



**Universiteit
Leiden**
Humanities

Leiden
University
Institute for
Area Studies



68th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale

Leiden, 17–20 July 2023

First Circular

On behalf of Leiden University and the International Association for Assyriology, we cordially invite you to the 68th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale which will take place in Leiden from Monday 17 to Thursday 20 July 2023. We are very much looking forward to hosting the Rencontre for the eighth time since 1952.

Venue

We aim to organise an in-person congress, with all speakers present in Leiden. Keynote lectures will be streamed free of charge. The venue is located on the Humanities Campus in the centre of town (Cleveringaplaats 1, 2311 BD Leiden). All social events will take place in the venue's vicinity.

Theme

The theme of the conference is 'Inequality in the Ancient Near East'. Understanding the emergence of social inequalities remains one of the key challenges of the study of the past. There is little doubt that the ancient Near East, with its rich archival records and archaeological datasets, is a prime locus for research into the history of inequality. In this Rencontre we would like to explore the theme of inequality in its broadest sense. Did social inequality change over time? Was the success of states correlated to their degree of inequality? How did gender, ethnicity, age, disability and other identity positions, relate to inequality and how were these enshrined in the legal system? What were the possibilities to act against oppression? How was inequality represented in art and literature and by the semantics of words, how were its origins imagined, or how did inequalities influence artistic expressions?

The above questions are relevant for scholars of various disciplines, including (art) history, archaeology, philology, linguistics, and digital humanities. Participants are encouraged to address matters of methodology. Which tools can we use to study social inequalities in the ancient Near East? Are quantitative data from textual or archaeological sources a good proxy for investigating social inequalities? What are the opportunities to

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investigate inequality from the bottom up? How do present-day inequalities affect the field(s) of Ancient Near Eastern studies and their ability to understand the ancient world? Through these and related questions, we invite all participants to rethink social inequalities in the ancient Near East.

Submissions

The organizing committee invites submissions of workshop proposals and abstracts for papers, posters and short project presentations.

Workshops

We welcome workshop proposals on the theme of the conference as well as on unrelated topics. In case of oversubscription, workshops on the topic of inequality will be prioritized.

A workshop must consist of 6 lecture slots of 30 minutes each (i.e. one full morning or afternoon session) of which the first or the last slot may be reserved for introductory remarks or a general discussion. We strongly encourage workshop organizers to advertise an open call for applications on their own discretion and initiative.

Proposals can be sent to us by e-mail (rai68@hum.leidenuniv.nl) between 1 December 2022 and 31 January 2023. A proposal should contain the following information:

- name of the organizer(s);
- title of the workshop;
- aim of the workshop;
- a list of speakers with a preliminary title and brief description of their papers;
- a brief statement on whether an open call for applications was organized.

We will send a notification of acceptance or rejection by 15 February 2023 at the latest. If the proposal is accepted, the speakers will be required to upload their abstracts individually in the general submission system for paper abstracts before 31 March.

Papers

The online submission system for paper abstracts (200-400 words) will open on 1 February 2023 and close on 31 March. In addition to sessions dedicated to the theme of the conference, we will schedule at least one session for reports on recent fieldwork and one on digital methods in ancient Near Eastern studies. In case of oversubscription, papers on the topic of the conference, recent fieldwork and digital methods will be prioritized over those dealing with an unrelated topic. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent in mid-April 2023.

Posters

The online submission system for poster abstracts will open on 1 February 2023 and close on 31 March.

Brief project presentations

In addition to the traditional formats for workshops, papers and posters, we introduce a new session format targeted at brief communications about new projects, their progress or results (8 minutes). These brief presentations will be bundled in so-called lightning sessions. Brief abstracts (c. 50 words) can be submitted online between 1 February and 31 March 2023.

Registration

Online registration will open on 1 February 2023. Members of the International Association for Assyriology will receive a discount of €30 (full member) or €10 (student member).

Publishers pay a rental fee of €75 per table in addition to registration. More information will follow in the next circular.

	until 1 April	until 1 July	after 1 July
IAA member	€130	€160	€180
IAA student	€60	€70	€90
regular (non-IAA)	€160	€190	€210
student (non-IAA)	€70	€80	€100
accompanying person	€60	€70	€90

Accommodation

Participants are encouraged to book a hotel room early. Leiden now boasts many more hotels, hostels, B&B's and camping sites than it did in the past, but the summer holiday is still a busy season. The city of The Hague is located at a 10-minute trainride distance.

Website and contact

We will keep you informed on our conference website www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/rai68 and in two more circulars. Our students will begin a social media offensive soon. You are most welcome to contact us at: rai68@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

A summer of conferences in Leiden

In addition to the RAI68, Leiden University hosts two more international conferences in the summer of 2023 that may be of interest to you. The 13th [International Conference of Egyptology](#) takes place from 6 to 11 August and the 10th [European Conference of Iranian Studies](#) takes place from 21 to 25 August.

We hope to see you soon in Leiden!

The organizing committee
Leiden, 15 October 2022

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