

The seventh century of our era witnessed dramatic events and transformations in the political, religious, and cultural landscape of the Near East and North Africa. Egypt did not escape the turmoil and subsequent changes. It had been relatively tranquil since its annexation to Rome in 30 BC, but the seventh century brought a series of shocks. The country was invaded and conquered twice, first by the Sasanian Persians and then by the Arabs, who brought an end to the previous regime.

Narrative sources in various languages convey a fairly detailed picture of political developments, but tell us little about how the high drama and changes affected the lives of local people and how they responded. For insight into these questions, we depend on the writing materials preserved in the sands of Egypt, papyri and ostraca. Letters and contracts, lists and accounts, receipts and chits offer unique glimpses of everyday life in the ancient world. They constitute primary evidence for administrative, social, and economic history of a kind that is hard to obtain from any other part of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East.

This conference is the final event of the collaborative research project *Documentary Snapshots from Seventh-Century Egypt: Local Responses to Regime Transitions*, conducted at University College London (PI Nikolaos Gonis) and at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (PI Lajos Berkes), and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

We will discuss old and new sources of the seventh century, revisiting some of the key questions of this crucial period, especially administrative, societal, and religious continuity and change.

Papyrus: Excerpt from *The Budge Papyrus* of Columbia University;
Cover Image: Nile river ancient Egypt, envato

THE CHANGING WORLD OF SEVENTH- CENTURY EGYPT

CONFERENCE

10-11 SEPTEMBER
2024

Venue

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Theologische Fakultät, Room 108
Burgstraße 26, 10099 Berlin

Please register by 08 September 2024 at
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CONFERENCE
10-11 SEP 2024

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

Theologische Fakultät, Room 108
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Burgstraße 26, 10099 Berlin

08:45 Arrival, Registration

09:15 Welcome, Practical Information
Lajos Berkes

09:30 Patrick Sängler (Münster)
**Seventh-Century Egypt and the Structure of
Regime Changes in the *longue durée***

10:15 Bernhard Palme (Vienna)
Roman Courts in Seventh-century Egypt

11:00 ————— Coffee break ————— 11:30

11:30 Giuseppina Azzarello (Udine)
**Le identità nascoste: scribi e notai ossirinchiti
tra il sesto e settimo secolo**

12:15 Sophie Kovarik (Vienna)
Large Estates in the Seventh Century

13:00 ————— Lunch break ————— 14:00

14:00 Nikolaos Gonis (London)
**The Archive of Theopemptos and Zacharias:
The Operations of Church Estate in Upper Egypt
under the Sassanids**

14:45 Arietta Papaconstantinou (Aix-en-Provence)
**A Seventh-century Dedicatory Inscription from
Upper Egypt**

15:30 ————— Coffee break ————— 16:00

16:00 Élodie Mazy (London)
**Land, Wealth, and the Poll Tax in the
'Senilais Tax Register'**

16:45 Federico Morelli (Vienna)
**Dux, emiro e topoteretes in un papiro
viennese inedito**

19:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Tonio Sebastian Richter (Berlin)
**Quarrels and Battles. Glimpsing Micro-history
and Macro-changes in a Documentary „Short
Clip“ from Seventh-century Edfu**

Venue:

Akademieflügel der Staatsbibliothek
Unter den Linden 8
Lise-Meitner-Saal

WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

Theologische Fakultät, Room 108
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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09:00 Gabriel Nocchi Macedo (Liège)
**Classical Greek Literature in Seventh-century
Egypt**

09:45 Frederic Krueger (Berlin)
**“Fear the Angel of the Altar” - The Memory
of Benjamin of Alexandria and Eucharistic
Ideology in ca. Seventh-century Coptic
Literature**

10:30 ————— Coffee break ————— 11:00

11:00 Phil Booth (Oxford)
John of Nikiu: A Historian between Empires

11:45 Esther Garel (Strasbourg)
**Administering the Pagarchy of Edfu in the Early
Islamic Time: New Insights from the Coptic
Letters of Paps' Archive**

12:30 ————— Lunch break ————— 13:30

13:30 Lajos Berkes (Berlin)
**Hermonthis under 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Marwān:
The Archive of Iordanes**

14:15 Naïm Vanthieghem (Paris)
**A New Look at Two Bilingual Arabic-
Greek Receipts from the Vienna Collection
(SB XVIII 13771 and SPP VIII 1198) and Their
Relationship with P. Dublin Chester Beatty
Inv. Copt. 2177 (38)**

15:00 ————— Coffee break ————— 15:30

15:30 Thomas Laver (Cambridge)
**Monks as Fiscal Officials: Continuity from the
Roman to the Sufyanid Period**

16:15 Marie Legendre (Edinburgh)
**Provincial Centralization in Seventh-century
Egypt**

17:00 Final Discussion

