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ARCHAEO-ORIENTAL STUDIES
RESEARCH GROUP
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW • EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

Call for papers for the international conference 'Power, Space, and Culture II.'

The conference 'Power, Space, and Culture II.' seeks to continue an earlier discussion conducted as part of the Archeo-Oriental studies project of the University of Warsaw about how the concepts of 'power' and 'space' are constructed and represented across various cultures on different continents, both in the ancient and the modern world.

We are interested in a range of representations of power, focusing on but not limited to architectural manifestations of power (including palaces, monuments, and tombs), urban planning and design, and landscape planning. Additionally, we seek to investigate activities such as infrastructure development and ceremonial practices, narrative structures, and the creation of maps connected to the elaboration of power in space. Exploring the role of tradition and cultural memory in forming these symbols, as well as the influence of modernity is a key point of the event.

Our primary focus is on how these representations articulate perceptions of space, including its organization, division, integration, and the implications of borders—specifically, how they are defined and negotiated, who is permitted access to spaces delineated by power, and the underlying rationale for these distinctions.

Underpinning the comparative aspect of the event, we would like to provide a platform for discussing the different definitions of 'power' and 'authority' used in different fields.

The keynote speakers of the event will be:

Professor Nurit Peled-Elhanan, retired from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and David Yellin Academic College of Education

Professor Wolbert G.C. Smidt, Friedrich Schiller University Jena and Mekele University

Professor Frank Kammerzell, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

We invite both former and new participants to concentrate on the following topics:

- The establishment and consolidation of power, particularly concerning spatial dynamics and developments
- The nature of authority and its territorial implications
- The various boundaries of authority
- The legitimation of power
- The distinctions between formal and informal authority
- Preservation of cultural and archaeological heritage as it pertains to power relations

The conference is scheduled to be between the 21st-23rd of May 2025 (the exact dates are still to be confirmed) in the University of Warsaw, Poland held in a hybrid way.

There will be a funding scheme available for scholars travelling from abroad covering some of their costs.

We would like to invite interested scholars to submit abstracts of maximum 300 words length until the 16th of March through the following link: [Application form for abstracts](#)

With all potential questions please write to: d.takacs@uw.edu.pl