



kulturkontaktkultur

66. RAI | FRANKFURT | MAINZ 2020

**66^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Frankfurt am Main & Mainz,
20.–24. Juli 2020, 2nd 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, and became scenes of conflicts.

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.

Sessions

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

The organizing committee will consider paper 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. Paper proposals must be accompanied by a 200–400 word abstract via our online registration system (www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de), allowing the committee to select and organize relevant proposals into coherent sessions. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion and questions.

We kindly remind you that per participant only one presentation either within a session **or** within a workshop is intended. However, a paper presentation can be combined with an active participation in the poster session or the PechaKucha event.

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

Active participants of the sessions are kindly asked to register via our conference booking system by **May 31, 2020**.

Workshops

Besides the sessions, the following workshops will be held:

- Workshop 1:** Akkadian Grammar and Lexicon
- Workshop 2:** Chronoi as a Factor in Cultural Contact with(in) the Ancient Near East
- Workshop 3:** Cultures of Contact – Modes of Interaction within Ancient Communities
- Workshop 4:** Digital Humanities Workshop
- Workshop 5:** Loanwords and Language Contact in Ancient Anatolia
- Workshop 6:** Near Eastern *Weltanschauungen* in Contact and in Contrast: Rethinking the Terms Ideology and Propaganda
- Workshop 7:** Partnership in Ancient Near Eastern Societies — Legal Texts in Comparative Perspective
- Workshop 8:** Priests and Profits — New Perspectives and Approaches to the Role of the Temple in Babylonian Economy
- Workshop 9:** Recent Fieldwork in the Near East
- Workshop 10:** Spatial Data for Cuneiformists

Please find the abstracts and short description of the workshops on our website (www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de) under "workshops".

Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers presented at a workshop: **March 31, 2020**

Abstracts should be sent directly to the organizers of the respective workshop (contact addresses are provided in the downloadable PDF), who will decide whether a contribution will be accepted. Please send abstracts for workshop 4 ("Digital Humanities Workshop") and 9 ("Recent Fieldwork in the Near East") directly to the organizing committee (66RAI@uni-mainz.de).

Time per presentation: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Active participants of workshops (presentation) are kindly asked to register via our conference booking system by **May 31, 2020**.

Poster session

The organizing committee will consider poster proposals covering both textual and archaeological data from the 4th millennium BCE to the 1st millennium CE. Off-topic poster presentations are also be considered.

Poster proposals must be accompanied by a 200–400 word abstract via our online registration system (www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de).

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

Active participants of the poster session are kindly asked to register via our conference booking system by **May 31, 2020**.

Time and location of the poster session will be announced soon.

PechaKucha session

To encourage students and PhD-candidates in an early stage of project to participate actively on RAI 66, we provide a session with short presentations in PechaKucha format. PechaKucha is a format where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each (total time of speech: 6 minutes and 40 seconds).

We will consider proposals covering both textual and archaeological data from the 4th millennium BCE to the 1st millennium CE. The presentations don't have to refer back on the main theme of RAI 66.

PechaKucha proposals must be accompanied by a 100–200 word abstract via our online registration system (www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de) mentioning the keyword "PechaKucha".

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

Active participants of the PechaKucha event are kindly asked to register via our conference booking system by **May 31, 2020**.

Time and location of the PechaKucha event will be announced soon.

RAI travel grant for scholars from West Asia

Scholars (philologists and archaeologists) from the West Asian region can apply for financial support for travelling expenses and conference fees up to an amount of 1,000 € per person.

Prerequisite is the active participation in the conference with a contribution within the framework of either a thematic session or a workshop.

Please send applications by e-mail to the following address: 66RAI@uni-mainz.de (subject: "RAI travel grant"). We kindly ask you to also include a brief CV, the title and a short abstract of your paper as well as a short statement of the expected costs. The deadline for applications is **March 31, 2020**.

Please note that there is only a limited number of travel grants available. Therefore, the application for travel grants is competitive.

Registration

For attending our conference, please register online via the following webpage: www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de. You can pay the conference fee either 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. We kindly remind all active participants of the conference (i.e. participants presenting a paper or poster) to register via our conference booking system by **May 31, 2020**. Otherwise, the organizing committee reserves the right not to consider the registered entry.

	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)	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)	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 in Mainz (July 22), as well as the transfer from Frankfurt to Mainz by ship (July 22).

Information for publishers

We invite publishers to set up book stands at RAI 66.

There will be no extra fee for book exhibitors. However, we kindly ask all persons that will be working at the bookstalls to register for the conference via our website (www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de) and pay the normal conference fee. Please contact us via e-mail (66RAI@uni-mainz.de) to specify your demand for tables.

We can provide transportation service for your books from Frankfurt to Mainz on request.

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 1 hour. 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 RAI 66, 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.

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 3rd circular. Please also visit our website for continuous updates and information on the conference venues, directions, accommodation etc.: www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de

The organizing committee of RAI 66:

Tobias Helms (Mainz)

Eva-Maria Huber (Mainz)

Doris Prechel (Mainz)

Alexander Pruß (Mainz)

Thomas Richter (Frankfurt am Main)

Dirk Wicke (Frankfurt am Main)

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