

Workshop

# Imperial Architecture in the Ancient Mediterranean and Middle East

*29–30 April 2019*

*Organised by Centre of Excellence in Ancient Near Eastern Empires ([www.helsinki.fi/anee](http://www.helsinki.fi/anee)) and the Centre of Excellence in Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions ([www.cstt.fi](http://www.cstt.fi)), in collaboration with the ERC project Law, Governance and Space: Questioning the Foundations of the Republican Tradition (SpaceLaw)*

Over the last two centuries, imperial architecture has been extensively researched in Classical and Near Eastern archaeology, to the extent that it has been sometimes considered as rather “old fashioned” and elite-focused. Recent methodological innovations have opened up new lines of research into the connection imperial and non-imperial identities through architecture, across different periods and regions.

This workshop aims to bring scholars working on these different periods (e.g., Neo-Assyrian, Persian, Roman, Ottoman) and regions (e.g., Italy, Egypt, Israel, Iran) together, while learning from one another. Due to the nature of the academic world, often these architectural specialists have been working with other specialists focused in their geographical area or period, but in isolation from one another.

This workshop objective is to address the issues of variation within architecture, specifically Imperial architecture examining in which ways variation and continuity are perceived and presented. Furthermore, we are interested in studying the range of methodologies and theoretical understandings of Imperial identities through the medium of architecture. Likewise, the workshop seeks to create a new methodological framework to study Imperial architecture, both polite and religious, and its relationship to community identity.

# Program

**Monday 29 April (Vuorikatu 3, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 531)**

9.00–9.30 *Opening words*

9.30–10.15 On the Formation and Influences of Islamic Architecture: the Case of Oman in Al Ya'ariba Period (1624–1742)  
*Naima Benkari, Sultan Qaboos University*

10.15–10.45 *Coffee and Tea Break*

10.45–11.30 Imperial Architecture and Its Reimplementation: A Case Study of Al Zubarah and Qatar  
*Marek Z. Barański, Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk*

11.30–12.15 Iraqi Excavation at Umma, Shara Temple and the Administrative Building  
*Nawala Al-Mutawalli, University of Baghdad*

12.15–14.00 *Lunch*

14.00–14.45 Architecture and Kingship during the Reign of Sargon II (722–705 BCE)  
*David Kertai, ISAW New York University / Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

14.45–15.30 From architectural analysis to architectural theory: the case study of Syro-Levantine urban planning and ontology of public spaces  
*Marta Lorenzon, University of Helsinki*

15.30–16.00 *Coffee and Tea Break*

16.00–16.45 TBA  
*Nora Shawki, American University at Cairo*

16.45–17.30 Public Libraries in the Roman Empire: An Analysis of the Architectural Typology  
*Antonio Lopez Garcia, University of Helsinki*

19.00 *Dinner for the Speakers*

## Tuesday 30 April (Vuorikatu 3, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 531)

9.00–9.45 Imperial architecture and private space in the Roman Empire  
*Samuli Simelius, University of Helsinki*

9.45–10.30 Power, politics and imperialism: the forum in Rome's western provinces  
*Louise Revell, University of Southampton*

10.30–11.00 *Coffee and Tea Break*

11.00–11.45 Religious Architecture in Ruins? Standing Synagogue Remains in Early Islamic Galilee  
*Rick Bonnie, University of Helsinki*

11.45–13.00 *Closing discussion*



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| ① Main Building, University of Helsinki                    | ④ Original Sokos Hotel Helsinki    |
| ② Porthania Building, University of Helsinki               | ⑤ Helsinki Central Railway Station |
| ③ <u>Workshop venue</u> (Vuorikatu 3, 5th floor, Room 531) | ⑥ Scandic Hotel Kaisaniemi         |