

Despite the fact that the year of the four emperors in AD 193 clearly shows the cosmopolitan interconnectedness of the Roman Empire, scholarship called Septimius Severus the 'African emperor' and his wife and her family the 'Syrian empresses'. Equally, the two final emperors of the dynasty, Elagabal and Severus Alexander, are often framed within a narrative of oriental exoticism stressing their Syrian background. Even though there has been considerable scholarly interest in the Severan dynasty in the last 20 years, scholarship has not been able to entirely shake off this 'narrative of origin'.

The Eastern Roman Empire was, of course, affected by the Severan refashioning of empire – from administrative changes in Egypt and Syria to building activities across the Eastern provinces, the Severans left their mark on a region they should in the logic of the 'narrative of origin' have been particularly partial to. But were they? Do administrative measures of the Severan emperors show a particular insight into matters of the Eastern part of the Empire? Could the new dynasty draw on local connections to develop and institute these? Did the communities of the Eastern Empire in their turn profit from the fact that the emperors and empresses hailed from their part of the world? In short – what happened in the Eastern Roman Empire under Severan rule – do we see old connections, new beginnings?

We will bring together scholars taking a new look at the impact of Severan rule on the Eastern half of the Roman Empire in a three-day digital conference at the FU Berlin.

Organized by

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Image on the title page: Tondo of the Severan family, Antikensammlung Berlin
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The Eastern Roman Empire under the Severans – old connections, new beginnings?

Digital Conference 16.-18 June 2022



Thursday, 16.6.2022

9.30 Welcome and Introduction

10.00 M. Heil (Berlin), Die syrische Kaiserin.
Ein Schlagwort und seine Abgründe.

Section 1: Greater Syria under the Severans

10.40 J. Hoffmann-Salz (Berlin), Emesa and
Arca Caesarea as Imperial birthplaces
under the Severans

11.20 Z. Sawaya (Beirut), The Relations
between the Severan Emperors and the
Cities of Phoenicia: Evidence for
Imperial privileges and retributions

12.10 *Lunch break*

14.00 A. Ecker (Tel Aviv), Severan Emperors
and the Cities of Syria Palaestina

14.40 N. Andrade (New York), Remaking the
Eastern Frontier: the Severan Dynasty
and the Civil and Cultural Life of the
Near East

15.00 *Coffee break*

15.20 A.-C. Sander (Oldenburg), Palmyras
militärisches Potenzial unter
severischer Herrschaft – eine
alternative Erzählung zur
palmyrenischen Wüstenpolizei

16.00 U. Hartmann (Jena), Palmyra unter den
Severern

17.30 Virtual Tour – The Severan Tondo in the
Berliner Antikensammlung

Friday, 17.6.2022

9.30 F. Leitmeir (Würzburg), Pathos and “full
lipps”? – The visual representation of
the Severans in the Eastern Roman Empire

10.10 H. Wienholz (Berlin), Severische
Bauprojekte bei Iohannes Malalas

Section 2: Asia Minor and Greece

10.50 B. Edelmann-Singer (Munich), Im
Osten nichts Neues? Die provinziellen
Eliten im Osten des römischen Reiches
und die Dynastie der Severer

11.30 H. Bru (Besançon), The Severans in
Phrygia Paroreios-Pisidia

12.10 S. Lentzsch (Fribourg), Septimius
Severus and the tomb of Hannibal

12.50 *Lunch break*

14.00 Z. Newby (Warwick), The Severans and
Greek Festivals in Asia Minor

14.40 R. Bertolazzi (Verona), The Severan
Augustae as Mistresses of the World:
Apropos of three inscriptions from
Moesia and Thrace

15.20 G. Mitropoulos (Athens), The Severan
Dynasty and Greece: New Beginnings,
Old Connections

16.00 *Coffee break*

Section 3: The East in Rome

16.15 J. Langford (Tampa), Shadowy
influence: Julia Maesa in the court of
Septimius Severus

16.55 S. Lusnia (New Orleans), West Meets
East? Assessing Eastern Influences in
the Art and Architecture of Severan
Rome

19.00 *Virtual Pub*

Saturday, 18.6.2022

Section 4: Armenia and Mesopotamia

9.30 G. Traina (Paris), Tiridates, king of
Armenia in the early third century

10.10 F. Schleicher (Jena), Armenien
zwischen Arsakiden, Sassaniden und
Severern

10.50 L. Dirven (Nijmegen), Mesopotamia
under the Severans

Section 5: The East in the Empire

11.30 F. Guffler (Augsburg), Östliche und
afrikanische Elemente bei der
Berufung der Statthalter Raetiens
unter den Severern

12.10 Final Discussion