

## About Achaemenid Workshop 3

*Towards a Literary History of the Achaemenid Empire*, the third Achaemenid Workshop, seeks to investigate the various literatures of the Achaemenid Empire, their impact on the empire, and the empire's impact on them.



What does it mean to produce and consume literature in a multicultural world-empire—indeed in the first such entity? To answer this question, one must discern the outlines of a *literary history of the Achaemenid Empire*.

Primarily, it is imperative to gain a thorough understanding of the landscape of local literate cultures within the geographical ambit of the Achaemenid Empire. Examples of these cultural literary forms include Hebrew sacred literature, Demotic tales, Akkadian antiquarianism and scientific writing, and Aramaic hymns and wisdom literature; a capacious definition of “Achaemenid literatures” might also include royal discourse (in Old Persian but translated into local vernaculars), as well as texts produced in the Greek world, starting with Herodotus.

Just to survey all of these literary phenomena for the two centuries 550–330 BCE is a challenging prospect. How should one survey and read all of these literary phenomena for the two centuries 550–330 BCE as a unified corpus of literature representative of the empire? We must examine local literatures not only as reactive to, but also as reflective of the Achaemenid Empire. There are studies of these literary cultures within the empire for different regions, but to gather all of the regional viewpoints under an overarching *problématique* is a new and exciting endeavor.

## Day One: February 21, 2025

8:00 am	Morning Refreshments
8:30 am	<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b> <hr/> <b>Marc Van De Mieroop</b> · Columbia University <b>M. Rahim Shayegan</b> · University of California, Los Angeles <b>John Ma</b> · Columbia University
9:00–10:30 am	<b>PANEL I ELAMITE &amp; OLD PERSIAN</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> Marc Van De Mieroop · Columbia University <b>Gian Pietro Basello</b> · University of Naples <i>Royal Inscriptions as Literature: From Elam to Pārsa, and thence to the Empire</i> <b>M. Rahim Shayegan</b> · University of California, Los Angeles <i>The Great King and His Audiences</i> Questions & Answers <i>30-minute break</i>
11:00 am–12:30 pm	<b>PANEL II BABYLONIAN</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> Marc Van De Mieroop · Columbia University <b>Céline Debourse</b> · Harvard University <i>We Don't Talk About Persia (in Late Babylonian Literature)</i> <b>Caroline Waerzeggers</b> · Leiden University <i>Literary History of Achaemenid Babylonia</i> Questions & Answers
12:30–2:00 pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
2:00–3:30 pm	<b>PANEL III ARAMAIC</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> Seth Schwartz · Columbia University <b>Tawny Holm</b> · Pennsylvania State University <i>When Persians Became Assyrians: Aramaic Literature during the Achaemenid Empire</i> <b>Catherine Bonesho</b> · University of California, Los Angeles <i>(In)Visible Aramaic Documents and the Achaemenid Empire</i> Questions & Answers <i>30-minute break</i>
4:00–5:30 pm	<b>PANEL IV BIBLICAL LITERATURE</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> David M. Carr · Union Theological Seminary <b>Konrad Schmid</b> · University of Zurich <i>Reactions to the Achaemenid Empire in the Contemporaneous Literature of the Hebrew Bible</i> <b>Seth Bledsoe</b> · Radboud University, Nijmegen <i>The Difficulties in “Building” an Empire: Imperial Tensions in the Literature of the Hebrew Bible during the Achaemenid Period</i> Questions & Answers

## Day Two: February 22, 2025

8:30 am	Morning Refreshments
9:00–10:30 am	<b>PANEL V GREEK NARRATIVES</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> John Ma · Columbia University <b>Simone Oppen</b> · University of Minnesota - Twin Cities <i>Herodotus on Achaemenid Respect for Foreign Religious Authority</i> <b>Dominique Lenfant</b> · University of Strasbourg <i>The Impact of the Achaemenid Empire on Greek Local Narratives: An Overview</i> Questions & Answers <i>30-minute break</i>
11:00 am–12:30 pm	<b>PANEL VI LITERARY TRADITIONS OF ASIA MINOR</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> Elizabeth Irwin · Columbia University <b>Johannes Haubold</b> · Princeton University <i>Troy: Achaemenid Stories and Perspectives</i> <b>Anthony Yates</b> · University of California, Los Angeles <i>Early Hittite Literature and the Emergence of the Annalistic Style</i> Questions & Answers
12:30–2:00 pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
2:00–3:30 pm	<b>PANEL VII EGYPTIAN</b> <hr/> <b>Chair:</b> Ellen Morris · Columbia University <b>Hong Yu Chen</b> · University of California, Los Angeles <i>Intellectual Production by Egyptian Elites at Hibis Temple: From Menkheperre Thutmose to Darius</i> <b>Marina Escolano Poveda</b> · University of Liverpool <i>Rethinking P. Rylands Dem. 9 in the Scribal and Literary Culture of Saïte and Achaemenid Egypt</i> Questions & Answers <i>30-minute break</i>
4:00 pm	<b>KEYNOTE SPEECH</b> <hr/> <b>David Damrosch</b> · Harvard University <i>Vernacular Cosmopolitans</i>

