

Program  
for the symposium  
*The First Pandemic: Transformative Disaster or Footnote in History?*

21-24 September 2021  
Schloss Herrenhausen, Hannover, Germany

**21 September 2021**

*All times in UTC+2*

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**17:00-19:30 Opening (location TBD)**

17:00-17:10	Welcome Address	Christof Paulus, Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller
17:10-17:45	Keynote	John Haldon <i>A brief retrospective on the historiography of the JP: shared intentions, different outcomes</i>
17:45-18:20	Keynote	Mischa Meier <i>COVID-19 and the 'Justinianic Plague': The Impact of the Current Pandemic on Historical Research</i>
18:20-18:30	Discussion	Moderators: Christof Paulus, Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller
18:30-19:30	<i>Wine reception</i>	
19:30-21:00	<i>Dinner (location TBD)</i>	

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**22 September 2021**

*All times in UTC+2*

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*08:30-09:00 Registration and coffee*

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<b>09:00-10:40</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	Moderators: Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller, Christof Paulus Rapporteur: Brandon McDonald
09:00-09:20	Welcome Address	Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller, Christof Paulus
09:20-09:40	Keynote	Lee Mordechai <i>Reflecting on the Justinianic Plague during Covid: old answers, new questions, and potential future directions</i>
09:40-10:00	Keynote	Peter Sarris <i>The First Pandemic: From Postulates to Pathogens</i>
10:00-10:20	Keynote	Fredrik C. Ljungqvist <i>The mid-6th century crisis in recent Nordic research</i>
10:20-10:40	Discussion	
10:40-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

**22 September 2021 (continuation)**
*All times in UTC+2*


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<b>11:00-12:35</b>	<b>Central and East Asia Panel</b>	Moderator: Timothy Newfield Rapporteur: Marcel Keller
11:00-11:30	Keynote	Johannes Preiser-Kapeller <i>The Justinianic Plague in Central Asia and the Eurasian Steppes: some reflections on disease ecologies, transregional connectivity and potential routes of epidemic diffusion, 4th-8th centuries CE</i>
11:30-11:50	Talk	Shengsheng Gong <i>Spatiotemporal changes of pandemics in China over the last 2000 years: Climate, living environment and the Silk Road</i>
11:50-12:35	Discussion	Panelists: Bryan Averbuch, Ulf Büntgen, Fahu Chen, Shengsheng Gong, Johannes Preiser-Kapeller, Uli Schamiloglu
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12:35-13:50	<i>Lunch</i>	
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<b>13:50-15:25</b>	<b>Egypt/Africa Panel</b>	Moderator: Dominik Fleitmann Rapporteur: Nicholas Thyr
13:50-14:20	Keynote	Sabine Huebner, Brandon McDonald <i>Plague in Egypt: a gateway for ancient pandemics?</i>
14:20-14:40	Talk	Gilles Bransbourg <i>Taxation and the Invisible Plague</i>
14:40-15:25	Discussion	Panelists: Lorine Behr, Gilles Bransbourg, Alain Bresson, Sabine Huebner, Brandon McDonald, Mingyue Zhang
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<b>15:25-16:10</b>	<b>The Adjacent Spheres</b>	
	Discussion	Moderator: Neil Roberts Rapporteurs: Marcel Keller, Nicholas Thyr
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16:10-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
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<b>16:10-18:05</b>	<b>Gaul Panel</b>	Moderator: Till Stüber Rapporteur: Maria Spyrou
16:30-17:00	Keynote	Laury Sarti <i>Back then Lyon, Bourges, Chalon and Dijon were also heavily depopulated by this disease". Assessing the impact of the Justinianic Plague on Merovingian Gaul.</i>
17:00-17:20	Talk	Gunnar Neumann <i>New ancient Y. pestis genomes from the 1st plague pandemic from Gaul and far beyond</i>
17:20-18:05	Discussion	Panelists: Kevin Bloomfield, Merle Eisenberg, Marion Holleville, Amanda Kenney, Gunnar Neumann, Laury Sarti, Lukas Werther
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18:15-19:45	<i>Dinner</i>	

**23 September 2021**
*All times in UTC+2*

08:55-09:00	Welcome Address	Marcel Keller, Christof Paulus, Elena Xoplaki
<b>09:00-10:05</b>	<b>British Isles Panel</b>	Moderator: Susanne Hakenbeck Rapporteur: Amanda Kenney
09:00-09:20	Talk	John Hines <i>The Y. pestis cases at Edix Hill, Cambridgeshire: an intriguing chronological question</i>
09:20-10:05	Discussion	Panelists: John Hines, Marcel Keller, Simon Mays, David Orton, Nicholas Thy, Lukas Werther
<i>10:05-10:25 Coffee Break</i>		
<b>10:25-12:00</b>	<b>Rome/Italy Panel</b>	Moderator: Daniëlle Slootjes Rapporteur: Eva Hartmann
10:25-10:55	Keynote	Kyle Harper <i>The First Pandemic in Italy: Evidence, Patterns, Uncertainties</i>
10:55-11:15	Talk	Katherine van Schaik <i>The Justinianic plague: development and application of ancient physicians' diagnostic and therapeutic methodologies</i>
11:15-12:00	Discussion	Panelists: Kyle Harper, Amanda Kenney, Michael McCormick, Christof Paulus, Katherine van Schaik
<i>12:00-13:15 Lunch</i>		
<b>13:15-14:00</b>	<b>Iberia Panel</b>	Moderator: Andrew Kurt Rapporteur: Kevin Bloomfield
	Discussion	Panelists: Henry Gruber, Kyle Harper, Peter Heather, Michael McCormick, Gunnar Neumann, Neil Roberts
<b>14:00-15:05</b>	<b>Danube Basin Panel</b>	Moderator: Marcel Keller Rapporteur: Marion Holleville
14:00-14:20	Talk	Brigitte Haas-Gebhard <i>The effects of the plague. Traces in the archaeological finds of the „Reihengräberhorizont“ in southern Germany?</i>
14:20-15:05	Discussion	Panelists: Brigitte Haas-Gebhard, Susanne Hakenbeck, Dominic Moreau, Timothy Newfield, Lukas Werther
<b>15:05-15:50</b>	<b>European Spheres</b>	
	Discussion	Moderator: Merle Eisenberg Rapporteurs: Maria Spyrou, Amanda Kenney, Eva Hartmann, Kevin Bloomfield, Marion Holleville
<i>15:50-16:10 Coffee Break</i>		

**23 September 2021 (continuation)**
*All times in UTC+2*


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<b>16:10-17:45</b>	<b>Byzantium Panel</b>	Moderator: Adam Izdebski Rapporteur: Henry Gruber
16:10-16:40	Keynote	Dionysios Stathakopoulos <i>Catastrophe, catalyst, or catachresis? Thinking about the First Pandemic in the Byzantine Empire.</i>
16:40-17:00	Talk	Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann <i>Byzantine Descriptions of the »Justinianic Plague« in the Context of Byzantine Plague Narratives</i>
17:00-17:45	Discussion	Panelists: Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, John Haldon, Mischa Meier, Neil Roberts, Peter Sarris, Maria Spyrou, Dionysios Stathakopoulos

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18:00-19:30 *Dinner*

**24 September 2021**
*All times in UTC+2*


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08:55-09:00	Welcome Address	Christof Paulus, Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller
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<b>09:00-10:15</b>	<b>Pre-Islamic Near East Panel</b>	Moderator: Kyle Harper Rapporteur: Bryna Cameron-Steinke
09:00-09:30	Keynote	Peter Heather <i>The Justinianic Plague and Roman-Persian warfare</i>
09:30-10:15	Discussion	Panelists: Dominik Fleitmann, Peter Heather, Adam Izdebski, Brandon McDonald, Lee Mordechai, Gunnar Neumann, Elena Xoplaki

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10:15-10:35 *Coffee Break*

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<b>10:35-11:50</b>	<b>Islamic Work Panel</b>	Moderator: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller Rapporteur: Mingyue Zhang
10:35-11:05	Keynote	Bryan Averbuch <i>Investigating the First Plague Pandemic in Islamicate Lands: New Discoveries and Prospects for Interdisciplinary Research</i>
11:05-11:50	Discussion	Panelists: Dominik Fleitmann, Eva Hartmann, Adam Izdebski, Bryan Averbuch, Nikolaus Schindel

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<b>11:50-12:35</b>	<b>Eastern Mediterranean Spheres</b>	
	Discussion	Moderator: Alain Bresson Rapporteurs: Henry Gruber, Bryna Cameron-Steinke, Mingyue Zhang

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12:35-13:50 *Lunch Break*

**24 September 2021 (continuation)***All times in UTC+2*

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**13:50-16:00 Closing**

13:50-15:10 Discussion Moderator: John Haldon

15:10-16:00 Outlook and Farewell Christof Paulus, Elena Xoplaki, Marcel Keller

## Panel Overview

Panel	Central Asia	Egypt/Africa	Gaul	British Isles	Rome/Italy	Iberia	Danube basin	Byzantium	Pre-Islamic Near East	Islamic World
Day	22 Sept	22 Sept	22 Sept	23 Sept	23 Sept	23 Sept	23 Sept	23 Sept	24 Sept	24 Sept
Time	11:00-12:35	13:50-15:25	16:10-18:05	09:00-10:05	10:25-12:00	13:15-14:00	14:00-15:05	16:10-17:45	09:00-10:15	10:35-11:50
Moderator	Timothy Newfield	Dominik Fleitmann	Till Stüber	Susanne Hakenbeck	Daniëlle Sloopjes	Andrew Kurt	Marcel Keller	Adam Izdebski	Kyle Harper	Johannes Preiser-Kapeller
Rapporteur	Marcel Keller	Nicholas Thyr	Maria Spyrou	Amanda Kenney	Eva Hartmann	Kevin Bloomfield	Marion Holleville	Henry Gruber	Bryna Cameron-Steinke	Mingyue Zhang
Panelists	Bryan Averbuch Ulf Büntgen Fahu Chen Shengsheng Gong <i>Johannes Preiser-Kapeller</i> Uli Schamiloglu	Lorine Behr <i>Gilles Bransbourg</i> Alain Bresson <i>Sabine Huebner</i> <i>Brandon McDonald</i> Mingyue Zhang	Kevin Bloomfield Merle Eisenberg Marion Holleville Amanda Kenney <i>Gunnar Neumann</i> <i>Laury Sarti</i> Lukas Werther	<i>John Hines</i> Marcel Keller Simon Mays David Orton Nicholas Thyr Lukas Werther	<i>Kyle Harper</i> Amanda Kenney Michael McCormick Christof Paulus <i>Katherine van Schaik</i>	Henry Gruber Kyle Harper Peter Heather Michael McCormick Gunnar Neumann Neil Roberts	<i>Brigitte Haas-Gebhard</i> Susanne Hakenbeck Dominic Moreau Timothy Newfield Lukas Werther	<i>Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann</i> John Haldon Mischa Meier Neil Roberts Peter Sarris Maria Spyrou <i>Dionysios Stathakopoulos</i>	Dominik Fleitmann <i>Peter Heather</i> Adam Izdebski Brandon McDonald Lee Mordechai Gunnar Neumann Elena Xoplaki	Dominik Fleitmann Eva Hartmann Adam Izdebski <i>Bryan Averbuch</i> Nikolaus Schindel
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Adjacent Spheres</b>		<b>European Spheres</b>				<b>Eastern Mediterranean Spheres</b>			
Moderator	Neil Roberts		Merle Eisenberg				Alain Bresson			
Day	22 Sept		23 Sept				24 Sept			
Time	15:25-16:10		15:05-15:50				11:50-12:35			

Speakers are highlighted in italics, all times in UTC+2