



kulturkontaktkultur

66. RAI | FRANKFURT | MAINZ 2022

**66^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Mainz,
July 25 – 29, 2022, 1st Circular**

Dear colleagues,

We are very pleased to invite you to the 66^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI), which will be held July 25 – 29, 2022 in the Rhine-Main metropolitan area. The conference is organized by scholars from the universities of Frankfurt and Mainz and will be held in a hybrid format, containing virtual and on-site attendance elements.

Conference Theme

The conference theme is “Cultural Contact – Cultures of Contact” (Kultur–Kontakt–Kultur) in the Ancient Near East.

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 is 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

There will be two additional sessions not linked to the conference theme:

Session 7: Reports on recent fieldwork

Session 8: Digital methods in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Hybrid Rencontre

Due to the foreseeable restrictions caused by the Corona pandemic, which will probably still be in effect in 2022, the Rencontre will be held in a hybrid format. The first two days (July 25 and 26) will be reserved for live lectures presented online. The three remaining days (July 27 – 29) will see presentations given in presence at Mainz.

All online lectures will be screened synchronously in the conference rooms at Mainz. All lectures presented in person at Mainz will be streamed via conference technology for registered participants online.

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. There will be six thematic and two additional sessions. Paper proposals must be accompanied by a 200–400 word abstract and an attribution to one of the eight sessions mentioned above. PhD students wishing to submit a proposal must include a declaration of agreement from their supervisor. Please indicate together with your proposal if you wish to present a paper in presence at Mainz or to give an online talk. All speakers must be registered as participants.

Deadline for submitting titles and abstracts for papers: April 30, 2022

Please submit the abstracts for papers through our online registration system (see below). If you have requests please use the following email address: 66RAI@uni-mainz.de, subject: “paper proposal”.

Workshops and common rooms

There will be no separately organized workshops during the RAI 66.

However, groups of interested colleagues can register together with topics related to the general theme of the Rencontre. To do so, please use this email address: 66RAI@uni-mainz.de, subject “workshop”, and indicate the names of the speakers and the titles of their papers. As far as possible, the papers will then be scheduled for one day and within one panel. Every participant will have to register individually for RAI 66.

We will also offer the possibility to use additional rooms for meetings of interested groups during the presence days of the conference. If you want to use this opportunity, please indicate your intention by **May 31, 2022**.

Registration

Online registration for the conference will be open from **December 1, 2021** via the following webpage: <https://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 Presence Rate	Full Price Online Rate	Student Rate (Presence/Online)
IAA Members (until April 30, 2022)	100 €	50 €	50 €
IAA Members (until July 15, 2022)	130 €	60 €	60 €
IAA Members (during the RAI)	150 €	–	70 €
Non-IAA Members (until April 30, 2022)	130 €	65 €	65 €
Non-IAA Members (until July 15, 2022)	160 €	75 €	75 €
Non-IAA Members (during the RAI)	180 €	–	85 €
Attendants of conference participants (until April 30, 2022)	60 €	–	–
Attendants of conference participants (until July 15, 2022)	70 €	–	–
Attendants of conference participants (during the RAI)	90 €	–	–

The registration fee entitles to attend all sessions and workshops (all rates), all the coffee breaks (presence rate and student rate) and all receptions at Mainz (presence rate and student rate).

Accommodation and arrival by plane or train

We have pre-booked a certain amount of hotel rooms in Mainz. More detailed information will be provided on our homepage: <https://www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de>. Mainz is well connected to the long-distance train network of Germany, with regular connections from Cologne, Frankfurt and Mannheim. The next airport is at Frankfurt. From there, local trains reach Mainz central station within ca. 30 minutes.

Conference Venue

The conference will be held on the university campus (lecture halls P 1 to P 5, Philosophicum building, Jakob-Welder-Weg 18, 55128 Mainz) at Mainz. The online lectures of the first two days will be screened in these rooms. During the whole RAI 66, the conference office will be situated there.

Contact

You can contact the organizing committee by sending an email 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.:
<https://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)