

6-7 DECEMBER 2024

# THE MULTIPLE LIVES OF HAMMURABI



PALAZZO CENTRALE DELL'UNIVERSITÀ  
PIAZZA UNIVERSITÀ, 2  
CATANIA

**EINSTEIN  
CENTER**  
Chronoi

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Palazzo Centrale dell'Università,  
Piazza Università 2, Catania

## SESSION 1: OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

- 09:00 WELCOME DESK
- 10:00 INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS
- 10:30 EXHIBITION OPENING
- 11:00 EXHIBITION VISIT

## SESSION 2: OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

- 12:00 NICOLA LANERI (Università di Catania)  
CINZIA PAPPI (Einstein Center Chronoi/Freie Universität Berlin)  
Conference Introduction
- 12:30 DOMINIQUE CHARPIN (Collège de France, Paris)  
*Lectio Magistralis: Hammurabi's Kingdom over Time: the Evolution to an Empire*
- 13:00 LUNCH BREAK

## SESSION 3: HAMMURABI THROUGH THE AGES – CHAIR: DOMINIQUE CHARPIN

- 15:00 LORENZO NIGRO (Università di Roma 'La Sapienza')  
*The Hammurabi Stela: Shamash Lord of Time and Divine Kingship*



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15:30 NELE ZIEGLER (CNRS, Paris)

*The Origins of Hammurabi's Historiographic Tradition: Understanding 'Hammurabi's Deeds'*

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:30 EVA CANCIK-KIRSCHBAUM (Einstein Center Chronoi/Freie Universität Berlin)

*The Legacy of Hammurabi in Ancient Mesopotamia*

17:00 FELIX WIEDEMANN (Einstein Center Chronoi/Freie Universität Berlin)

*Temporal Entanglements: Ancient Babylonia and German Conceptions of Law, Morality, and History at the Turn of the 20th Century CE*

17:30 CINZIA PAPPI (Einstein Center Chronoi/Freie Universität Berlin)

*Building up Hammurabi: Assyriology and Modern Historiography*

18:00 DISCUSSION

Respondents: Elena Devecchi (University of Torino); Nicola Laneri (University of Catania)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Dipartimento di Scienze Umanistiche,  
Piazza Dante Alighieri 24, Catania

SESSION 4: HAMMURABI BEYOND BABYLON –  
CHAIR: NICOLA LANERI

09:30 ANNUNZIATA ROSITANI (Università di Messina)

*Hammurabi's Words, Words for Hammurabi: Personality and Fortune of the Babylonian King Through the Old Babylonian Letters*



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- 10:00 HANAN HAMZA (Iraq Museum, Baghdad)  
*Fragments of Hammurabi's Laws at the Iraq Museum*
- 10:30 SOPHIE CLUZAN (Louvre, Paris)  
*'When the God Enlil Gave the Land and People to Him to Rule and Entrusted Their Nose-Rope in His Hands'*  
*Hammurabi and his Neighbors in the Collections of the Louvre Museum*
- 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30 NANCY HIGHCOCK (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)  
*'Gaining Great Influence in the Country...': The Rise (and Fall?) of Hammurabi in British and American Museums During the 20th Century CE*
- 12:00 HELEN GRIES (Pergamon Museum, Berlin)  
*Babylon's Ishtar Gate - From the Old Babylonian Period to Nebuchadnezzar II and Beyond*
- 12:30 DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS  
Respondents: Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum, Cinzia Pappi, Felix Wiedemann (Einstein Center Chronoi/Freie Universität Berlin)



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## SPEAKERS

**Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum** is a full professor in Assyriology and chair of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. She is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Senate of the German Research Foundation. Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum leads numerous research projects, among which are currently the German Research Foundation (DFG) School of Advanced Studies 2615 “Rethinking Oriental Despotism – Strategies of Governance and Modes of Participation in the Ancient Near East” and the Collaborative Research Center SFB 980 Episteme in Motion A01: “Episteme as Configurative Process: Internal Transfer in Cuneiform Textual Corpora.” Since 2019, she has been leading the Einstein Center Chronoi, founded by the Einstein Foundation in Berlin, with the aim of investigating time, time awareness, and temporality, combining natural, social, and historical sciences.

**Dominique Charpin** has been a full professor at the Collège de France in Paris since 2014. He is the chair of the Mesopotamian Civilization department and a correspondent of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, as well as the director of UAR 2409 (“Centre de documentation de l’Institut des Civilisations du Collège de France”). He is one of the prominent scholars in Old Babylonian History and Culture, and the author of several books, among them *Hammu-rabi de Babylone*, Paris, 2003, which has been translated into several languages, including English, Italian, and Russian. He is currently leading the long-term project Archibab ([www.archibab.fr](http://www.archibab.fr)).

**Sophie Cluzan** is the Curator of Heritage, specializing in Near Eastern antiquities, at the Louvre Museum. Sophie has been a curator at the Louvre since 1995, responsible for Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, Palestinian, and Cypriot antiquities. She has also led collaborative projects with Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, focusing on heritage conservation and scientific research.

**Elena Devecchi** is an associate professor of Ancient Near Eastern History at the University of Torino. She was lecturing in Belgium (KU Leuven), Germany (LMU Munich and JMU Würzburg), and Austria (University of Innsbruck). Her scholarly interests include international relations during the Late Bronze Age, especially historical and diplomatic texts from Anatolia and Syria, and the socio-economic history of Babylonia during the Kassite period.



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**Helen Gries** is the curator for southern and central Mesopotamian cultures at the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin. She is leading a DFG project focusing on the reconstruction of the glazed brick facades of Assur (GIAssur) at the Pergamonmuseum. She is also the author of a book on the Ishtar Gate of Babylon, *Das Ischtar-Tor aus Babylon: Vom Fragment zum Monument*, Regensburg, 2022.

**Hanan Hamza** is curator at the Iraq Museum of Baghdad. She is responsible for the cuneiform collections.

**Nancy Highcock** is the Assistant Keeper and Jaleh Hearn Curator for the Ancient Middle East at the Department of Antiquities of the Ashmolean Museum. Before joining the Ashmolean Museum in 2024, she was the acting curator for ancient Mesopotamia at the British Museum and held postdoc and teaching positions at the University of Cambridge. She has worked on field projects in Türkiye since 2009.

**Nicola Laneri** is a full professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Catania and scientific director of the Museum of Archaeology at the University of Catania. He is currently the national coordinator of the PRIN Project entitled *Godscapes: Modeling Second Millennium BCE Polytheisms in the Eastern Mediterranean*. He is the author of several books, among them *From Ritual to God in the Ancient Near East: Tracing the Origins of Religion* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Since 2022, he has been directing the archaeological project at Tall Mohammed.

**Lorenzo Nigro** is a full professor of Near Eastern and Phoenician Punic Archaeology in the Department of Oriental Studies at Sapienza University of Rome. He is directing several archaeological projects in Sicily and the Levant. Since 2022 he has been national coordinator of the PRIN Project "Synchronized with Nature: Measuring Time in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia: Archaeological and Textual Evidence."

**Cinzia Pappi** is an Assyriologist and research associate at the Einstein Center Chronoi of the Freie Universität Berlin. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Hamburg. Before her current position, she was an assistant professor at the University of Leipzig (Germany) and a visiting professor at Brown University (USA) and at the University of Innsbruck (Austria). Since 2010, she has worked in Iraqi Kurdistan, directing excavations and surface investigations in the region of Koi Sanjaq/Koya (Erbil, Iraq).



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**Annunziata Rositani** is an associate professor in Assyriology at the University of Messina. She has authored several books on Mesopotamian culture and economy. She has been leading several projects on the critical edition of cuneiform texts. Since 2022 she is the PI of the Messina Unit of the project: "Synchronized with Nature: Measuring Time in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia: Archaeological and Textual Evidence."

**Felix Wiedemann** is a historian, research associate at the Einstein Center Chronoi of the Freie Universität Berlin. Since 2018, he has been a lecturer (Privatdozent) for Modern History at the Department of History of the FU-Berlin. His academic interests include the history of the humanities and the history of historiography, the theory of history, German and European Orientalism, the history of anti-Semitism, racism, and right-wing extremism, the history of migration, and the history of modern social and religious movements.

**Nele Ziegler** is Directrice de Recherche at the research unit UMR 7192 of the French CNRS, hosted at the Collège de France. She lectures on the Ancient Near East at the École du Louvre. Her research focuses on political history, historical geography, administrative modalities, social studies, and gender studies. She is actively involved in the long-term project Archibab ([www.archibab.fr](http://www.archibab.fr)).