

International Conference

**Great Migrations in Ancient Asia Minor:
Circulation, Exchange and Social Transformation**

**29-30 November 2016
Room IX, UNESCO Headquarters
Paris, France**

Concept Note

Throughout human history, fundamental social transformations have occurred in the context of circulation of people, goods, ideas and their linguistic expression, and technologies. As shown by cumulative archaeological evidence, such processes have taken multiple forms.

In some cases – well documented or speculatively proposed – it is the mass migration of peoples, bearing their languages, technologies and cultural and political institutions, that influenced and transformed the societies they dominated or in which they settled. In other cases – again, well documented or speculatively proposed – more complex processes were at work, diffusing agricultural or metallurgical technologies, hybridizing languages and fusing pre-existing cultures into new civilizations through cohabitation in contact zones. In still other cases, it appears that goods, technologies and ideas have circulated along trade routes without people either migrating massively or being in direct contact.

The diversity of these models and the often limited evidence available to validate them has given rise to some controversy within archaeology and proto-history. On the other hand, the application of new techniques to archaeology, the development of mitochondrial DNA analysis, and more systematic numerical approaches to philology, have considerably expanded the evidence base. It is therefore timely to reconsider the proto-history of major areas of social, cultural and political transformation and, in particular, to assess the role of great migrations in their shaping.

The international conference on “Great Migrations in Ancient Asia Minor: Circulation, Exchange and Social Transformation” to be held in Paris from 29 to 30 November 2016 will be an opportunity to revisit the early history of Humanity in the region previously called Asia Minor located in the South-western part of Asia surrounded by the Black Sea in the North, the Mediterranean Sea in the South, the Aegean Sea in the West and the Armenian Highlands in the East. Such work will contribute directly to the 2017 World Humanities Conference, co-organized by UNESCO and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH).

This interdisciplinary assessment aims at going beyond the political considerations inherited from the past. Better grounded and more open-ended scientific approaches of the early history in this region can thus contribute in significant ways to dialogue and mutual understanding in contemporary societies. Consideration of such issues would

contribute to implementation of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), as approved by the 194th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (194 EX/10), which aims at highlighting the convergence and commonalities of the peoples of the world towards the formation of planetary consciousness. In addition, the Plan, among other things, calls for policies and the involvement of new parties in the process of bringing people closer together.

The case of Asia Minor is of great importance in this regard, given the lengthy history of migration, exchange and contact in the region, as well as the uncertainties regarding many key proto-historical issues and the political controversies that have at times attached to them.

In this light, the purpose of the proposed conference is to review the history of migration and settlement in proto-historical Asia Minor, up to the rise of the first Mesopotamian urban civilizations. This review should take account of the multiple connected processes of circulation of goods, ideas and technologies, in the context of structural drivers such as environmental change, thus contributing to broader understanding of the connections between migration, circulation and social transformation.

The conference will be structured around four interlocking segments dealing with:

- migration, reviewing the history and processes of settlement of ancient Asia Minor, leading to the emergence of the Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilizations in Mesopotamia ;
- linguistic and cultural change, addressing *inter alia* the emergence of various writings and signs as well as the archaeological and epigraphical evidence of their diffusion and inter fertilization ;
- technological change, focusing on archaeological evidence of material cultures and routes of exchange in order to understand the relations between technological diffusion and migration ;
- historiography, with the objective of understanding of how the writing of history can contribute to improved intercultural dialogue.

Provisional Agenda

29 November

09: 00 – 10: 00 Welcoming of Participants and Welcome Coffee

10: 00 – 10: 15 Opening Session

Speech by:

- **Ms. Nada Al-Nashif**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO
- **H. E. Mr. Nurlan Danenov**, ambassador and permanent delegate of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNESCO

10: 15 – 12: 15 *1st Session: Migration and Processes of Settlement in Ancient Asia Minor*

Moderator: Prof. Jean-Paul Demoule, professor of European protohistory at Université Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris and member of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF)

Mr. Olzhas Suleimenov, President of the “Culture” Foundation, Poet, author, diplomat and founder of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement in Kazakhstan: ***Ancient Writings – The Key to the History of Human Kind***

Dr. George Busby, Research associate at the Department of Zoology of the University of Oxford, United Kingdom: ***What Ancient DNA Can Tell us About the People Involved in the Agricultural Transition and the Origins of Civilisation in Asia Minor***

M. Yessetzhan Kossubaev, Former Minister of Culture of Kazakhstan, Co-President of the Foundation Universal Media Service: ***The Involvement of International Humanitarian Foundations into the research of the subject on Great Migrations***

Dr. Luiz Oosterbeek, Archeologist, Secretary General of International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), Portugal: ***Conservation, Migrations and Innovation: Drivers of Human Societies’ Adaptive Strategies***

12: 15 – 13: 00 General Discussion

13: 00 – 15: 00 Lunch Break

15: 00 – 17:15 *2nd Session: Linguistic and Cultural Change*

Moderator: Dr. Luiz Oosterbeek, Archeologist, Secretary General of International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), Portugal

Dr. Zhaken Taimagambetov, Deputy Director of the National Museum of Kazakhstan: ***The Most Ancient Monuments of the Paleolithic of Kazakhstan and the Problem of Early Human Settlement***

Dr. Marsil Farkhshatov, Head of Department at the Institute of History, Language and Literature of Ufa, Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences: ***The Problem of Turkization of the Asia Minor in A.-Z. Validi Togan's works***

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee Break

Dr. Tsagaan Turbat, Chief of the project on the Iron and Bronze era at the Institute of History and Archeology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences: ***Cross Continental Exchanges of Prestigious Goods in the Beginning of 1st Millennium CE: Inner Asia and Near East***

Dr. Farhad Guliyev, Archaeologist specialized in Ancient history and archaeology of the Caucasus and Asia Minor at the Azerbaijan Academy of Science: ***Ancient Cultures of Southern Caucasus and Anatolia (6th-3rd millennium BC)***

17: 15 – 18: 00

General Discussion

18: 00

Cocktail

30 November

10: 00 – 12: 15

3rd Session: Knowledge Development and Technological Advance

Moderator: Prof. Alain Anselin, Egyptologist, University of the French West Indies-French Guyana, France

Prof. Leyla B. Djansugurova, Director General of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology, Kazakhstan: ***Paleogenetic Study of Archaeological Finds which Can Provide the Information about Ancient Human Migrations and Kazakh Ethnogenesis***

Dr. Mehmet Ozdogan, Archeologist and Emeritus professor at Istanbul University, Turkey: ***From Early Sedentary Villages to Urban Centers in Anatolia: Movement of Peoples, Ideas and Technologies***

11: 00 – 11: 15

Coffee Break

Dr. Garrett Hellenthal, Sir Henry Dale Fellow at the Genetics Institute, University College London (UCL), United Kingdom: ***Elucidating Historical Migrations with the last 5,000 Years that have had the Greatest Genetic Legacy in Asia Minor***

Dr. Maxat Zhabagin, Geneticist specialized on molecular genetics at the Genomic medicine Institute and Chair of the Young Scientists Council of the National Laboratory Astana, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan: ***The Genetic Connection Between Western and Central Asian Populations***

12: 15 – 13:00 General Discussion

13: 00 – 15: 00 Lunch Break

15: 00 – 17: 00 4th Session: The Challenge of Writing Historical Narratives

Moderator: Prof. Leyla B. Djansugurova, Director General of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology, Kazakhstan

Prof. Jean-Paul Demoule, professor of European protohistory at Université Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris and member of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF): ***Indo-Europeans and the Anatolian perspectives***

Prof. Karl Baipakov, Director of the Centre for the Rapprochement of Cultures in Almaty, Honorary Director of the Margulan Archaeological Institute and Chairman of the Public Fund "Archaeological Society of Kazakhstan": ***On the Ancient Communications and Migrations in Eurasia***

Prof. Alain Anselin, Egyptologist, University of the French West Indies-French Guyana, France: ***The Dance of Signs – Regalian Writings and Scriptures testifying to the interculturality of the social changes in Asia Minor and the Egyptian Delta***

Dr. Ataollah Hassani, Associate professor at the University of Shahid Beheshti, Tehran, Iran: ***The Impact of Immigration on Origination of a Tribal Confederacy: Il-e Shahsevan-e Baghdadi***

17: 00 – 17: 45 General Discussion

17: 45 – 18: 00 Closing Session

Speech by:

- **Ms. Nada Al-Nashif**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO

- **H. E. Mr. Nurlan Danenov**, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNESCO