



Canolfan Sophia
The Sophia Centre



Welcome to Celestial Crossroads

encounters, intersections and influences

Guide Book & Programme

27 - 29 April
Istanbul



YTÜ Campus map



The conference venue is Otağ-ı Hümayun YTÜ (number 3 on the map). The registration desk will be at the entrance.

The closest metro station is Davutpaşa, line M1A. To use the metro, you will need to get a metro card "İstanbulCard" at any metro station and charge money in it. Each trip is 42 ₺.

To enter the university campus you will need to present your ID. This is common procedure in universities in Turkey. You can move around campus for free with the blue buses. From GATE A, the conference venue is the first stop.

If you are staying in the guest house (which is across the conference venue), breakfast will take place in the Academic Lounge, marked in the map with a cup of coffee: ☕

**You can take a virtual tour of YTÜ campus at
<https://dijital.yildiz.edu.tr/sanaltur/kampustur/>**

Bosphorus Cruise

The Bosphorus Cruise Tour will take place on the 29th of April and will include a gala dinner. Bookings are now closed but if you have reserved your spot, there will be a shuttle bus to take us from the conference venue to the port where we will board our cruise.

The bus will pick us up from the parking lot next to the Congress Center in YTU at 5 PM. Please make sure to be punctual so that dinner is not delayed. Istanbul is a city with a lot of traffic, and it may take us between 1 and 1.5 hours to get there to the vessel.

After the dinner cruise, there will be another bus to bring us back to the guest house. The dinner will last for three hours, so we will be done by 21:30, and dropped back at Yildiz at the Guesthouse by 22:30 or a bit later, depending on traffic. If you are not staying in the guest house, we may help you with directions back to your hotel.

Istanbul Tour

The Istanbul Tour will take place on the 30th of April. Booking for this is now closed, but if you have booked your tour, the meeting point is the German Fountain (*Alman Çeşmesi* in Turkish) in Sultanahmet Square at 10:00 am. If you are coming from the guesthouse, Alejo López or/and Dr. Mai Lootah will accompany you by public transport. We will be leaving from the entrance of the Guest House at 8.30 AM. Please, be there at 8:20. We also ask you to have your Istanbul Card ready and charged, as not to delay the whole group. If you do not have an Istanbul Card, make sure to get one and charge it at the metro station Davutpaşa (which is just outside YTU Campus) during the three conference days.

The tour will start on the European Side and finish on the Asian Side of Istanbul, namely Üsküdar neighbourhood.

The tour includes a one-hour inside tour of Hagia Sophia as an option. If you have not booked your entry to Hagia Sophia, you can spend this time exploring the city on your own. The group will then meet to continue the rest of the tour. Further instructions will be given during the tour.

Mesopotamia Tour

If you are coming to the Mesopotamia Tour, you should have received your flight tickets already. Our departure flight is PC-2404 with the company Pegasus, from Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) airport to Gaziantep (GZT) airport. The flight departs at 9:10.

The 1st of May is a public holiday on which public transport is usually heavily restricted. We will be organising a bus transfer from YTU, probably leaving at 6 AM. We will share further details during the conference. If you prefer to arrive at the airport on your own, our advice is to be there 2 hours in advance.

Recommendations

- **Climbing Mount Nemrut:** there may be snow on the mountain. Therefore, make sure to take something suitable for the season with you so that the cold weather does not overshadow your enjoyment. Our advice is to think **in layers of clothing:** a t- shirt, a shirt or a jumper, a sweater and a trenchcoat. Please note you will have to **climb about 300 stairs**. Those with shortness of breath, pacemakers and blood pressure patients should be careful while climbing Mt. Nemrut.
- The Mardin city centre tour will be almost entirely on foot. Since our Mardin itinerary will include hills and slopes, **we recommend bringing comfortable walking shoes.**
- If you have an umbrella, be sure to bring it with you.
- **Sunscreen, sunglasses** and a **hat** are always good friends of travellers.

Conference Programme

Day 1 April 27 • Meetings 9:00 – 09:30 – conference registration Session1

09:30-09:50	Greetings	Yıldız Technical University
09:50 -10:10	Conference Introduction: At the Crossroads	Dr. Nicholas Campion
10:10 -10:55	What Is inaName? Munajjims as Astral Experts	A. Tunç Şen

10:55- 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-11:45	Astronomy in the Ottoman Hijaz: Texts, Figures, and Practices	Naser Dumairieh
11:45-12:15	Astrology as an institutionalized science at the Ottoman Court: Musazâde Mehmed Ubeydullah Efendi and the Horoscope of an Ottoman Prince	R.Hakan Kırkoğlu
12:15-12:35	Astronomy, astrology and observatory as a tool of power and politics: from Maraghe to Istanbul	Seyyed Hadi Tabatabaei
12:35-12:45	Q&A	

12:45-13:45 **Lunch, group photo**

Session 2

13:45-14:05	Between Tables, Maps, and Diagrams: An Ottoman Manuscript of Time, the Heavens, and the World	Gaye Danişan
14:05-14:25	The concept of time in ancient nations	Hoda Ata
14:25-14:55	From visionary mage to philosopher astrologer: the evolution of the figure of Jāmāsp from ancient Iran to the Ottoman court’.	Florence Somer
14:55-15:15	Reciprocity without Consensus: Astronomy and the Question of Autonomy in Constantinople–Istanbul	Alberto Bardi
15:15-15:25	Q&A	

15:25-15:40 **Coffee break**

Session 3

15:40-16:00	Star and Constellation Myths as Symbolic Stories in Celestial Patterns in Medieval Sacred Spaces: Church/Mosque/Temple	Hee Sook Lee-Niinioja
16:00-16:20	The Narthex of the Lesnovo Monastery: Rulership, Dress, and Celestial Imagery	Dragana Van de Moortel-Ilić
16:20-16:50	At a crossroads in space and time: the archaeoastronomy of the Upper Iron Gates	Fabio Silva
16:50-17:00	Q&A	

*Programme is subject to change without prior notice



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Canolfan Sophia
The Sophia Centre



YTU YILDIZ TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY

Conference Programme

Day 2 April 28 • Influences and Translation

08:30 - 09:00 conference registration

Session 1

09:00-09:45	The Astral Sciences under the Achaemenid Persian Empire	John Steele
09:45-10:05	Why the Moon and Sun Appear Larger on the Horizon? An Argument Based on Optics in the Commentary on the Tadhkirah by Faḥ Allāh Shirwānī	Arezoo Egberlou
10:05-10:25	Astronomers and Astrologers in the Caliph's Court: Mathematical developments in tenth-century al-Andalus	Dallin Evans
10:25-10:35	Q&A	
10:35-10:50	Coffee break	

Session 2

10:50-11:20	The Reception of Mesopotamian Astrology in Hattusas	Ulla Koch
11:20-11:40	Calculation in Mesopotamian Astronomy: Analysis of System B for Jupiter	Orhan Güneş
11:40-12:10	Edessa and Astrology: The Approaches of Bardaişan and Theophilus	Dorian Greenbaum
12:10-12:20	Q&A	
12:20-13:20	Lunch. Guided tour of the historic sites at Yıldız Technical University (20-30 mins)	

Session 3

13:20-13:40	The Prostration of the Shadow: Cosmology, Consciousness, and the Semantics of Zill in Qur'an Ra'd	Ozan Sanlı Şentürk
13:40-14:00	Perspectives on Sufi Cosmology in the Rasā'il of the Ikhwan al-Safa	Meltem Ersoy
14:00-14:10	Q&A	
14:10-14:20	Coffee break	

Session4

14:20-16:30	MOSAIC group panel discussion	
	Making Worlds in Islam: the Horoscope of Baghdad in Context	Godefroid de Callataj
	Apollonius of Tyana's Hermetic Astral Doctrine in the Syriac Tradition	Matteo Martelli
	Prognostic Handbooks	Petra Schmidl
	Heavenly Signs and Intermediary Beings in the Persian Reception of the Brethren of Purity. Reading the Būstān al-'Uqūl and the Mujmal al-ḥikma	Laura Tribuzio
	From Semiotics to Prognostics: Astral Knowledge in Ibn Duraid's Book of Rain	Razieh S. Mousavi
	Mind Over Matter: Theorizing Mind Control in the First Safavid Century	Dominique Sirgy
16:30-16:40	Q&A	

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Conference Programme

Day 3 April 29 • Transmission 08:30 – 09:00 – conference registration Session 1

09:00-09:45	Averroes, Astronomy and Astrology in Istanbul and Italy	Robert Morrison
09:45-10:15	Comparing astrological practices: between Persia and Europe	Luis Ribeiro
10:15-10:35	Beyond Samarqand's Observatory: Mu'in al-Din al-Kāshī's Nativity Book for Ulugh Beg's Son	Hamid Bohoulou

10:35-10:45	Q&A
10:45-10:55	Coffee break

10:55-11:15	Concerning the Origin of the Middle-Eastern Terms "Chaldean" and "Egyptian" in Greco-Roman Planetary Orders	James Brannon
11:15-11:35	From Babylon to al-Andalus: The Transmission of Astral Sciences between Civilizations and Their Impact on Islamic and Latin Thought in the Middle Ages	Khasawneh Awni
11:35- 11:55	From the prophetic Arab-Persian cosmic cycles to Johannes Kepler's 'Harmony of the World'	Karine Dilanian
11:55-12:05	Q&A	

12:05-13:05 **Lunch.Guided tourofthehistoricsitesat Yildiz Technical University (Group B, 30 mins)**

13:05-13:25	"From Bhārata to Baghdad to Byzantium": Interactions and Interconnections of Jyotiḥśāstra among Indian, Islamic, and European Astrologers	Anupam Suman
13:25-13:45	The Indian science of auspicious hours in Persianate astrology	Jean Arzoumanov
13:45-14:05	The Sacred «Book» of the Cosmos as a Subject of Timurid Empire and Renaissance	Alexey Arapov
14:05-14:15	Q&A	

14:15-14:25 **Coffee break**

14:25- 14:55	The Chinese-Islamic Observatory in Beijing: An Overlooked Center for Islamic Astronomy in East Asia	Yunli Shi
14:55-14:15	The relationship between astronomy and motifs in Ilkhanid tiles(14th century), drawing on the era's scientific advancements and artistic expressions.	Sediqueh Pourmokhtar
15:55-15:25	Q&A	
15:25-15:40	Conference closing	Nick Campion

Start for a Cruise: 17:00. Expected arrival at cruise site: 18:00–18:30. Expected return: 22:30-23:00

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Keynote Speakers

Nicholas
Campion



Robert
Morrison



A. Tunç Şen



John
Steele



Celestial Crossroads, encounters, intersections and influences
Istanbul, Turkey 27-29 April 2026



Invited Speakers



Luís
Campos
Ribeiro



Naser
Dumairieh



Dorian
Greenbaum



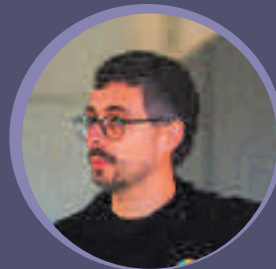
R. Hakan
Kırkoğlu



Ulla
Koch



Jeffrey
Kotyk



Fabio
Silva

Speakers



Aleksey
Arapov



Jean
Arzoumanov



Hoda
Ata



Khasawneh
Awni



Alberto
Bardi



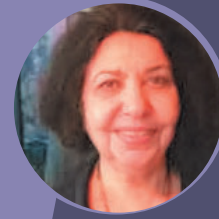
Hamid
Bohloul



James
Brannon



Gaye
Danişan



Karine
Dilanian



Arezoo
Egghelou



Meltem
Ersoy



Dallin
Evans



Orhan
Güneş



Hee Sook
Lee-
Niinioja



Dragana
Van de
Moortel-Ilić



Sediqeh
Pourmokhtar



Ozan Sanlı
Şentürk



Yunli Shi



Florence
Somer



Anupam
Suman



Seyyed
Hadi
Tabatabaei

MOSAIC Group Speakers



Godefroid
de Callataÿ



Matteo
Martelli



Razieh S.
Mousavi



Petra G.
Schmidl



Dominique
Sirgy



Laura
Tribuzio



Organising Committee



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