

More than two decades have passed since the publication of Sanjay Subrahmanyam's seminal work on connected histories. Widely regarded today as canonical work to rethink the history of Eurasia outside of the research-area paradigm, Subrahmanyam's essay has also pushed many to examine specific areas within a set of global connections. While scholars of Asia have embraced this historiographical ethos in order to put long-distance relations in greater relief, relatively less has been done to pay attention at the quality, density, and fluctuations of connections. In other words, all too many have opted for the macro, while only a few have ventured into the less attractive realm of the micro. A way out of the impasse could be to bring into meaningful conversation Subrahmanyam's approach with Nicolas Purcell and Peregrine Horden's equally magisterial work. Premised upon the notion of connectivity, *The Corrupting Sea* has shown how over the centuries the Mediterranean basin has made space for ever-changing relations and served as a vessel for socio-cultural entanglements of varying scale. While thinking in terms of connected histories invites us to imagine an area outside of its fixed historiographical boundaries, a sustained attention at degrees of connectivity may help us appreciate the unifying forces of as well as the fractures within a macro-region. The present international symposium is designed to explore such a middle-ground approach by taking the Caspian Sea and its surrounding environment as point of departure for historical explorations. In doing so, the proposed event sets out to open up new academic vistas on the Caspian littoral, both as a vibrant, sprawling and mainly incoherent socio-cultural unit.

**CONVENOR:**

Commission for the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences

in partnership with

The Islamic Trust Study project of ILCAA of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Hokkaido University

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

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AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

SEPTEMBER 13–14, 2023  
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
THEATERSAAL  
SONNENFELSGASSE 19  
1010 VIENNA



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

# MUDDYING THE WATERS TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE CASPIAN SEA

  
ILCAA  
Research Institute for  
Languages and Cultures of  
Asia and Africa



Islamic Trust Studies  
イスラーム信頼学

FWF Österreichischer  
Wissenschaftsfonds

# PROGRAMME

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

- 14:30 **Welcome and Introduction**  
**Paolo Sartori** and **Ulfat Abdurasulov** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 15:00 **Sean Pollock** | Wright State University  
*Catherine II's Persian Project? Russian Imperial Ambitions in the Caspian Sea Region in the Eighteenth Century*
- 15:40 **Yukako Goto** | Kwansei Gakuin University  
*Gilan in the First Half of the Safavid Period: From an Isolated Space to a Border Region*
- 16:20 **Giorgio Rota** | Austrian Academy of Sciences  
*Dead Men Walking: Some Remarks on the Austro–Hungarian Involvement in the Southern Caucasus in 1918*
- 17:00 **Shiyoya Akifumi** | IHHS, University of Tsukuba  
*Armenians in the Caspian Sea Trade in the Eighteenth Century*
- 17:40 COFFEE BREAK
- 18:00 **Keynote Lecture**  
**Michael Khodarkovsky** | Loyola University, Chicago  
*Before Oil, Gas and Missiles: The Caspian Region as an Imperial Frontier and Eurasia's Microcosm*

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

- 09:30 **Svetlana Gorschenina** | CNRS, Eur'Orbem, Paris  
*The Caspian in European Cartography, 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> Centuries*
- 10:10 **Yudai Ri** | Tokai University, Japan  
*Red Caviar and Soviet Sea: The Fishery Concession on the Iranian Coast of the Caspian Sea*
- 10:50 COFFEE BREAK
- 10:10 **Lukas Rybar** | Comenius University of Bratislava  
*Russian Merchants and the Dangers and Pitfalls of the Caspian Sea*
- 11:50 **Takehiko Inoue** | SRC, Hokkaido University  
*The Ecological Adaption of the Kalmyks in the Nineteenth Century: Sedentarization, Migrant Works, Fishing-Pastoralisms*
- 12:30 **Erika Monahan** | Dartmouth College  
*Networking Empire: Peter I's Foreign Policy and the Mapping of the Caspian*
- 13:10 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 **Natalia Królikowska–Jedlińska** | University of Warsaw  
*The Catholic Missionaries on the Perilous Route through the Caspian Region (1610s–1720s)*
- 15:10 **Jin Noda** | ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Languages  
*To Whom Did the Caspian Sea Belong? Views from the East in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*
- 15:50 COFFEE BREAK
- 16:10 **Norihiro Naganawa** | SRC, Hokkaido University  
*Shi'ite Astrakhan in Radical Connectivity at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*
- 16:50 **Guglielmo Zucconi** | Austrian Academy of Sciences  
*Physicians, Soldiers and Academicians: German Speakers Exploring the Caspian Sea from Peter I to Catherine II*
- 17:30 **Danielle Ross** | Utah State University  
*'Like Baku...300 Years from Now': The Leshan Oil Company, the Kazakhs, and the Kazn Tatar Diaspora in Gur'ev (1890s–1910s)*