

baf-@Proceedings of
the Berner
Altorientalisches
Forum

ISSN 2504-2076



BAF 2017: Guiding questions for panels

In order to facilitate communication across subjects and disciplines the BAF has adopted an epistemological approach. This means that the talks were organised into panels based on some of the greater conceptual or methodological issues they touch upon. To ensure that the discussions are as fruitful as possible, we invite to prepare talks in consideration of the following guiding questions:

Panel 1: Defining spheres of influence

- How relevant are the mechanisms of exchange, transmission and coercion to your definition of influence based on your research?
- How do you measure degrees of influence (be it political, economic, linguistic or aesthetic) and what does it tell us about the identity of populations and individuals?

Panel 2: Recovering function, purpose and meaning

- How are the functional analyses of objects and literary categories limited and why are they necessary?
- How do we grasp purpose and meaning from ancient times?

Panel 3: Describing language and symbolism

- How does communication today compare with communication in ancient times and what assumptions can we make when interpreting ancient language and symbolism?
- Where do we set the limits for the interpretation of language and symbolism, how far between the lines can we read, and how do we deal with our modern experience of the texts and imagery?

Panel 4: Assessing the landscape, reconstructing the cosmos

- In what ways do landscape and cosmos connect?
- What are the indicators for and limits to understanding ancient sentiments about space?

Panel 5: Managing and using data across different fields of study and research

- Do we need to look across the borders of our field of study or research to gain new knowledge?
- What are the limits of interdisciplinarity, what is its future?

Panel 6: Qualifying continuity and change

- How do the modern scientific categories of continuity and change compare with ancient concepts of continuity and change?
- In what ways to continuity and change inform the historical process? Are they inextricable?