



Roads and Travellers in the Iranian Highlands

Workshop March 6–7, 2025, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Organized by Michael Brown, Wouter Henkelman, Judith Thomalsky

SPP 2176 The Iranian Highlands. Resiliencies and Integration in Premodern Societies

“A traveller without observation is a bird without wings” —

Attributed to Sa’di

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 6th March

9:00 – 9:30	Brown, Henkelman, Thomalsky: welcome and introduction
9:30 – 10:05	Petrie/Juerke/Wilkinson/Orengo: Traversing the mountains and crossing the plateau: the challenges of modelling corridors of movement across and around the Iranian Plateau
10:05 – 10:40	Hopper: Moving across mountain and plain: A diachronic approach to reconstructing landscapes of movement in NE Iran and SW Turkmenistan using satellite remote sensing and historical maps.
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:35	Thomalsky: Of alleys and streets, or: when is a road a road?
11:35 – 12:10	Mittertrainer: City Streets and Imperial Feats: Paving the Way for Early Sasanian Success in Ardašīr Xwarrah and Bīšāpūr
12:15 – 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 – 15:50	Bernbeck: Motility in the Neolithic Highlands of Iran
15:50 – 16:25	Baghizadeh: Not All Roads Lead to Uruk: Trade Networks Between the Iranian Central Plateau and Southern Mesopotamia during the Late Fourth Millennium BCE
16:25 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 17:20	Franke/Nezafati/Stöllner: Recourses from the east? Modes of metal exchange between the Iranian Highlands and Mesopotamia during the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE
17:20 – 17:55	Jürcke: From diaries to desert tracks – Sir M. Aurel Stein’s journeys in south-east Iran

18:15 – 19:15 Reception at Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg

Friday, 7th March

9:00 – 9:35	Henkelman/ Spruyt: A time for drunken (express) horses
9:35 - 10:10	Matin: Babylonians in Persepolis: new data on the craftsmen's travels in Achaemenid Pārsa
10:10 – 11:45	Amelirad/Brown/Sadeghi Rad/Talebnia: The Roads of Hawraman: A Study of Isolation, Connectivity, and Control
12:00 –13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 14:05	Asiabani/Masoumian/Kreppner: Iron Age Roadscapes: A Multi-Criteria Approach to Reconstructing Iron Age Mobility Networks in the Northern Zagros Highlands
14:05 – 14:40	Moeini: Ottoman Road Strategies in Tabriz through Illustrated Manuscripts
14:40 – 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00 – 15:35	Khalili: The identification and study of the stone paved roads in highlands and lowlands of Mazandaran; northern Iran during late Islamic period
15:35 – 16:10	Paul: Roads, Migrations, and Languages: Towards a Historical Linguistic Ecology of the Iranian Highlands
16:10 – 16:45	Concluding discussion

19:00 Dinner**Saturday, 8th March*****After breakfast: trip to Heidelberger Schloss***