



kulturkontaktkultur

66. RAI | FRANKFURT | MAINZ 2020

**66^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Frankfurt am Main & Mainz,
July 20 – 24, 2020, 1st Circular**

Dear colleagues,

We are very pleased to invite you to the 66th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI), which will be held in the Rhine-Main metropolitan area, in the adjacent cities of Frankfurt am Main (July 20–22) & Mainz (July 22–24, 2020). The cities are located very close to each other and well connected by local public transport.

Conference Theme

The conference theme is “Cultural Contact – Cultures of Contact” (Kultur–Kontakt–Kultur).

The Near East has always been an ‘open space’ in which the paths of many people have crossed in the course of time: Natural traffic routes channeled the movement of people and goods. Regions, which offered favorable conditions for human settlement, became both arenas of cultural encounters and conflicts. Urban centers with their markets and harbors constituted points of contact between people, objects and ideas.

Cultural contact involves many aspects and affects material culture, social practices and social structures to varying extents. Encountering ‘the other’ can have different effects, ranging from spontaneous rejection to adaption. Situations of cultural contact can also initiate a process of

self-reflection, within the individual as well as with regard to a social or cultural group. Occasionally a single object ‘from another world’ has potential to induce cultural change.

Our conference also aims to address forms of contact not primarily defined by geographical but social distance. These can include encounters between socially marginalized groups and dominant strata within a given society, which lead us to new contacts of cultures opening up a wider field for discussion.

The RAI 66 will approach the overall theme of the conference through six sessions (a more detailed description of the session will soon be available on our website):

Session 1: Means and Routes of Contact

Session 2: Actors of Contact

Session 3: Material Manifestations of Contact

Session 4: Manifestations of Contacts in Rituals, Cult and Society

Session 5: Linguistic Contacts

Session 6: Cultures of Contact

Sessions 1–3 will be held in Frankfurt, sessions 4–6 in Mainz.

Papers and Posters

The organizing committee will consider paper and poster proposals covering both textual and archaeological data from the 4th millennium BCE to the 1st millennium CE. Off-topic paper presentations may also be considered depending on available time slots. There will be six thematic sessions. Paper and poster proposals must be accompanied by a 200–400 word abstract, allowing the committee to select and organize relevant proposals into coherent sessions. PhD students wishing to submit a proposal must include a declaration of agreement from their supervisor. To facilitate the development of a satisfactory program, participants are kindly asked to indicate any session in which they would be unable to present when submitting their abstract.

Deadline for submitting titles and abstracts for papers and posters: March 31, 2020

Please submit proposals for papers and posters via the following email address: 66RAI@uni-mainz.de, subject: “paper proposal” or “poster proposal”. Abstracts are to be submitted through our online registration system (see below).

Workshops

During the RAI 66 workshops will be offered within the limits of space and time available. One workshop is reserved for field reports of actual projects, one workshop will be held on digitization in Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Proposals for workshops, consisting of a minimum of four papers, should be sent no later than December 31, 2019 and should also include the corresponding abstracts. Participation in workshops shall be open to all interested scholars. After a workshop has been accepted, its organizers are required to issue a call for papers via appropriate channels (e. g. Jack M Sasson’s Agade Mailing List) to give further scholars the opportunity to participate.

Deadline for submitting workshop proposals: December 31, 2019. The decision of the organizing committee on which workshops will be held at the conference will be taken shortly after, by January 15, 2020.

Please submit workshop proposals to the organizing committee via the following email address: 66RAI@uni-mainz.de, subject: “workshop proposal”

Registration

Online registration for the conference will be open from November 1, 2019 via the following webpage: www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de. It will be possible to pay by credit card, Paypal or bank transfer. Registration and payment at the conference desk can only be done in cash and in Euros. Please note that due to our tiered pricing policy early registrations will benefit from lower admission fees:

	Full Price	Student Rate
IAA Members (until March 31, 2020)	90 €	50 €
IAA Members (until June 30, 2020)	120 €	60 €
IAA Members (from July 1, 2020)	150 €	70 €
Non-IAA Members (until March 31, 2020)	120 €	65 €
Non-IAA Members (until June 30, 2020)	150 €	75 €
Non-IAA Members (from July 1, 2020, onwards)	180 €	85 €
Attendants of conference participants (until March 31, 2020)	60 €	
Attendants of conference participants (until June 30, 2020)	70 €	
Attendants of conference participants (from July 1, 2020, onwards)	90 €	

The registration fee entitles to attend all sessions and workshops, all the coffee breaks, the welcome reception at Frankfurt University (July 20) and the evening reception at the Bel Étage in Mainz (July 22), as well as the transfer from Frankfurt to Mainz by ship (July 22).

Accommodation and transfer

We have pre-booked a certain amount of hotel rooms both in Frankfurt and Mainz. More detailed information will be provided on our homepage. Both cities are well connected by local trains which take about 45 minutes. Although it is thus possible to stay at one hotel for the whole RAI week, we would recommend to move from Frankfurt to Mainz for the second half of the event.

We will provide a boat transfer from Frankfurt to Mainz on Wednesday, July 22 for all registered participants of the RAI, which will take approximately 3 hours as several locks must be navigated on the river Main.

Conference Venues

In Frankfurt the conference will take place on the Westend Campus. In Mainz the conference will also be held on the university campus (lecture halls P 1 to P 5, Philosophicum building, Jakob-Welder-Weg 18, 55128 Mainz).

Contact

You can contact the organizing committee by sending an e-mail to the following address:
66RAI@uni-mainz.de.

Further information

Updates will be provided in a 2nd and 3rd circular. Please also visit our website for updates and information on the conference venues, directions, accommodation etc.: www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de

The organizing committee of the 66^e RAI:

Tobias Helms (Mainz)

Eva-Maria Huber (Mainz)

Doris Prechel (Mainz)

Alexander Pruß (Mainz)

Thomas Richter (Frankfurt am Main)

Dirk Wicke (Frankfurt am Main)