

GALATEO

Good Attitudes for Life in Assyrian Times: Etiquette and Observance of Norms in Male and Female Groups

The GALATEO project aims to understand anew the importance of etiquette in late Assyrian society (10th–7th century BCE) and to investigate through a multidisciplinary approach the extent to which etiquette influenced the subsequent cultures of the Middle East. The main project objectives are 1) the creation of an online Atlas, to explore the ways in which etiquette may have persisted, through time and space down to modern times; 2) the development of an adaptable sociological and anthropological theoretical model for the study of etiquette in the ancient Middle East; 3) the analysis of the reasons that underlie the meeting and hygiene etiquette and practice which regulate social interactions between men and women.

GALATEO is the first in-depth, comprehensive study addressing archaeological, iconographic, and textual sources to reveal the role of etiquette in the construction of identity in Assyria and, more broadly, in the ancient Middle East.

The GALATEO project was carried out at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, United States of America) as partner institution, and the Università degli Studi di Messina as the main beneficiary.

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CONFERENCE

The Meeting Etiquette in the Middle East: Continuity and Change

Meeting etiquette refers to codes of behavior and protocol rules an individual (or groups of individuals) ought to follow while attending a meeting with a peer or an authority, either human or divine. The purpose of the conference is to create a conversation about the development of the "meeting etiquette" in the Middle East. The objectives of the conference are to share examples of meeting etiquette from different regions, communities and periods; to identify elements of continuity and change, from the most remote phases until today; to begin a dialogue with new approaches from art history, archaeology, and philology.



The Meeting Etiquette in the Middle East: Continuity and Change

May 9-10 2024

Università degli Studi di Messina,
Dipartimento di Civiltà Antiche e Moderne
(Aula Magna)



Day 1

9:15 Giovanna Spatari (Dean of the Università degli Studi di Messina);
Giuseppe Giordano (Pro-rector of the Università degli Studi di Messina);
Giuseppe Ucciardello (Director of the Dipartimento di Civiltà Antiche e Mod.);
Holly Pittman, Annunziata Rositani, Ludovico Portuese (GALATEO project staff)

Mod.: **Annunziata Rositani**

10:00 Nicola Laneri, Chiara Pappalardo, Sergio G. Russo, Rachele C. Mammana,
Alice Mendola and Aurora Borgesì (Università degli Studi di Catania)
In the Sight of Mesopotamian Gods

10:30 Andrea Rebecca Marocchi Savoi (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Rings of Power: A Study of Silver Rings and Social Norms During Ur III

11:00 Coffee Break

Mod.: **Ludovico Portuese**

11:30 Annunziata Rositani (Università degli Studi di Messina)
Time in Women's Rituals and Etiquette

12:00 Lorenzo Verderame (Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza")
"To the King my Lord": Etiquette in the Neo-Assyrian Letters

12:30 Lunch Break

Mod.: **Holly Pittman**

15:00 Davide Nadali (Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza")
Meeting the King. Ceremonies at the Assyrian Court

15:30 Ludovico Portuese (Università degli Studi di Messina)
The Joy and Fear of Meeting an Authority: the "Assyrian" Bearing

16:00 Pierfrancesco Callieri (Università di Bologna, Campus di Ravenna)
At the Presence of the King of Kings. Persian Gestures from the Achaemenids to the Sasanids

20:00 Dinner (Old Town)

Day 2

Mod.: **Davide Nadali**

9:30 Carlo Donà (Università degli Studi di Messina)
The Gesture of Peace

10:00 Rolf Strootman (Universiteit Utrecht)
Kings Before the Gate: Ceremonies of Welcome in the Cities of the Hellenistic and Roman Middle East

10:30 Nadia Maria El Cheikh (American University of Beirut)
Etiquette at the Abbasid Court

11:00 Coffee Break

Mod.: **Lorenzo Verderame**

11:30 Sinem Arcak Casale (University of Minnesota)
Court Etiquette in Banquets at the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Courts

12:00 Fatma Tunç Yaşar (Yıldız Technical University)
The Meeting Etiquette in Late Ottoman Empire: Predicaments of Alla Turca and Alla Franca

12:30 Morgan Clarke (University of Oxford)
Shaking and Not Shaking Hands: Greeting Etiquette in Contemporary Islamic Discourse and in Muslim Practice

13:00 Conclusion

13:30 Lunch Break

Ludovico Portuese (Conference Organizer)
ludovico.portuese@unime.it