

Accademia Galileiana di Scienze Lettere ed Arti in Padova

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

29 September – 2 October 2026



The Medes

25 Years Afterwards

Tuesday, 29 September 2026, 4:00 PM

Welcome Address

Giovanna Zaniolo (Accademia Galileiana di Scienze Lettere ed Arti in Padova)
Robert Rollinger (Österreichisches Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien / Accademia Galileiana di Scienze,
Lettere, ed Arti in Padova / Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)
Giovanni-Battista Lanfranchi (Accademia Galileiana di Scienze Lettere ed Arti in Padova)
Simonetta Ponchia (Università degli studi di Verona)
Salvatore Gaspa (Università degli studi di Padova)

Introduction

Robert Rollinger (Österreichisches Akademie der Wissenschaften)

Wednesday, 30 September 2026, 9:30 AM

Chair: Giovanni-Battista Lanfranchi (Accademia Galileiana di Scienze Lettere ed Arti in Padova)

Hagmatāna: An Archaeological Inquiry

into the Material Culture of the 'Median Period' (Iron Age III)

Mehrdad Malekzadeh (Iranian Center for Archaeological Research)

Zahra Golmohammadi (University of Münster)

The Archaeology of Mannea

Kazem Mollazadeh (Bu-Ali Sina University Hamadan)

Coffee Break

Chair: Salvatore Gaspa (Università degli studi di Padova)

The Historical Geography of Media

Iraj Rezaei (University of Tehran)

Between Assyria and the Iranian Highlands:

the Dinka Settlement Complex and the Problem of the Medes

Andrea Squitieri (Università degli studi di Padova)

Lunch

Wednesday, 30 September 2026, 2:30 PM

Chair: Jan Tavernier (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Dealing with a Powerful Neighbour: Media and Babylonia at the turn of the 6th century BCE

Clara Gibert (Université Paris 1 Sorbonne)

The Medes in Aramaic Sources

Holger Gzella (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Coffee Break

Chair: Irene Salvo (Università degli studi di Verona)

The Medes in Classical sources

Kai Ruffing (Universität Kassel)

Median Revisited: Linguistic Origins and the Spread of Median Loanwords

Milad Abedi (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

Coffee Break

Chair: Melanie Malzahn (Universität Wien)

Keynote: Iranian, Median, Zagrosian: linguistic variety in Northwest Iran during the first millennium BCE

Adriano Rossi (Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale")

Thursday, 1 October 2026, 9:30 AM

Chair: Luigi Turri (Università degli studi di Verona)

Arabs of the east: the Medes in a global perspective

Simonetta Ponchia (Università degli studi di Verona)

New light on Medo-Babylonian campaigning against the Assyrian west

Alexander J. Edmonds (University of Münster)

Coffee Break

Chair: Gian Pietro Basello (Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale")

The collapse of the Assyrian Empire - global considerations and eastern perspectives

John MacGinnis (British Museum London & University of Cambridge)

Rethinking Cyrus at the Median Court: The Royal Hostage Tradition Revisited

Yazdan Safaei (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

Lunch

Thursday, 1 October 2026, 2:30 PM

Chair: Sebastian Fink (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

Herodotus, Greek Genealogies, and the Succession of Empires

Julian Degen (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

Where were the Seven Walls of Ecbatana? The Medes between Myth & Archaeology

Touraj Daryaee (University of California at Irvine)

Coffee Break

Chair: Florian Schwarz (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften)

The Image of the Medes in Early Armenian Historiography

Yervand Grekyan (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)

Tribes among Ancient and Modern Kurds

Nicola degli Esposti (Università degli studi di Bologna)

Coffee Break

Chair: Simonetta Ponchia (Università degli studi di Verona)

Keynote: TBA

Giovanni-Battista Lanfranchi (Accademia Galileiana di Scienze Lettere e Arti in Padova)

Friday, 2 October 2026, 9:30 AM

Chair: Salvatore Gaspa (Università degli studi di Padova)

Looking for the Medes in Urartian History

Annarita S. Bonfanti (New York University)

The Construct of Median Art and Archaeology:

Media in the Antiquities Market, Historiography and Political Narratives of the 20th Century

Matthew Canepa (University of California at Irvine)

Coffee Break

Chair: Omar Coloru (Università degli studi di Bari Aldo Moro)

The Dream of Astyages: Echoes of the Medes in the Western Imagination

Ian Macgregor-Morris (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

TBA

Hemati Azandaryani (Bu-Ali Sina University)

Lunch

Friday, 2 October 2026, 2:30 PM

Chair: Sebastian Fink (Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck)

Kerkenes̈ Dag̈ and the Median Western Frontier

Andrea Bianchini (Università di Verona)

The Medes and Native Iranian Historical Traditions

Reza Sh. Zarghamee (University of Saint Andrews, Scotland)

Coffee Break

Chair: Robert Rollinger (Österreichisches Akademie der Wissenschaften)

CONCLUSION AND FINAL DISCUSSION

Josef Wiesehöfer (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel)

M. Rahim Shayegan (University of California in Los Angeles)

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