

FRIDAY JULY 24, 2026

9.00 **Seal Images and Social Affiliation in Middle Assyrian Dür-Katlimmu**
HARTMUT KÜHNE (NOT STREAMED)

9.30 **The LB IIB Seal-House at Karkemish: Officials of the Royal Court and their Activities in the Administration of the State**
NICOLÒ MARCHETTI (ONLINE)

SEALINGS AND SEALING PRACTICES IN THE 1ST MILLENNIUM BCE

10.00 **Sealing Practices in First Millennium BC Babylonia: A Review of the Evidence**
HEATHER D. BAKER

10.30 **Coffee break**

11.00 **Seals and Sealing at Persepolis: a Synthesis**
MARK GARRISON AND WOUTER HENKELMAN

12.00 **Lunch break**

13.00 **Exploration within KIŠIB – A PhD Case Study: Horns of the Gods. A Diachronic Analysis of the Horned Headdress**
SAMAN SAJEDI

13.20 **Curating Data and Knowledge on Ancient West Asian Seals and Sealings: The KIŠIB-Project**
SEBASTIAN HAGENEUER

13.45 **Cooperations between the Academy Projects CAIC and KIŠIB**
ENRIQUE JÍMENEZ

14.00 **Closing Discussion**

A comment on the conference's theme
By asking "Why sealing?", we aim to explore sealings and seal impressions, their materiality and the actions and social networks in which they were embedded. In doing so, we address the core concerns of the KIŠIB project: sealing on clay as a communication strategy that was effective over millennia for "sealing" interpersonal relationships, establishing claims of ownership, fostering social trust, and defining authority and hierarchy.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT

Dr. Albert Dietz, Albert.Dietz@kishib.badw.de
Registration is requested. The event will be streamed; the link will be sent to registered online participants.

For further information, please visit our website:
project.kishib.org/conferences/



The cover photo shows a door sealing from Fara
(photo: A. Otto)

The "KIŠIB - Digital Corpus of Ancient West Asian Seals and Sealings" project is funded by the German federal government and the states of Bavaria and Berlin through the Academies Program.

VENUE

BAVARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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BADW

WHY SEALING?

From sealed clay to social interaction
in ancient West Asia

1ST KIŠIB CONFERENCE

22 JULY 26–
24 JULY 26

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BAYERISCHE
AKADEMIE
DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

Programm

WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2026

- 13.00 **Opening Session**
MARKUS SCHWAIGER, CAROLA
METZNER-NEBELSICK, ALI SHALGHAM,
ADELHEID OTTO, ELISA ROSSBERGER
- 13.30 **The Potential of Sealings for Reconstructing Social
Interaction, Bureaucratic Systems and Long-
Distance Relations**
ADELHEID OTTO

SEALINGS AND SEALING PRACTICES IN THE 4TH AND THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BCE

- 14.00 **Sealing Practices as a Mirror of Social and Economic
Transactions in Different Political Contexts.
From Temple to Palace at Arslantepe**
MARCELLA FRANGIPANE
- 14.30 **Coffee break**
- 15.00 **Why Sealing? What Sealing? Who Sealing? A Bu-
reaucratic Systems Approach to Patterns of
Sealing Practice in Early Mesopotamia and Iran**
ROGER MATTHEWS
- 15.30 **Wall Sealings in Proto-Elamite Iran: What if We
Locked onto the Wrong Idea?**
CLÉLIA PALADRE
- 16.00 **Imagery, Style and Material as Markers of Identity**
HOLLY PITTMAN (ONLINE)
- 16.30 **Coffee break**
- 17.00 **A Waste of Time? Reconstructing an Early Dynastic
Administrative Assemblage Using Lumps of Clay
and Unsealed Sealings at Fara**
MICHELA FERRACIN

- 17.30 **Sealing Practices in the Governors' Palace in Balat
(Egypt, Dakhla Oasis): the Places and the People**
LAURE PANTALACCI
- 18.00 **Who Held a Seal in Ancient Urkeš / Tall Mozan?**
HEIKE DOHMANN
- 18.30 **End of day discussion: Sealings and Sealing
Practices in the 4th and the 3rd millennium BCE**

THURSDAY JULY 23, 2026

SEALINGS AND SEALING PRACTICES IN THE LATE 3RD AND 2ND MILLENNIUM BCE

- 9.00 **Whom to Trust—and How? Sealing Practice and
Imagery as Technologies of Trust in Early Babylonia**
ELISA ROSSBERGER
- 9.30 **Multiple Impressions, Over-Stamping, Counter-
Signing. Validation and Control in Administrative
Contexts**
ALBERT DIETZ
- 10.00 **Sealing Practices on Ur III Documents from the
Administrative Centre at Puzriš-Dagān (Drehem)**
CHRISTINA TSOUPAROPOULOU
- 10.30 **Early Old Babylonian Bullae as an Innovative
Documentation System: the Umma Corpus in its
Historical Context**
NAWALA AL-MUTAWALLI AND
WALTHER SALLABERGER
- 11.00 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 **Why Sealing? Some Answers Found in the Old
Babylonian Archives**
DOMINIQUE CHARPIN

- 12.00 **Why Several Seals for the Same Owner?**
DOMINIQUE BEYER
- 12.30 **Why this seal? Some Observations on the Seal
Ownership and Seal Use of the Clergy of
Dūr-Abiešuḫ**
ANNE GODDEERIS
- 13.00 **Lunch break**
- 14.00 **Visual Bureaucracy in the Early Second Millen-
nium BCE: An Integrative Analysis of Seal Use at
Tell Leilan**
KATHERINE BURGE
- 14.30 **Social Aspects of Sealing Practices in the Kingdom
of Arraphe**
BRIGITTE LION
- 15.00 **Beyond Prosopography and Administration:
Seals, Status, and Social Interaction at Nuzi**
DIANA STEIN
- 15.30 **Coffee break and Poster Session**
- 16.30 **Siegelregime(s) im Kontext palatialer Staatlichkeit
im spätbronzezeitlichen Assyrien**
EVA CANCIK-KIRSCHBAUM
- 17.00 **Impressing the Hem in Second Millennium
Mesopotamia**
JON TAYLOR AND NICOLE REIFARTH
- 17.30 **Sealing Tablets and Envelopes in Mesopotamia in
the 2nd Millennium BCE**
AGNETE LASSEN
- 18.00 **End of day discussion: Sealing in the late 3rd and
the 2nd millennium BCE**