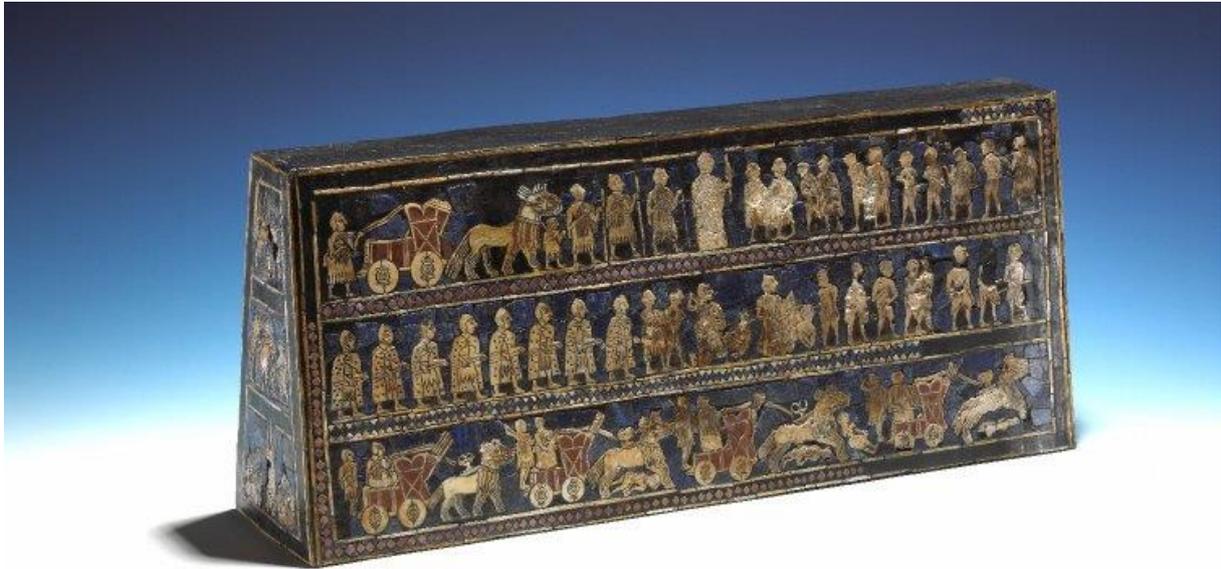


Civilization and Its Opposite in Antiquity

4th International Interdisciplinary Conference on Ancient Languages and Cultures

Plzeň, Czech Republic, 22-24th June 2016



Courtesy Trustees of the British Museum

Scientific committee:

- prof. Petr Charvát (West-Bohemian University Plzen)
- prof. Hu Yonghong (Xiamen University)
- prof. Gościwit Malinowski (University of Wrocław)
- prof. Jakub Pigoń (University of Wrocław)
- prof. Barbara Nevling Porter (Harvard Semitic Museum)
- prof. Michal Skřejpek (Charles University Prague)
- prof. Jan Tavernier (Université Catholique de Louvain)
- prof. Petr Zemánek (Charles University Prague)

Organizers:

Institute of Ancient Near East, West-Bohemian University Plzen

Institute of Comparative Linguistics, Charles University Prague

Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, University of Wrocław

Confucius Institute at the University of Wrocław, Poland

Differentiating between “we” and “others”, “known” and “alien”, “familiar” or “strange”, finally “civilized” and “uncivilized” seems to accompany human race from the very beginning of, that’s the point, “civilization”. Many factors were also used to define this “civilization”, for the sake of separating from its opposite. The term “civilization” could take also various forms, and serve many different ideologies as well as political goals. What is especially interesting, this term seems to serve as the one of the best for the identification of the individual with the specified social group. Although being one of the most unspecified, it is the most unambiguous for such group’s members.

From the other hand, members of other groups, were very often presented, and defined, as “uncivilized”, what could be identical with “opposite”. Sometimes they were described as “strange”, “weird”, “ridiculous”, but these terms often led to being labelled as “dangerous”, “evil”, “inimical”, “sacrilegious”, “wild”, and so on.

That is why it would be very interesting to present, and discuss, what was believed to be the basics of civilization, and what was its opposite, throughout the ancient history, in the various cultures, from China in the East to Roman Empire in the West.

The most important topics of the conference should be as follows:

- *Basic factors considered as the core of civilization*
- *Differences between “civilized” and “uncivilized” people*
- *“Civilization” in the animal world – domesticated animals vs. wild ones*
- *Image and role of “others” within the “civilized” societies*
- *Image and role of “others” in the political discourse and state ideology*
- *Habits, customs or taboos of “civilized” and “uncivilized” people*
- *Common points and interrelationships of both in the countercultures*

This conference will take a comparative approach, taking a wide geographical and chronological sweep. We warmly invite all scholars whose subject of study is the ancient world, including Greece, Rome, Egypt, Near East, India, and Far East (South-East Asia). We do invite **philologists, historians, archaeologists, sociologists, and lawyers**, hoping that this conference will be a forum for the wide range of specialists to exchange their ideas and results of researches.

The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Near Eastern Studies, West-Bohemian University in Plzen, Czech Republic on June 22th – 24th, 2016. The language of the conference is English.

Proposals are now invited for individual papers or posters. Proposals must be attached as anonymous, and must not contain more than 300 words (in English). **They can be submitted by 15th January 2016** to the conference e-mail: civilization@uwr.edu.pl.

Proposals sent by doctoral students should be approved by their supervisors (not in the text of proposal, which must remain anonymous, but with supervisor's address in CC field).

The proposals will be accepted after the revision made by the scientific committee by 28th February 2016. The final programme of the conference will be released by 31st of March 2016.

Papers will be grouped in different sessions dedicated to the different regions of the ancient world. A poster session is also planned, unless there are fewer than 10 poster proposals sent and/or accepted.

Additional information:

In case of too many applications, selection will be made by the scientific committee of the conference.

Every speech should last no more than 20 minutes, followed with a 10 minutes discussion.

The registration fee is € 120.

Discounted fee for doctoral students is € 80 and for accompanying persons € 60.

Fees should be paid by the bank transfer to the following account:

IBAN: PL 80 1090 2398 0000 0001 2002 5457

SWIFT: WBKPPLPP

Address and data for payment:

Uniwersytet Wrocławski

Plac Uniwersytecki 1

50-137 Wrocław

“Civilization and its opposite”

The transfer fee should be covered by the paymaster

The conference fee should be paid until 15th of March 2016.

Conference fee **does not include accommodation nor the reimbursement of the travel costs**. *Participants, who would like to receive an invoice, should make a remark in the registration e-mail.*

Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact the organizers, sending an e-mail to civilization@uwr.edu.pl .