation

Bryan GIGANTINO, Georgian–American University

Post-Soviet Peripheralization, Anti-Communist Memory Regime

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA: POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS (1948-2024)

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Tommaso TREVISANI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

Discussant: **Peter FINKE**, University of Zurich

Niccolò PIANCIOLA, University of Padua

The "Long 1960s" and the Water Management Crisis in Soviet Central Asia

Xeniya PRILUTSKAYA, University of Naples L'Orientale

Attempts to Import Technologies and International Cooperation in Soil Science and Land Reclamation in Pre-Soviet and Soviet Kazakhstan

Tommaso TREVISANI, University of Naples L'Orientale

Rural Families Facing Environmental Degradation in Central Asia's Irrigated Oases: Soviet Legacies and New Challenges

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE CAUCASUS: RECENT DISCOVERIES, CHANGING PARADIGMS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES (PART II)

Location: Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà

Chair: **Elena ROVA**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Francesca BERTOLDI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, **Pier Francesco FABBRI**, Museum and Florentine Institute of Prehistory, **Allegra RASIA**, Ca' Foscari University, **Denise PIANO**, University of Molise, **Leonardo CATALINI**, University of Molise, **Roberto CAMERIERE**, University of Molise & **Liana BITADZE**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Medieval Monasteries in Georgia Between Invasions and Resilience: A Bioarchaeological Approach

Adeline VAUTRIN, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, **M. MASHKOUR**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, **D. BOSCH**, Université Montpellier II, **L. GOURICHON**, Université Côte d'Azur & **R. BERTHON**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

Multi-Archaeozoological Approaches to Better Understand Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Agro-Pastoral Communities in the South Caucasus

Davit DAREJANASHVILI, Independent Researcher

Multiuse of Tangible Heritage Infrastructure Near Paravani Lake, South Georgia: Insights from Archaeological Excavations

BREAK

12:30 – 13:30

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 23 - 24 - 25**

13:30 – 15:00

AZERBAIJAN: NEW AND CONTESTED IDENTITIES

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Carlo Frappi**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS, Graduate Institute of Geneva
Narratives, Emotions, and Trauma of Azerbaijani Displaced People

Mirkamran HUSEYNLI, University of Vytautas Magnus
Contested Citizenship and National Identity: The Case of Azerbaijan

Fuad ALAKBAROV, University of Glasgow Caledonian
Navigating the Final Frontier: Azerbaijan's Space Program and Security Challenges

Murad MURADOV, Topchubashov Center
The Green Policy of Azerbaijan: Its Symbolic and Practical Importance

Edoardo LAVEZZO, University of York
Can We Still Consider Azerbaijan a Small State? Applying Shelter Theory to Understand the Euro-Azerbaijani Bilateralism in Energy Policies

LANGUAGE DYNAMICS

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Vittorio TOMELLERI**, University of Turin

Thomas WIER, University of Free Tbilisi
Language Endangerment in the Caucasus

Gilles AUTHIER, École Pratique des Hautes Études
A New East Caucasian Language: Gigatli

Tamar GUCHUA, University of Akaki Tsereteli State
Russia-Related Proper Name Metaphors in Georgian Political Discourse

Azizjon BERDIQULOV, European Centre for Minority Issues
The Latinisation of the Kazakh Language: Impact on National Minorities

Daniele ARTONI & Rebecca CELADON, University of Verona
Role and perception of the Russian language among ethnic minorities in Georgia

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



TAJIKISTAN. IDENTITY, AND MATERIALITY (HYBRID)

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Steve SWERDLOW**, University of Southern California

Kamila AKHMEDJANOVA, University of Oxford - Online
Lahouti and the New Tajik Identity

Stefano PELLÒ & Rebecca CIATTINI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Lenin's Rose Garden: The Persian Canon and Its Political Aesthetics in Soviet Tajikistan

Simon SACKERS, University of Leiden
Contesting the Flow of Light/Svet: Tajikistan's Electricity Infrastructure Between Moralities of the Past and the Future

Malika BAHOVADINOVA, University of Amsterdam
The State is for the Poor: Practices of Libertarian Statehood in Tajikistan

Sofia GAVRILOVA, Leipzig Centre for Regional Geography
What is in a name? The politics of glacier toponyms in Central Asia, 1870–2023

BREAK

15:00 – 15:15

**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 26 – 27 – 28**

15:15 – 16:45

RUSSIANS AMONG OTHERS (HYBRID)

Location: Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva

Leonardo ZANATTA, Corvinus University Budapest - Online
Methodological Issues of Group Self-Deception: A Comparison of Russian Relokanty in Armenia and Georgia

Görkem ATSUNGUR & Buğra GÜNGÖR, American University of Central Asia
Inter-Ethnic Relations Between Russians and Titular Majorities: A Comparative Analysis of Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

Margherita Gobbat, University of Bremen and Center for Social Sciences
From Vineyards to Visions: Strategic Responses to Russian Embargoes in Georgia and Moldova

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



LITERATURE AND SOCIOPOLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari
Chair: **Daniele ARTONI**, University of Verona

Francesco PERI, University of Paris College of Art
Entangling Shota: The Knight in the Panther's Skin in the Connected Middle Ages

Jasur LATIPOVICH KHUDOYBERDIEV, Westminster International University in Tashkent
Literature as a Catalyst for Sociopolitical Transformation: Uzbek Jadid Literature

Caterina RE, University of Genova
Unhomely Existences and the Role of Literature: Chingiz Aitmatov, Hamid Ismailov, Andrei Volos

Tamar KOPLATADZE, University of Oxford
Echoes of Semipaliatinsk Nuclear Testing in Central Asian Ecocritical Literature and Activism: The Case of Hamid Ismailov's The Dead Lake (2015)

Elisa DESTRO, University of Verona
"Searching for the Squandered, Scattered, Wasted, Unused Love I'd Left Behind": Migration, Memory and Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma in Nino Haratischvili's The Eighth Life (For Brilka)

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS (HYBRID)

Location: Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà
Chair: **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Lana CHOLOGAURI, Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University
Exploring Cross-Cultural Dynamics Through Luxury Arts in Late Antique Colchis and Iberia

Samira MÜLLER, Heidelberg University
The Local Backbone of Long-Distance Interconnection in Eurasia: A Philological Inquiry About the Agency of Commoners Along the Han Chinese Routes to the West

Murid SHAH NADIRI, University of Oxford
Modernising Traditional Religious Da'Wa (Mission): The Ismailis and Their Transregional Networks in the Age of Empire and State Building

Andrea CARTENY, Sapienza University of Rome
Origin and Success of Turanism in Dualist Hungary

BREAK

16:45 – 17:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



PLENARY SESSION

17:00 – 18:30

ELITE NETWORKS, AUTOCRACY AND THE STATE (HYBRID)

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Luca Anceschi**, University of Glasgow

Sofya DU BOULAY, University of Oxford Brookes – Online

Imitating Progress: Mega-Events and How Autocrats Use Them in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan

Dina SHARIPOVA, Nazarbayev University – Online

The State and Civil Society in Central Asian Autocracies

Wojciech OSTROWSKI, University of Westminster

Rentier State, Central Asia, and the Question of Regional Cooperation

Julie GEORGE, University of Queens College

Elites and Networks in Hybrid/Autocratizing Regimes: Continuity and Change in Georgia

CLOSING SESSION

18:30 – 18:45

Location: Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

Closing remarks: **Aldo FERRARI**, ASIAC and Ca' Foscari University