



kulturkontaktkultur

66. RAI | FRANKFURT | MAINZ 2022

2nd 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 take place in a hybrid format, containing virtual and on-site attendance elements.

All registered participants will have the opportunity to attend all lectures virtually as well as in person. The presence elements of the conference will be hosted at the premises of the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (JGU).

Virtual part (July 25 – 26)

The first two days are dedicated exclusively to live online lectures. All online lectures will take place in our Virtual Venue and will be broadcast synchronously in the event spaces in Mainz, so that all guests already present can follow the sessions.

Hybrid Part (July 27 – 29)

During the second half of the conference, the presentations will take place in presence and will be streamed live in our Virtual Venue, so that participants who are only present virtually can also listen to the lectures.

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 many peoples’ paths 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 as well as 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 in regard to a social or cultural group. Occasionally a single object ‘from another world’ has the 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 of discussion.

The RAI 66 will approach the overall theme of the conference through six sessions:

Session 1: Means and Routes of Contact

Session 2: Actors of Contact

Session 3: Material Manifestations of Contact

Session 4: Manifestations of Contact 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

Papers

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

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

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** assigning it 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.

The preliminary program will be announced in June.

Roundtables

There will be no separately organized workshops during the RAI 66. However, groups with common research interests can register together for a **roundtable** with presentation topics that fit the theme of the RAI 66. We will try to schedule the presentations on one day as part of a panel, if possible. All presenters are requested to register individually for the RAI 66. We will make every effort to have space available during the attendance days to allow interested groups to meet on a smaller scale. For coordination purposes, please indicate your intention by **May 31, 2022** to 66RAI@uni-mainz.de, subject “roundtable”.

Registration

You can register online via our [webpage](#).

The site is available both in German and English.

It will be possible to pay by credit card, PayPal or bank transfer. Registration and payment at the conference desk can only be made 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 €	–	–

For the **Full Price Presence Rate**, the conference fee includes the opportunity to attend all sessions on-site and/or via our Virtual Venue, catering during coffee breaks and participation in the receptions in Mainz.

For the **Full Price Online Rate**, the conference fee includes the possibility to attend all sessions via our Virtual Venue.

For the **Student Rate**, the conference fee includes the possibility to attend all sessions on site and/or via our Virtual Venue, catering during the coffee breaks and the participation in the receptions in Mainz.

Conference Venue

The conference will be hosted in Mainz, Germany, July 25 – 29, 2022, on the university campus:

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
Philosophicum, lecture halls P 1 – P 5
Jakob-Welder-Weg 18
D-55128 Mainz

During the digital part of the RAI 66 (July 25 – 26), the online lectures will be streamed live to the lecture halls so that guests already present can follow the lectures together. The hybrid part of the conference will take place July 27 – 29 in these facilities and will be streamed live in our Virtual Venue.

The conference office will be set up on site at the Philosophicum and will be staffed throughout the conference.

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 [webpage](#). Mainz is well connected to the long-distance train network of Germany, with regular connections from Cologne, Frankfurt, Saarbrücken and Mannheim. The next airport is Frankfurt International Airport, which can be reached from Mainz central station by train within ca. 30 minutes.

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 and pay the normal conference fee. Please contact us via e-mail (66RAI@uni-mainz.de) to specify your demand for tables.

Contact

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

Further information

We will announce the preliminary program of the RAI 66 in a 3rd circular and provide you with information regarding our Virtual Venue.

You will also find further continuously updated information on the conference venues, directions and accommodation options on our website (<https://www.66RAI.uni-mainz.de>), on Twitter (@66RAI_Mainz) and Facebook (@66RAIMainz).

The organizing committee of RAI 66:

Eva-Maria Huber (Mainz)

Franziska Lutz (Mainz)

Doris Prechel (Mainz)

Alexander Pruß (Mainz)

Thomas Richter (Frankfurt am Main)

Tabea Schloß (Mainz)

Dirk Wicke (Frankfurt am Main)