

empire means in the crucial period between 500 BC and 500 AD and which role the structures of empire play in a dynamic and long-term process of interconnected worlds within an Afro-Eurasian historical framework. Important aspect of this project is the historical heritage and a cultural legacy, both constituent factors in the very definition of empire. This project will probe as well the natural context of the empire: connected vassal states, cities and social elites of ancient empires, in realization that ancient empires were not strictly centralized states ruled by the king/emperor through neatly structured, uniform bureaucracy but that they were complex, multi-lingual and multi-layered states in which the central power had to negotiate its position with variety of smaller entities. This project will study reasons for longevity of some vassal states. It will investigate as well personal and family bonds between imperial and local rulers and aristocrats.

1.5.4 Project abstract in Polish:

Ten projekt podejmuje próbę zmiany paradygmatu w badaniach nad imperiami, które koncentrują się obecnie na czasach nowożytnych, poprzez uznanie imperium za zjawisko ogólnohistoryczne. Badaniom zostaną poddane imperia bliskowschodnie w okresie 500 p.n.e.-500 n.e., od Persji Achemenidów – ostatniego imperium starożytnego Wschodu – po imperia Aleksandra, Seleukidów, Partów i Rzymu. Projekt zmierza do przekroczenia tradycyjnych granic w historiografii przez przyjęcie stanowiska transdyscyplinarnego skupiając się na badaniu ciągłości struktur i idei, biorąc też pod uwagę imperia krótkotrwałe. Istotą jego metodologii jest uznanie koncepcji imperium jako narzędzia analitycznego pozwalającego badać procesy adaptacji i ciągłości w długiej perspektywie czasowej. Projekt zmierza do odpowiedzi na pytania czym było imperium w kluczowym w dziejach tysiącleciu między 500 r. p.n.e. a 500 r. n.e. i jaką rolę struktury imperialne odegrały w śledzonej w dłuższej perspektywie dynamice zmian przeplatających się obszarów należących do styku trzech kontynentów: Afryki, Azji i Europy. Ważnym polem badawczym będzie też dziedzictwo kulturowe i pamięć historyczna, należące do fenomenów definiujących imperium. Projekt przeprowadzi również wybrane studia nad kontekstem imperiów: powiązanymi państwami wasalnymi, miastami i elitami społecznymi, w przeświadczeniu, że starożytne imperia nie były państwami scentralizowanymi, w których rządy sprawował monarcha za pośrednictwem jednolitej biurokracji. Były one organizmami o złożonej strukturze politycznej i etnicznej, w których władza centralna musiała nieustannie negocjować swą pozycję z innymi podmiotami. Przedmiotem badań będą też czynniki długiego trwania części państw wasalnych oraz wzorce związków rodzinnych i osobistych między dynastią rządzącą a lokalnymi władcami i rodzinami arystokratycznymi.

1.6 Project duration NAWA .

1.6.1 Project start date:

2021-03-01

Project duration (full months only)

48

1.6.2 Project end date:

2025-03-01

1.7 Project duration NCN.

This answer is required if the NCN Research component is planned in the project and if option "Yes" will be selected in point 4.2 of the Application form.

1.7.1 Project start date:

2021-03-01

Project duration (full months only)

18

1.7.2 Project end date:

2022-09-01

Part 2. Visiting Scientist

2.1 Academic degree/title:

Professor

Prof. ('full professor')

2.2 Scan of a document confirming that the Visiting Scientist holds a Professor academic rank ("full professor").

Personalunterlage mit dem Titel_ Rollinger_Robert_Bestätigung.pdf 355 KB

2.3 Country of residence:

Austria

2.4 Scientific biography of the Visiting Scientist.

2.4.1 education, educational background, course of studies

1989 MA in Ancient History (Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck)

1993 PhD in Ancient History (Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck)

1999 Habilitation in Ancient History (Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck)

2.4.2 academic and scientific activity, including the Visiting Scientist subsequent places of employment and internships

1990- University Lecturer in Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Departments of Ancient History (Alte Geschichte) and Assyriology (Sprachen und Kulturen des Alten Orients), Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck

1993-1994 Research Assistant in a project funded by the Austrian „Forschungsfonds“ concerned with the interactions between Archaic Greece and the Ancient Near East

1994- Teaching Assistant in Ancient History at the department of Ancient History, Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck

2000- Assistant Professor (Außerordentlicher Universitätsprofessor) at the department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck

2003/2004: Visiting Professor at the University of Graz, Austria (Institut für Alte Geschichte)

2004-2012: Head of the department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Innsbruck)

2005: Full Professor (Ordentliche Universitätsprofessur) at the department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck

2006/2007/2010: Visiting Professor at the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (The Agha Khan University in the United Kingdom), London (Course Ancient Cultures)

2007: Visiting Professor at the University of Hildesheim, Institut für Geschichte (Jean-Monnet-Chair für Europäische Geschichte, Institut für Geschichte)

2011-2015: Finland Distinguished Professor at the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki (Research Director of the project "Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East")

2013-2017: Chair of „Melammu. The intellectual Heritage of Assyria and Babylonia on East and West“ (<http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu/>)

2015- Head of the department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Innsbruck)

2019: Invited Getty Scholar am Getty Research Center (Getty Villa), Los Angeles

2.4.3 total number of citations of all publications to date, excluding self-citations (preferred source: the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus)

Scopus: 76; Google Scholar: 2098

2.4.4 the H index (preferred source: the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus)

Scopus: 5; Google Scholar: 23

2.4.5 a brief description of currently conducted research

The Visiting Scientist is an experienced scholar with outstanding research output. He is an author of a great number of influential books and papers with the bibliography of his works extending to more than 300 published positions (books, chapters, papers, encyclopedic entries, reviews etc.). In his work he deals predominantly with the contacts between the Aegean World and the Ancient Near East, Ancient Near Eastern History, Ancient Historiography, the History of the Achaemenid dynasty and History of empires. His research focuses on the global history and entangled history of the Ancient Worlds. Wide chronological frames of his research and its interdisciplinary character allow him to trace the development of investigated problems in their full context and address the issue of continuity and change in the historical process. In the last ten years of his work he has concentrated on the persistence of Ancient Near Eastern imperial traditions, the ideology of imperial power in the Ancient Near East, and the nature of the Classical and Eastern sources dealing with the Near East.

2.4.6 information on awards, patents, membership in recognised scientific conference committees. membership in scientific societies and organisations and other important achievements

Awards:

1995 Dr. Seibert-Preis zur Förderung wissenschaftlicher Publikationen an der Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

1998 Preis des Fürstentums Liechtenstein für die wissenschaftliche Forschung an der Universität Innsbruck

1999 Wissenschaftspreis des Österreichischen Olympischen Comités

Edition of international journals and series:

Reihe „Oriens et Occidens“ (Steiner-Verlag) (Mitherausgeber seit Frühjahr 2004)

Reihe „Oikumene. Studien zur antiken Weltgeschichte“ (Verlag Antike, seit 2018 Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) (Mitherausgeber seit Frühjahr 2004)

Reihe „Philippika – Marburger altertumskundliche Abhandlungen“ (Harrassowitz Verlag) (Mitherausgeber seit Juni 2007)

Reihe „Classica et Orientalia“ (Harrassowitz) (Mitherausgeber, Frühjahr 2009)

Reihe „Documenta Asiana. Collana di studi sull' Anatolia e l'Asia Anteriore Antica“ (Mitglied des Comitato scientifico seit Oktober 2014).

Reihe „Melammu Symposia“ (seit Frühjahr 2015) (Herausgeber, Frühjahr 2015 – 2019, Ugarit-Verlag; Mitherausgeber, 2020 Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften).

Reihe „Melammu Workshops and Monographs“ (Zaphon-Verlag) (Mitherausgeber, seit 2019).

Reihe "Universal- und kulturhistorische Studien / Studies in Universal and Cultural History" (Springer Verlag) (Mitherausgeber, seit 2018)

Zeitschrift „Nikephoros“ (Olms-Verlag) (Mitherausgeber seit Juli 2002)

Zeitschrift „Ancient History Bulletin“ (Editorial Correspondent seit Oktober 2002)

Zeitschrift „Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan“ (Mitglied des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats seit Oktober 2005 – Februar 2016).

Zeitschrift „Ancient West & East“ (Peeters, Leuven) (Mitglied des Advisory Board seit Herbst 2007).

Zeitschrift „Marburger Beiträge zur antiken Handels-, Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte“ (Verlag Marie Leidorf, Rahden/Westf.) (Mitherausgeber seit Band 26, Frühjahr 2009)

Zeitschrift „Electrum“ (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Krakau (Scientific Committee seit Oktober 2010)
 Zeitschrift „Aion – Annali dell’Università degli Studi di Napoli „L’Orientale“. Sezione orientale“ (Mitglied des Consiglio Scientifico seit 2013)
 Zeitschrift „State Archives of Assyria Bulletin“, Padua (Mitglied des Scientific Board seit 2018; Mitherausgeber seit 2019)
 Zeitschrift “Journal of Ancient Civilizations”, Changchun, China (Mitglied der “Consulting Editors” seit 2019)
 Zeitschrift “Journal of Egyptian History” (Mitglied des Editorial Board seit April 2020).

Membership in international organizations (elected):

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (corresponding member since 2007)

<http://www.dainst.org/grundzuege>

Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East, Durham (Advisor) (since 2007)

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/mediterraneancentre/>

European Network for the History of Ancient Greece (member of the core group/steering committee) (since October 2008) <http://www2.let.uu.nl/solis/networkgreece/>

Academia Europaea / The Academy of Europe (Section A2, Classics & Oriental Studies (since Oktober 2011)

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Full Member since April 2018)

<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/oesterreichische-akademie-der-wissenschaften/>

European Academy of Sciences and Arts (since March 2014)

<http://www.euro-acad.eu/>

Membership in international organizations (elected):

Sociologia Iranica Europea

Deutsche Orientgesellschaft

International Association for Assyriology (IAA)

Membership in committees and bodies:

Member of the „Vorstand“ of the „Österreichische Orient-Gesellschaft Hammer-Purgstall“ (2004-)

<http://www.orient-gesellschaft.at/content/vorstand>

Board Member of „Melammu. The intellectual Heritage of Assyria and Babylonia on East and West“ (since 2001)

<http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu/>

Referee:

Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung; Arts & Humanities Research Council (London); Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft; Estonian Science Foundation; Österreichische Nationalbank, Jubiläumsfonds; Historisches Kolleg München; Schweizer Nationalfonds, ERC;

2.5 A list of publications including a maximum of 10 most notable works published not earlier than 2010.

Please mark the ground-breaking publication (see point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations).

Lp	Authors
1	Robert Rollinger, Julian Degen, Michael Gehler (eds.)
Title	
Short-term empires in World History	
Bibliographic data	
Universal- und kulturhistorische Studien / Studies in Universal and Cultural History, Wiesbaden: Springer 2020.	
For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)	
The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)	
The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)	
https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783658294342	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations	
Lp	Authors
2	Robert Rollinger

Title
From Sargon of Agade, and the Assyrian Kings to Khusrau I and beyond: on the persistence of Ancient Near Eastern Traditions.

Bibliographic data
In: Giovanni B. Lanfranchi - Daniele Morandi Bonacossi - C. Pappi - Simonetta Ponchia (Eds.), LEGGO! Studies presented to Prof. Frederick Mario Fales on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday (=Leipziger Altorientalische Studien, 2), Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz 2012, 725-743.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)
https://www.academia.edu/1817630/Robert_Rollinger_From_Sargon_of_Agade_and_the_Assyrian_Kings_to_Khusrau_I_and_beyond_on_the_persistence_of_Ancient_Near_Eastern_Traditions_In_Giovanni_B._Lanfranchi_-_Daniele_Morandi_Bonacossi_-_C._Pappi_-_Simonetta_Ponchia_Eds._LEGGO_Studies_presented_to_Prof._Frederick_Mario_Fales_on_the_Occasion_of_his_65th_Birthday_Leipziger_Altorientalische_Studien_2_Wiesbaden_Harrassowitz_2012_725-743

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
3	Robert Rollinger

Title
Thinking and Writing about History in Teispid and Achaemenid Persia

Bibliographic data
in: Kurt Raaflaub (ed.), Thinking, Recording, and Writing History in the Ancient World, Malden – Oxford – Chichester 2014, 187-212.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)
https://www.academia.edu/5795799/R._Rollinger_Thinking_and_Writing_about_History_in_Teispid_and_Achaemenid_Persia_in_Kurt_Raaflaub_ed._Thinking_Recording_and_Writing_History_in_the_Ancient_World_Malden_Oxford_Chichester_2014_187-212

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
4	Robert Rollinger

Title
Aornos and the Mountains of the east: The Assyrian Kings and Alexander the Great

Bibliographic data
in: Salvatore Gaspa, Alessandro Greco, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, Simonetta Ponchia and Robert Rollinger (eds.) From Source to History: Studies on Ancient Near Eastern Worlds and Beyond Dedicated to Giovanni Battista Lanfranchi on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday on June 23, 2014 (Alter Orient und Altes Testament Band 412, Münster 2014, 597-635.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

https://www.academia.edu/9109149/R._Rollinger_Aornos_and_the_Mountains_of_the_east_The_Assyrian_Kings_and_Alexander_the_Great_in_S._Gaspa_et_al._eds._From_Source_to_History_Studies_on_Ancient_Near_Eastern_Worlds_and_Beyond_Dedicated_to_G._B._Lanfranchi_AOAT_412_M%C3%BCnster_2014_597-635

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
5	Robert Rollinger

Title

Old Battles, New Horizons: The Ancient Near East and the Homeric epics

Bibliographic data

in: Robert Rollinger and Erik van Dongen (eds.), Mesopotamia in the Ancient World. Impact, Continuities, Parallels (Melammu Symposia 7), Münster 2015, 5-32.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

https://www.academia.edu/19769740/R._Rollinger_Old_Battles_New_Horizons_The_Ancient_Near_East_and_the_Homeric_epics_in_Robert_Rollinger_and_Erik_van_Dongen_eds._Mesopotamia_in_the_Ancient_World_Impact_Continuities_Parallels_Melammu_Symposia_7_M%C3%BCnster_2015_5-32

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
6	Robert Rollinger

Title

Neo-Assyrian through Persian empires

Bibliographic data

in: Franco de Angelis (ed.), A Companion to Greeks Across the Ancient World, Malden – Oxford: Blackwell 2020, 173-198.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
7	Robert Rollinger

Title

Megasthenes, mental maps and Seleucid royal ideology: the western fringes of the world or how Ancient Near Eastern empires conceptualized world dominion

Bibliographic data

in: J. Wiesehöfer, H. Brinkhaus and R. Bichler (eds.), Megasthenes und seine Zeit / Megasthenes' and His Time (CleO 13), Wiesbaden 2016, 129-164.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value)

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

https://www.academia.edu/29124863/R_Rollinger_Megasthenes_mental_maps_and_Seleucid_royal_ideology_the_western_fringes_of_the_world_or_how_Ancient_Near_Eastern_empires_conceptualized_world_dominion_in_J_Wieseh%C3%B6fer_et_al_ed._eds._Megasthenes_und_seine_Zeit_Megasthenes_and_His_Time_CleO_13_Wiesbaden_2016_129-164

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
8	Robert Rollinger

Title
The battle of Arbela in 331 BCE, Disloyal "Orientals" and the Alleged "Panic" in the Persian Army: from Neo-Assyrian kings to Alexander III

Bibliographic data
in: Saana Svärd and Robert Rollinger (eds.), Cross-cultural Studies in Near Eastern History and Literature (The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient and Medieval Near East 2), Münster: Ugarit-Verlag 2016, 213-242.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

https://www.academia.edu/29214748/R_Rollinger_The_battle_of_Arbela_in_331_BCE_Disloyal_Orientals_and_the_Alleged_Panic_in_the_Persian_Army_from_Neo-Assyrian_kings_to_Alexander_III_in_Saana_Sv%C3%A4rd_and_Robert_Rollinger_ed._eds._Cross-cultural_Studies_in_Near_Eastern_History_and_Literature_M%C3%BCnster_2016_213-242

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
9	Robert Rollinger

Title
Herodotus and the Transformation of Ancient Near Eastern Motifs: Darius I, Oebares, and the Neighing Horse

Bibliographic data
in: Thomas Harrison and Elizabeth Irwin (eds.), Interpreting Herodotus, Oxford: University Press 2018, 125-148.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

Lp	Authors
10	Robert Rollinger

Title
Between deportation and recruitment: craftsmen and specialists from the West in Ancient Near Eastern empires (from Neo-Assyrian times through Alexander III)

Bibliographic data
in: Bernhard Woytek (ed.), Infrastructure and Distribution in Ancient Economies (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, Denkschriften 506. Band), Wien 2018 [2019], 425-444.

For journals with impact factor - the current five-year IF of the journal or the SiteScore value

The number of citations of individual publication, excluding self-citations (in line with the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database)

The link to the electronic version of publication (where possible)

https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvddzg9.19?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=au%3A&searchText=%22Robert+Rollinger%22&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3Fsi%3D1%26amp%3BQuery%3Dau%253A%2522Robert%2BRollinger%2522%26amp%3Brefreqid%3Dsearch%253Ad66f9880e1a561af399021592a0b7ad6&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_SYC-5187%2Ftest&refreqid=search%3A43ac65170dbdda42368443894bb21dd0&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Indicate if the publication meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.6 of the Programme Regulations

2.5.1 Please explain why you consider this particular publication as ground-breaking:

Although studies of empires seems to flourish in recent years, the words "empire" and "imperialism" are among the most overused in fields of history and political science with not enough attention paid to what makes an empire and how empires should be classified. These questions transcend boundaries of historical epochs and disciplines of knowledge. The volume submitted as the ground-breaking publication introduces a new category in Empire studies, the "short-term empire", the one which lasted no more than three generations, rose in a vacuum of power, was usually founded by a charismatic warrior. The volume focuses on "short-term empires" throughout the ages, rightfully including ancient empires. It seeks to address major shortcomings and lacunae in previous studies sine the classifications and definitions proposed were debatable and the selection of what is regarded to represent an "empire" was rather unsystematic, while comprehensive structural connections that transcend epochs and historical periods were only partially taken into consideration. This was often due to a lack of concrete questions and concepts and an only recently arising awareness of different types of empires through all periods. Furthermore, recent empire studies tended to be mainly focused on the modern and contemporary era. As a consequence they were not only chronologically concentrated on the last centuries but were also prone to a Eurocentric perspective.

The book contains chapters written by leading scholars, e.g.: Babylon (Richardson), Shamshi-Adad and Hammurabi (Van De Mierop), the Barcids and Hannibal (Ruffing), Mithradates VI and the Pontic Empire (Müller), the Hunnic Empire of Attila (Heather), the Ghaznavids (Reinfandt), the Latin Empire of Constantinople (Mitsiou), the Timurid Empire (Manz), Nāder Šāh (Rota), Hitler's Third Reich (Suppan), and the European Union (Gehler). Thus, it overcomes the simplistic and Eurocentric arrangement of world history into "pre-modern" and "modern spheres" and advocates a multi-perspective, transdisciplinary and comparative approach.

Rollinger's three individual papers in the volume, one as single author, and two co-authored are major contributions in the field of empire history but also in the field of comparative universal history of ancient Afro-Eurasia. They exhibit an astonishing expertise in various disciplines, i.e. Ancient History, Ancient Near Eastern History, Assyriology, Classics, Iranian studies, and methodological innovative approach that combined open entirely new perspectives and results. He masterfully combines source criticism and sound evaluation of the evidence available, written and archaeological, with innovative transdisciplinary methodologies that develop entirely new insights in historical epochs and structures. This expertise covers the entire period of Antiquity as his papers on the "Medes" in early Iranian history and the Hephthalites in Late Antiquity (together with Wiesehöfer) exhibit.

2.5.1.1 Scan of the ground-braking publication. In case of a monograph, please attach a file containing the cover page, editorial page, table of contents and a selection of extracts containing the author's most important theses - not more than 20 pages in total.

Short-Termed empires_.pdf 538 KB

2.6 Scans of the remaining publications from the list given in section 2.5. In case of a monograph, please attach a file containing the cover page, editorial page, table of contents and a selection of extracts containing the author's most important theses - not more than 20 pages in total in one attached scan.

Please add the file in .pdf format with a maximum size of 2 MB

Robert_Rollinger_From_Sargon_of_Agade_an.pdf 311 KB

Thinking and Writing about History in Teispid and Achaemenid Persia.pdf 119 KB

R._Rollinger_Aornos_and_the_Mountains_of-.pdf 815 KB

R._Rollinger_Old_Battles_New_Horizons_Th.pdf 699 KB

R._Rollinger_Neo-Assyrian_through_Persian_empires.pdf 985 KB

R._Rollinger_Megasthenes_mental_maps_and-.pdf 1 MB

R._Rollinger_The_battle_of_Arbela_in_331-.pdf 902 KB

Herodotus and the Transformation of Ancient Near Eastern Motifs Darius I, Oebares, and the Neighing Horse.pdf 434 KB

Between Deportation and Recruitment Craftsmen and Specialists from.pdf 1 MB

2.7 List of completed and ongoing research projects and support programmes/fellowships for outstanding scientists (minimum 3, not earlier than 2010).

Lp	Title
1	Invited Getty Scholar at Getty Research Center (Getty Villa), Los Angeles
Source of financing	Implementation period
Getty Research Institute	2019
Time commitment if ongoing project is parallel to Cybulski project (in %)	Visiting Scientist's role in the project (PI/other)
n/a	PI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicate if the project or programme meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.5 of the Programme Regulations	
Lp	Title
2	Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East
Source of financing	Implementation period
Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki	2011-2015
Time commitment if ongoing project is parallel to Cybulski project (in %)	Visiting Scientist's role in the project (PI/other)
n/a	Finland Distinguished Professor/Research Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicate if the project or programme meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.5 of the Programme Regulations	
Lp	Title
3	Wissenschaftspreis des Landes Vorarlberg
Source of financing	Implementation period
Landes Vorarlberg	2010
Time commitment if ongoing project is parallel to Cybulski project (in %)	Visiting Scientist's role in the project (PI/other)
n/a	PI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicate if the project or programme meets the requirements set out in point 2.2.1.5 of the Programme Regulations	

2.8 Planned employment in Poland.

2.8.1 Full legal name of the institution in which the Visiting Scientist will be employed:

Uniwersytet Wrocławski

2.8.2 Faculty/division/team (according to the organisational structure of the institution):

Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, History Department

2.8.3 Position in which the Visiting Scientist will be employed (according to point 2.4.1 of the Programme Regulations):

Professor at the Research Center for the Study of the Ancient World (to be created within the University of Wrocław).

Part 3. Applying institution (Applicant)

3.1 The organisational capacity and experience of the Applicant (institution) within the scope of projects, including in the field of international cooperation

The University of Wrocław [UWr] is among the best and oldest universities in Poland (established in 1702), in 2019 selected to the elite group of 10 best universities in Poland referred to as research universities. Ancient history and classics have always played a very prominent role within the field of humanities, with the oldest and best Polish antiquity-related journal, the Eos, being published in Wrocław. Although most faculty members of UWr in classics/ ancient history graduated from Polish universities, some hold degrees awarded by top international universities: The Ohio State University, Université de Tours, University College London.

UWr has tremendous experience in running research projects: in 2011-2018 it scored the 4th position among Polish universities in amount of research money granted by the National Science Centre [NCN] (PLN 281,664,952 in total), the top national grant-giving agency, and the 3rd position in research funds per academic staff member (PLN 142,687.41 per capita). This translates into 693 research projects funded by the NCN, with almost 32% (221) in Humanities, Social Studies and Arts projects. The already existing strong grant culture at UWr is sure to be strengthened in coming years due to the measures announced within the research university program.

In recent years the most significant project conducted at the UWr in the field of antiquity studies was the EU-funded doctoral project "The Eastern Mediterranean from the 4th c. BC until late antiquity", conducted in 2010-2015 in co-operation with the University of Liverpool, that resulted in a number of completed PhD theses and paved the way for

applying for other significant research grants and fellowships: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, a few NCN grants (Sonata and Preludium) earned by young PhDs. Another important project is NCN's grant Maestro 6 ("Greek City in the Hellenistic and Roman Age and the Territorial Powers," 2015-ongoing). The projects in the field of antiquity studies have resulted in a significant number of books published and accepted by: Harrassowitz, Bloomsbury, Brill, Routledge, Peeters, among others.

UWr has been very active in hosting international academic events of highest caliber in the field of antiquity studies, to name conferences in recent years: "Alexander the Great and Egypt" (2011), "Alexander the Great and the East" (2013), "Classica et Orientalia VII: Historiography of Alexander the Great" (2014), "The Alexander Romance: History and Literature" (2015). They were attended by leading international scholars (e.g. P. Briant, N. Sekunda, S. Müller, R. Lane Fox, R. Bichler, C. Jouanno), some of whom co-organized them (R. Stoneman, J. Wiesehöfer, R. Rollinger). UWr faculty members have been involved in some of the most important international initiatives, to name only GIREA and the Melammu Project (www.melammu-project.eu), an international project focused on the Ancient Near East and its interactions with the Greco-Roman world. In 2019 two major events took place in Wrocław: 42 GIREA and 13th Melammu Symposium - the last named with participation of some of the most renowned scholars in the field (e.g. R. Rollinger, R. Strootman, J. Wiesehöfer, J. Roisman, K. Raaflaub, F. Pownall, T. Howe, A. Lloyd). In recognition of its experience and organizational capacity UWr has been selected as host of the FIEC Congress in 2025.

On top of its previous experience in international archaeology projects in Novae, Nymphaion, various places in Sudan, in 2013-2016 UWr team participated in Asasif Project within the Polish-Egyptian Mission at the Hatshepsut Temple at Deir el-Bahari.

Moreover, the UWr has been participating in various international exchange projects, especially within the Erasmus and Erasmus+ programs both on student and academic staff level. In the field of antiquity studies the engagement in this program has become an informal but habitual part of MA and PhD candidates curriculum. Outside of the Erasmus programs, in recent years faculty members in classics/ ancient history have been invited to give lectures at some of the best universities in the field: Brown, Heidelberg, Innsbruck, Hamburg, Xiamen. Academic exchanges and joint projects have resulted in building strong ties with international universities, the outcome being joint doctoral programs: with University of Liverpool and, as cotutelle, with Université de Tours.

3.2 Details of how the Applicant plans to accommodate the Visiting Scientist. Description of how the Applicant is going to prepare the workplace and ensure that the Visiting Scientist will be able to access equipment and research infrastructure (including a list of necessary equipment / infrastructure / large infrastructure).

The University of Wrocław provides the Visiting Scientist with very good to excellent work conditions and administrative support. The scientific and didactic base which he may likely use is very well developed. The core facility for humanities research is library, both the Main Library and departmental libraries of history and classics. The Main Library is a modern facility with more than 2,500,000 items, or more than 4,000,000 items together with departmental libraries. A strength of the UWr library is its vast collection of early prints, maps and the largest collection of medieval manuscripts in Poland, (some 3,000 codices). The libraries of the Institute of History and Institute of the Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies house substantial collections of books (well over 200,000 items put together). This collection is good but not comprehensive, since the libraries have been catering predominantly to the research needs of the academic staff. In keeping with inscriptions-based research conducted at the UWr for a long time, the university libraries boast of their rich epigraphic collections containing almost all important Greek and Latin epigraphic corpora and journals.

The UWr is linked to a broad-band national academic NASK network. The UWr libraries subscribe to a wide range of databases and online journal of indispensable in modern humanities, e.g. JSTOR, Brill New Pauly, Brill New Jacoby, Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum [SEG], Thesaurus Linguae Graecae [TLG], the Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek. The UWr plans to expand access to online resources including upcoming subscription to L'Année philologique and online output of major publishers (e.g. Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Brill).

This project does not require access to specialized equipment. The Visiting Scientist and his team will be provided with adequate office space in the building of the Institute of History. Their offices will be equipped with standard computers and office equipment necessary in humanities research. The Institute of History has strong experience in running and providing support to international research projects in antiquity studies (see 3.1).

The UWr will provide the Visiting Scientist with professional administrative assistance, primarily through this part of university administration which routinely deals with research projects: the International Office [BWM], highly experienced in coordinating exchange programs both on student and TS level; the Scientific Research Department [DBN], specializing in providing administrative support to faculty members applying for domestic grants and running them; the Foreign Projects Office [BPZ], that deals with the international research projects. Further assistance will be provided by an administrative employee at the Institute of History appointed to facilitate day-to-day administrative issues arising in research projects pursued by faculty members at the Institute. We anticipate that the administrative assistant (5.5.2) of the project will handle all administrative issues of the project.

3.3 Details of practical relevance of employing the Visiting Scientist and creating the Project Group for strengthening the Applicant's (institution) capacity, including in the field of international scientific or academic cooperation.

Professor Robert Rollinger, whom the UWr intends to invite within this project, is known primarily through his work on empires of the ancient Near East and contacts between the Aegean World and the ancient Near East. His very strong background and publication record in Assyriology makes his expertise complimentary to the dominant research in ancient history and classics at the UWr which in recent years has concentrated on Italy, Greece, Asia Minor, India, Egypt and the Black Sea region. UWr research in history of the ancient world has concentrated predominantly on studying Greek and Latin sources, mostly documentary (e.g. Nawotka, Wypustek), with some Egyptology component (e.g. Wojciechowska), but with very little study of Near Eastern evidence. The Visiting Scientist and his project group can strengthen the present research in ancient history at the UWr in more than one way. Professor Rollinger's acumen in Assyriology will surely encourage younger scholars, in particular prospective doctoral students, to consider studying languages of Babylonia and the Levant and pursuing research topics based on original sources written in ancient Semitic languages. Since the proposed research topic is to study empire in the ancient Near East in broader context, it will allow the UWr to build upon research on the empire of Alexander the Great (e.g. Nawotka) and his successors carried in Wrocław over the last two decades. It is sure to reshape this line of research both by deeper involvement of sources of the Near East and of the pertinent methodology, and by implementing a longer perspective, typical of the approach of Professor Rollinger, never hesitant to apply a long durée approach to phenomena and

processes characteristic of the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean world. It will delve into not adequately chartered territory of lasting and multifaceted cultural exchange between the Near East and the Aegean World. This project will also strengthen the research of the ancient Levant, so far rarely approached by scholars at the UWr. Finally, this project should allow the UWr to build upon its strength and experience in study of ancient elites. This study, based predominantly on epigraphic material, resulted in a number of published (e.g. Kotula; Łoś; Pałuchowski) and upcoming (Pietruszka) books, dealing mostly with elites of the Roman world. With this project, the experience and expertise in social history already existent at the UWr, will be confronted with sources, methods and research questions typical of study of the ancient Near East. Thus employing the Visiting Scientist will markedly contribute to the depth and breadth of ancient history research in Wrocław, contributing to promoting the UWr as a modern and dynamic university that does not hesitate to apply innovative methods of international cooperation. Apart from or perhaps alongside his research achievements, Professor Rollinger has built unmatched position at the center of various academic networks, to mention only the most prestigious and influential: the European Network for the History of Ancient Greece and the Melammu Project. His membership in important academies, learned societies, editorial boards will give the UWr scholars and doctoral students opportunity to interact with a wide range of international scholars who take part in these networks. Especially promising is strengthening UWr's ties with the University of Innsbruck, and building cooperation with universities in Helsinki, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Irvine (UCI) which contribute to broadening the scope of research and teaching at UWr and increase its international perception. The planned teaching and mentoring by the Visiting Scientist will introduce them to networking opportunities and broaden their access to international highest-quality journals and publishing houses by acquiring skills and techniques necessary for successful submission of their books and papers to publishers. Especially promising are plans to develop a joint doctoral program in ancient history with the University of Innsbruck, the alma mater of Robert Rollinger (see 3.5). With Professor Rollinger and his project group ancient history at the UWr will acquire opportunity to take part in some of the most prestigious academic initiatives within the Melammu Project and the "New Achaemenid History Workshops" (see 3.4 on both). Over the duration of the project a Melammu Workshop on comparative History of Empire will take place on Wrocław in 2023 and the call will be announced for a major international conference within the framework of the "New Achaemenid History Workshops" to be held in Wrocław in 2025.

3.4 Practical relevance of employing the Visiting Scientist and creating the Project Group for the development of science in Poland, including the expected impact on the scientific field/discipline represented by the Visiting Scientist.

Much of what was said above in section 3.3 applies to the field of ancient history in Poland in general. Employment of Professor Rollinger in the UWr and the planned activities of his project group will provide a great boost to ancient history study in Poland. The proposed topic of his project is among the fundamental research issues of ancient history and the territorial aspect of the project, concentrated on the ancient Near East, goes beyond the scope of majority of ancient history research in Poland which traditionally has been concerned with the Western Mediterranean, mostly with ancient Italy or the western provinces of the Roman Empire, while in the Eastern Mediterranean the area most commonly investigated by Polish scholars has been Egypt. The focus on the Near East will greatly enhance the territorial scope of ancient history study in Poland by handling issues of prime importance in research of the area inadequately approached so far by Polish academia. It will not have, however, to build everything from scratch. Some empires of the ancient Middle East have been extensively studied in Poland in the past: the Parthian empire (Wolski; Olbrycht), and the Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great (Nawotka; Olbrycht), and, to a degree, the Seleukid empire (Wolski). This project is likely to give additional impetus to study of empires of Iran, to research on responses and evolution of lesser entities (various forms of vassal/client states, cities) to the changing landscape of major empires of the Near East, and to transformation of local elites within ancient empires.

A positive contribution to the development of ancient history/classics in Poland will be academic meetings organized in Wrocław by Professor Rollinger and his project group, and participation of Polish scholars and doctoral students in annual conferences and workshops: "New Achaemenid History Workshops", "Melammu Project", "Transformation of Empire: From the Neo-Assyrian Empire to the Sasanians" (planned by the Austrian Academy of Sciences for 2021-2026 as a commission). Two most prestigious will belong to the Melammu Project and to the "New Achaemenid History Workshops" series. The UWr has already been a partner of the Melammu Project for a number of years, having organized the 13th Melammu Symposium in 2019 and this participation will continue. Beginning next year, the network created by Professors Rollinger and Shayegan is launching "New Achaemenid History Workshops", a series of academic meetings, planned as continuation of the original "Achaemenid History Workshops", rightly considered the most important gathering in study of history of ancient Iran. It was a series of annual meetings organized by H. Sancisi-Weerdenburg, that took place in Groningen, London and Ann Arbor, MI (1983-1990), attended by the international team of historians, philologists, archaeologist and orientalist, and resulted in series of eight "Achaemenid History" volumes including a great number of ground-breaking studies written by, i.a.: P. Briant, J. Wiesehöfer, J.M. Balcer, M. Brosius, M.A. Dandamayev, J.W. Drijvers, J. Elayi, W. Henkelman, A. Kuhrt, A. Lemaire, D.M. Lewis, O. Murray, M.C. Root, N. Sekunda, S. Sherwin-White, M. Stolper, C. Tuplin, R.J. van der Spek, M. Vickers. The "Achaemenid History Workshops" significantly developed the modern understanding of the Persian Empire, its nature and its Near Eastern context, and the interactions between the Near Eastern and Aegean worlds in Antiquity by adopting an interdisciplinary approach and pointing out the necessity of using the Eastern evidence in interpreting the past of the Achaemenid Empire. It was one of the most successful research initiatives that shaped the international academic discourse not only in the Achaemenid studies itself but also in Near Eastern, Classical and Anatolian studies. The "New Achaemenid History Workshop" will unite prominent scholars all around the world, continuing with questions left unanswered by the original series. The "New Achaemenid History Workshops" planned to take place in Wrocław thanks to this project, giving the UWr enormous exposure to the top-range global academic community of historians, orientalist, archaeologists interested in Iran and creating unmatched opportunity for Polish scholars to take part in an academic meeting likely to re-shape our understanding of ancient history.

Last but not least, the presence in Poland of a top global scholar of the ancient Near East study and his easier and natural interaction with Polish ancient historians and classicists will stimulate the debate in Poland. It is also likely to create a positive challenge to local academia, encouraging Polish scholars to take up more ambitious research projects and to participate in high-caliber academic meetings to be staged in Wrocław thanks to activity of Professor Rollinger and his project group.

3.5 How the Applicant intends to continue the cooperation with the Visiting Scientist and the Project Group beyond the funding period of the Project?

The UWr intends to cooperation with the Visiting Scientist and the Project Group beyond the funding period of the Project in five discreet ways:

1. through joint research projects: section 4.3 specifies grant programs to which the project group of Professor Rollinger will apply over the duration of the project. Long-time experience acquired by faculty members and doctoral students of ancient history at the UWr indicates the average success rate in domestic grant application at 50%, with

100% success rate in major grants (MPD, Maestro). Assuming that the project group of Professor Rollinger will be superior in academic output to the current faculty at the UWr, at least a similar success rate in grant applications should be anticipated. Since all applications will be filled via the UWr, some members of the project group will continue to work in Wrocław beyond the funding period of the Project; the others will co-operate with UWr scholars in implementing the projects started during this project. Long-duration projects (ERC grants, Maestro, CEUS) should provide financial support for co-operation with members of Professor Rollinger's project group for 4-5 years beyond the funding period of the Project.

2. through academic meetings: sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 list academic meetings planned for this Project and because of it. The UWr intends to participate in the Melammu Project beyond the funding period of the Project, organizing a workshop within 5 years after the end of the Project. The principal Wrocław event within the framework of the "New Achaemenid History Workshop" will be a major international conference announced during the duration of the Project and conducted in 2025, during or soon after the end of its the funding period. Bearing in mind that the "New Achaemenid History Workshops" are planned for 2021-2030, UWr academic staff and doctoral students are likely to participate in annual meetings of this series also after 2025.

3. through education on doctoral level: the UWr intends to work with Professor Rollinger and his home university to establish joint PhD studies. The first step towards this goal will be a joint doctoral seminar in ancient history between the Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik of the University of Innsbruck and the Institute of History of the UWr beginning in the second year of the Project with both universities supporting their students travel to the partner institution. Two seminar meetings of Wrocław and Innsbruck doctoral students per year (one per semester) are planned, alternately in both universities. Doctoral students at each university will be encouraged to spend a semester or a year in the partner institution on Erasmus exchange to take specialized classes. Doctoral students will be encouraged to work with two supervisors, from both universities. This cooperation with Professor Rollinger and his home university is planned to last beyond the funding period of the Project, hopefully to develop into regular joint PhD studies.

4. through academic exchange: the UWr intends to promote academic exchange between the UWr and the University of Innsbruck on student and teaching staff level using Erasmus program and other opportunities beyond the funding period of the Project.

5. through teaching on BA level: the UWr intends to establish a long-term cooperation with the Project group members in order to enrich its educational offer and to attract new students, domestic and international alike. The Project group members are thought to be highly skilled young scholars of excellent scientific standing, significant international experience and expertise in many research fields that could help the UWr in shaping new generations of academic staff: due to the extent of competencies required from the Project group members (Ancient History, Classics, Archaeology, Epigraphy, Papyrology, Classical and Near Eastern Philology, Ancient Languages etc.), they can later enrich the educational offer of the UWr with courses taught in English. By taking part in international projects, applying for research grants and improving its educational offer, the UWr may become more attractive to international students. The ongoing and successful European Cultures program, offered for ca. 10 years at the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences can serve as an example of correlation between ambitious research project and teaching. The program is devoted to the English-speaking students and the number of classes is taught by former participants of already mentioned MPD and Maestro projects. The NAWA project certainly will help to increase level of the ongoing courses and surely will result with creation of the new ones, which will result in higher interest of the foreign students in the topics related to the ancient world.

Part 4. Project description

4.1 Project description, including:

- activities planned during project implementation: planned research/development work, implementations, didactic/mentoring activities, dissemination and other,
- state-of-the-art and objectives;
- planned results;
- methodology;
- use of resources (incl. large research infrastructure),
- cooperation with other scientific institutions or enterprises, including international cooperation.

From the Achaemenids to the Romans: Contextualizing empire and its longue-durée developments

1. Contextualizing empire and empire studies

The discussion on empires has significantly gained momentum since the late 1980s with Paul Kennedy's "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers" (Kennedy 1987). It has experienced a noticeable boom both in public discourse and within scholarship, and it is present on many levels. It is encountered in feature articles, in the everyday political processing of the world events, and in an abundance of scientific publications. The reasons for this astonishing development are widely varied, but they can be defined rather clearly. Essentially, several components can be named which carry the discussion and provide for both the increased scholarly interest and for the greater everyday political attention. A decisive role is played by current political situations as well as by contemporary history backgrounds. These are diverse and change the view both of the present and of history. The history of policy and the history of events, *res gestae*, war, and international relations experiences a renaissance in the research and gains significantly in popularity. It may not be overlooked within this context that there is a large and lengthy scholarly culture of writings on the history of empires and on universal history with regard to the great powers (concerning the European Powers in Modern European History see Suppan 2020), the empires, and their chief participants, if one thinks of Leopold von Ranke (*Weltgeschichte*) in the nineteenth century (Ranke 1881–1888), or Paul Kennedy (*The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*) in the twentieth century (Kennedy 1987: 438ff., 447ff., 458ff., 471ff., 488ff., 514ff.; 2nd edition 1991, 3rd edition 2003), and thus these traditions and the corresponding models are carried on (Gehler and Rollinger 2014. Gehler and Rollinger 2020. Rollinger, Degen, and Gehler 2020). However, writing imperial history does not just mean a return to universal history, but rather an entangled and interconnected history with global perspectives which also implies a renaissance of the history of the great powers. Combined with the new, newer, and the newest approaches in historical research including social and cultural sciences, but also different branches of science (cf. Rollinger and Stadler 2019), it will be enriched even further.

Empires have to both successfully ward off external threats (aggression from opponents and challenges from rivals: cf. Externbrink 2020) and to combat internal challenges (rebellions, unrest, turmoil through dynasty conflicts and succession disputes etc., cf. Hoffmann 2020, Dybaś 2020, and Pohl 2020) in a commanding manner. Within that context, they demonstrate the capability of coping with military defeats and political setbacks, of compensating quickly, and of managing political crises and economic instability and of successfully mastering the processes of societal transformation that are perceived as phenomena of decline and fall (concerning decline, revival and fall of an empire, see Gehler, Rollinger and Strobl (eds.) forthcoming. Cf. also Ziemann 2020). In this way, they can often last for centuries, such as the Imperium Romanum between the late Republic, late antiquity (and far beyond), and the Ottoman Empire on the whole but especially between 1718 and 1918 (Cf. Uluisik 2020.).

The explanatory model of the "Augustan threshold" (Michael Doyle) as a measuring stick for an empire's *longue-durée* success all too often turns out within this context to be too simple, since the processes of transformation in question are substantially more complex and varied. In the penetration of rule, empires can definitely be differentiated from nation-states. Thus, ruling the territory of the state does not always have to be complete in the sense of a nation-state. The permanent smoldering of unrest in certain (fringe) areas even appears to have been rather a sort of normal condition. That is not to be viewed as a sign of weakness, however, but rather one of strength, since the persistence of the overall state was as a rule not affected by this (Gehler and Rollinger 2014).

2. Empire and Transformation Processes

As it has just been mentioned the model of an "Augustan threshold" might be instructive and plausible at first glance but on a long-term perspective it is too simplistic and does not adequately describe the complex developments empires are facing and managing. This caveat somehow also affects two other scholarly very well-established key events any empire is supposed to witness, i.e. "birth" and "collapse". Although it is still perfectly justifiable to examine these crucial events of an empire's history, this approach does not always offer appropriate answers (cf. Fowles 2016; Harper 2017; Middleton 2017; Weiss 2017; Eisenberg 2018 and the various contributions in Gehler, Rollinger and Strobl (eds.) forthcoming. For the more and more important topics of climate changes, plagues and disease see Gatto and Zerboni 2015; Haldon et al. 2018a; Haldon et al. 2018b; Haldon et al. 2018c; Scheidel (ed.) 2018). The reason for this is that empires do not only experience complex developments of ups and downs, but also intricate processes of reshaping, restructuring and transformation (Canepa 2018). This can imply the selective acquisition and takeover of specific traditions by ignoring others at the same time, fragmentation and losing political and military dominance but at the same time the maintenance of imperial claims, social and economic reorientation but survival of the relevant classes of the elite, as well as the acquisition of imperial frameworks from outside without becoming a "real empire" (see Pöhl 2020).

These developments appear to be more often the rule than the exception and it is a true challenge to describe this kind of "new" and transformed states by an adequate terminology. With a view on developments in South-East Asia, Hermann Kulke has described such states in interim stages as "imperial kingdoms" (Kulke 1986. See also the various contributions in Lanfranchi and Rollinger (eds.) 2010, and cf. Frasch 2020). This appears to be a Solomonic solution and may help to differentiate states like Axum (Lusini 2020), Greek Bactria (cf. Hoo and Wiesehöfer 2020), the Byzantine 'Empire' after the middle of the 7th century (cf. Haldon 2016), and many others from unambiguous empires like Assyria, Achaemenid Persia, the early caliphate, and the Ottoman Empire (cf. Uluisik 2020). However, what is important here is to highlight the relevant processes of transformation that many empires appear to experience, much more than simply decline, collapse or face destruction (this important aspect of empire history needs much more research in the near future. See Heather 2005; Haldon 2013; Wood 2013; Robinson 2013; Steinacher and Winckler 2014; Canepa 2018; Preiser-Kapeller 2018). This may even be regarded as a very specific form of an empire's resilience (Schwartz and Nichols 2010; Faulseit 2016).

In many cases, empires are ideologically embedded within larger contexts. They can refer to traditions and predecessors, but they do not necessarily have to do so, as in the case, for example, of the EU, which does this in the best case in mild attempts by making efforts at a somewhat diffuse idea of Europe and tracing this back to antiquity (Funke 2002; Gehler 2016; Gehler 2018: 626–630. Gehler and Rollinger (eds.) 2020).

Empires in any case rely upon the creation of historical heritage and a cultural legacy. In order to be and remain empires, they have to call posterity to mind. If they are not present in the collective and cultural memory (cf. Pöhl 2020), they have forfeited their imperial claim, myth, and aura. Not only do they therefore have to provide an outstanding power factor in material history, they also require an influential culture of reception that manifests itself in the continued existence of architecture and "culture" or a lasting and prominent historiography (Canepa 2018). These aspects represent an element of continuity that spans multiple historical periods. It also affects the general phenomenon of transformation processes of empire.

3. Transformation and *longue-durée*: From the Achaemenids to the Romans

This project concentrates on a specific group of states that are commonly labelled as "empire" and that we encounter through all historical periods. The chronological framework is limited to 500 BC- 500 AD, the millennium of unprecedented transformation in history in the East and the West. At the zenith of their power, the "empires" had an enormous geographical reach multiplying their economic and military power as well as their political influence within a trans-continental scope. The project will take into consideration both established, traditional empires and short-termed empires (Rollinger, Degen, and Gehler (eds.) 2020). Both the established and the short-term empires often came into existence in a weak international framework which constituted a power vacuum with disrupted entities and fragmented structures. Their historical beginnings are commonly based upon a charismatic, vigorous and ruthless conqueror, who leads his armies to distant regions. Undeniably, they share a belligerent attitude and war is a characteristic element of their political self-conception. In fact some of the largest and at one point most powerful empires proved ephemeral - the best example being the empire of Alexander the Great. Even more transient was the Pontic empire of Mithridates VI. Yet both Alexander the Great and Mithridates who emulated his Macedonian role-model in more than one way greatly influenced or even shaped the world great empires of their age and their public perception did not fade nearly as rapidly as their political power. For both of these reasons their empires will be scrutinized in this project too.

In recent years, it has become increasingly obvious that major developments in the history of empire starting in the first half of the first millennium BC can only be adequately understood when they are seen in larger historical contexts. It has been realized that the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, Persian Empires as well as the empires of Alexander, the successors, the Parthians and Romans share a common stream of tradition that cannot be ignored, which affects culture, kingship, ideology, world view, and bureaucracy (Rollinger 2020. Daryaee and Rollinger (eds.) 2020). This also applies for general political developments that concern conquest, dynasty, self-perception, and the fundamental question of the stability or weakness of these empires. Thus, for a better understanding of the phenomenon of empire in world history, its genesis and development, it is necessary to develop a broader perspective and locate it within the context of a broader history of empires, a context that starts with the evolution of empire in the ancient Near East and is still vibrant with the establishment of the Roman empire, and even beyond.

The project focuses on a specific and crucial period within this *longue-durée* trajectory of empire history. It starts with the Achaemenid-Persian empire, sometimes labelled as

the last ancient Near Eastern empire (Jacobs and Rollinger (eds.) 2020), and follows the paths of empire-history through the establishment of the Roman empire that is generally thought to give way to a new epoch laying foundation to the later "European history." This innovative approach overcomes traditional historical borderlines by advocating a transdisciplinary agenda that consciously focuses on the continuity and discontinuity of structures and concepts. It thereby transcends the general agreement on how to organize the outline of political history of empire within this crucial historical period. This traditional approach conceptualizes the historical outline as a succession of clearly defined empires. Each of them is perceived as a kind of living individual with its human cycle of life. i.e. birth, youth, heyday, age, and death. All these empires are purportedly clearly distinguished from each other with clear cut beginnings and endings. This concept that has its origins already in antiquity is further highlighted by disciplinary borderlines between Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Classics that gain further momentum by ideologically based conceptions that envisage the history of empire through the lens of an east-west divide thus operating with dichotomies of "orient" and "occident," "Asia" and "Europe," stagnation and development, tyranny and freedom, etc.

In contrast to such views the project consciously ignores these dividing lines and pre-conceived and ideologically charged conceptions. It follows a structural approach already established in late antique and early medieval studies that highlights processes of transformation and change within a crucial period of human history (Halsall 2007. Heather 2005. Heather 2009. Heather 2013. Meier 2012. Meier 2014. Meier 2019). Methodologically it envisages the concept of empire as an analytical tool to transcend already established historical epochs and to focus on long-term processes of adaption and adoption, continuity and discontinuity. It thereby intends to get a better and more detailed grip on the dynamics of the early history of empire within a universal, i.e. Afro-Eurasian context and its long-term developments and trajectories (Preiser-Kapeller 2018). It questions the generally considered major break to have taken place with the conquests of Alexander the Great when ancient Near Eastern empires and history are thought to have come to an end and a new, this time western empire emerges and a new era is introduced. This project challenges this well - established view by contemplating:

1.) what empire means in the crucial period between 500 BC and 500 AD,

2.) which role the structures of empire play in a dynamic and long-term process of interconnected and entangled worlds within an Afro-Eurasian historical framework.

4. Empire within: vassal states, cities, elites

For all attention paid to the empire, this project is not about imperial structures and great conquerors alone. It will probe the empire in transition through a number of studies focused on developments often overshadowed in classical sources and modern historiography alike by notions of empire-building, conquest and collapse of great powers. The project realizes that ancient empires were not strictly centralized states ruled by the king/emperor through neatly structured, uniform bureaucracy but that they were complex, multilingual and multi-layered states in which the central power had to negotiate its position with variety of smaller principalities, temple-states, cities, tribes etc. These characteristic although more applicable to Achaemenid and Seleukid empires, were shared by the imperial Roman Republic and the Early Roman empire too. Therefore one focus of this project will be interaction of central imperial power with smaller entities within broadly defined sphere of imperial power.

Some of these smaller entities, often referred to as vassal states, were ephemeral, while the other remarkably long-lasting, to the point of outliving an empire with whom they were associated. Vassal/client kingdoms of the imperial Roman Republic and the Roman empire have attracted the greatest interest of modern historiography with the dominant view that, alongside the Roman military might, the institutions common in Roman public and private life, i.e. *hospitium* (mutual hospitality), *amicitia* (friendship) and *patrocinium* (patronage), allowed Rome to dominate the Mediterranean for several centuries (Badian 1958; Jehne and Pina Polo 2015; Wendt 2015; Baltrush and Wilker 2015). Fergus Millar once coined the name two-level sovereignty for the system of the Roman empire and its client states (Millar 2002). This project takes the position that the vassal states constituted the primary context for any ancient empire. Many of them were studied in the past, usually for their own sake, while this project intends to research the phenomenon of vassal principalities as a constituent factor in history of ancient empires. In the period between the battle of Actium (31 BC) and Trajan's eastern campaign (115 AD), most eastern client states gradually came under direct Roman administration. The general scholarly consensus depicts incorporated client kingdoms as victims of their own success: by helping to introduce Roman administration and culture in their territories, they facilitated their subsequent swift takeover (Braund 1984; Kaizer and Facella (eds.) 2010; Sartre 2013). Nonetheless, certain examples prove that the growing Roman impact in the cultural and administrative spheres of eastern client kingdoms need not have inevitably led to annexation and the incorporation could be reversed, as happened in Commagene, Judea (the early first c. AD) and Osrhoene (the third c. AD) (Millar 1993). This consensus needs to be tested, as well the dominant theory that the Roman administration had not any grand strategy bent on incorporating their client kingdoms, instead preferring a flexible and reactive approach towards their eastern allies, by and large refraining from meddling in the internal affairs of their client states' ruling dynasties – that is, as long as their independence benefitted the Empire.

But this project intends to go beyond Roman imperial history, looking at client/vassal states as a phenomenon typical of many, if not all, empires of the Near East. Although it is not possible to study all of them within the framework of this project, a few case studies will be performed. One general question to be asked is about mutual benefits the empire and its vassal state drew from their relationship. Then the project wants to ascertain what factors contributed to longevity of some lesser states: was it geography, making lesser states on fringes of the empire more independent and stable than those closer to centre of the empire, was it their distinct internal characteristics, ethnic or religious cohesiveness, well-established local dynasty rooted in the past and perhaps endowed with its own ideology, not necessarily sharing principle tenets with ideology of the empire. What needs to be investigated in this context is the established notion of vassal states playing the role of a buffer between major empires: it is commonly applicable to Armenia, Osrhoene, Adiabene and Sophene (Millar 1993; Bowersock 2003; Fowler 2010; Marciak 2017). Yet the question needs to be asked whether this notion is not overstated to the point of obfuscating rather than clarifying relations between the empire and its vassal state and whether it was typical only of the age of the Roman empire or if the phenomenon of vassal buffer states is applicable to all empires of the ancient Near East. Both the local and imperial perspective on complex relations between empires and vassal principalities will be applied in search of conclusions applicable to all empires and all vassal states in the territory and time-frame under investigation.

Questions will be asked about the family bonds, real and invented, between the ruling dynasties of ancient empires and vassal kingdoms. The scale of this phenomenon will be studied with additional issues: whether family bonds between the imperial family and local rules were forged as a part of major design, how this policy evolved over time, if it was influenced by ethnic or religious factors. The royal family of Kommagene is known to have underlined direct family ties with ruling families of the three great empires of the distant and recent past: the Achaemenids, family of Alexander the Great and the Seleukids. A question needs to be asked whether Antiochos of Kommagene was an isolated example or part of a more widespread phenomenon of creating royal past and building legitimacy in periods marked by succession of empires and ensuing instability.

Alongside the family ties, real or imagined, an issue worthy of consideration in this project is the manner in which vassal kings expressed their loyalty to the Empire. This again, as many things associated with client kings in general, has been most thoroughly investigated in reference to the Roman empire and its vassals. Their relationship

functioned both as an interpersonal and a political bond. Many rulers chose to socialize with the emperor and his family: a stay at the emperor's court could leave a favourable impression and convince the emperor of the king's loyalty, as well as allow the king to gain first-hand knowledge of the Empire's inner workings and establish a network of relationships with members of the imperial elite (Allen 2006). If client kings could not visit the imperial capital in person, they sent their offspring and relatives as hostages, or alternatively they sent them to gain a proper Roman "education", a practice that, in Hekster's words, transformed Rome into a "princely kindergarten." (Hekster 2010). One should ask whether forging personal ties between the imperial family and imperial aristocracy and rulers of vassal kingdoms was a phenomenon typical of the Roman empire alone, springing from the Roman legal and social practice of uneven friendship codified in the system of patronage (clientela) or if it was a more universal approach, to find in other empires of the Near East.

The most wide-spread lesser entities interacting with empires, in the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia at least, were cities (Eilers 2002; Goodman 2008; Nicols 2014). Their interaction is a topic far exceeding the bounds of this project. Yet a probing into a few issues will be done. One is the ways in which empires were active within the world of cities within their limits and without. The project intends to go beyond the current discussion of propaganda as the motive of imperial benefaction towards temples, oracles, festivals. It will focus on interaction, taking into consideration the ways how cities attempted, often with success, to influence the empire. Another issue is the internal evolution of a city, in contact with the empire. This perhaps can be best approached in the case of Phoenicia whose city came into being well before lower terminus of this project, who interacted, often unwillingly, with a string of empires, from the Achaemenid, through Alexander's, Seleukid, to Roman, and whose transformation can be studied based on ample local evidence, be it inscriptions in variety of indigenous and imperial languages, coins, archaeological material.

Much the same questions as posed to vassal kings in their relation with empires will be asked with respect to aristocracy and elite families in general. This project intends to question the established notion of the tremendous importance of (Greek, Macedonian) ethnicity in buildup of the ruling elite of Hellenistic empires, the Seleukid empire in the first place, and of the Roman empire in the East (Romer 1985; Goodman 1987). It will try to look beyond the hellenizing curtain of Greek authors in study of elites within the empires of the ancient Near East, searching for patterns of adaptation of ethnically diverse elites to the ruling class of an empire. This question will be asked about ethnically non-Iranians within the imperial elites of the Achaemenid empire and about non-Western elites within the Seleukid and Roman empires. An interesting issue is whether the elites originating from among peoples conquered by an empire were simply pursuing a survival strategy or if they were contributing to transformation of the ways how the majority imperial culture and society operated.

Particular attention will be paid to periods of transition between empires and strategies adopted by vassal kings, cities and aristocratic families.

The overlapping issue in this project is the cultural dimension of the empire. In order to discuss the cultural impact of Ancient empires on the provincial populations one need to trace the dissemination of certain cultural traits as a consequence of direct or indirect imperial influence. One of the most apparent manifestations of the cultural processes like that is the spread of languages of international significance. In the case of the Near East the most important languages that could be a subject of such analysis are Aramaic, Greek and Latin. So far, there was several studies dealing with the role and significance of Latin in the Near East (Millar 1995; Eck 2009; Isaac 2009). However the problem still demands further elaboration that would provide more specific picture of the presence of Latin into the Eastern Mediterranean and Near East as a whole and in particular subregions of this vast area. The lack of comprehensive local studies in this field prevents one from distinguishing common patterns from local peculiarities. In terms of this project, it will be also important to examine the fate of other vernacular languages and the response of indigenous populations to the spread of languages of international significance. One of such cases is perhaps the decline of the Phoenician language in the evidence (Briquel-Chatonnet 1991). However, this case deserves further examination by juxtaposing it with other examples of such phenomenon, e.g. the decline of the Anatolian languages in the early Greco-Roman period.

In such a wide-range study it is important to include diverse case studies that would allow one to identify particular trends of global processes reflected in the cultural development of particular regions. Thus, while discussing the processes of shaping culture and identities under the influence of Ancient empires, it is necessary to examine regions of different cultural and ethnic background that display different cultural dynamics: 1) a milieu of deeply rooted homogeneous background and expansive cultural potential (e.g. Greece); 2) a milieu of deeply rooted background of cultural and ethnic duality (e.g. Bosphorus); 3) a milieu of deeply rooted homogeneous background disposed on foreign cultural influences (e.g. Phoenicia); 4) a milieu of recent and mixed background (e.g. Antiochene). This would allow to state how global tendencies were reflected in the local context all around the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East.

Accomplishing these research objectives demands applying a multidimensional approach to empires, provincial societies and their integration with the imperial structure.

Reconciling all of these divergent perspectives is possible only within a wide-ranged project conducted by a research team of highly specialized scholars.

5. Methodology

The project combines well-established historiographical methods with recent theoretical approaches in a productive and engaging framework that considerably enlarges perspectives and gives way to a dynamic and open-minded evaluation of the available sources. It makes use of a universal view of the ancient worlds that takes into consideration the "cultures" and lands of Afro-Eurasia as entangled and interconnected territories. The project focuses on phenomena of proto-globalization and glocalization and defines "empire" as a transregional and connective entity that structures historical processes beyond the traditional boundaries of traditional disciplines. Drawing from the most recent results of the "imperial turn" it is based on interdisciplinary diversity and wide range. It combines archaeological, historical and philological disciplines engaged in different fields and areas. It unites Classical Studies, Ancient History, Ancient Near Eastern Studies and a colorful variety of Archaeologies that range from Ancient Near Eastern to Classical, and Roman Archaeologies. This demonstrates not only the wide outreach of research agendas but also the far-reaching geographical, chronological and intellectual dimensions of the project. In its unified diversity the project focuses on the interconnected imperial worlds between 500 BC and 500 AD in their broadest sense. It transcends the traditional boundaries of the scientific disciplines as they have been established in the 19th century. It underlines and highlights the multiple aspects of connectivity that unite Ancient Worlds. It makes use of new methodological concepts on how to approach and study ancient cultures. It shares a seminal understanding of culture as a dynamic system that creates and defines meaning. A major aim is to overcome traditional concepts of Eurocentrism. Ancient Worlds are not anymore seen as predecessors of a Western-European history but as an essential part of globally connected World History. The trajectories of Ancient Near Eastern history to the Islamic and Central Asian History are as important as those to the West and North. Empire History and the transcultural networks involved are seen as a framework that connects cultures and regions. Thus, the interdisciplinary nature and diversity of the project offer a new understanding of the interconnected worlds between 500 BC and 500 AD. Moreover, the project faces the many challenges of a globalized world of the 21st century CE. It places Ancient Worlds and Archaeologies within the contexts of a multi-faceted globalized world and contributes to better understand the present times by profoundly analyzing their interconnected pasts.

A project which spans a culturally diverse area over a millennium will rely both on meta-analysis of many previous studies on empires. It will apply diverse methods of source analysis, typical of Assyriology when cuneiform evidence is concerned, of epigraphy, Greek and Latin and Semitic (Phoenician and Aramaic), numismatics, in its various aspects pertaining to diverse coinages of the ancient Near East, papyrology, and art history, used in study of iconographical sources such as sculpture, reliefs, mosaics. It will draw as well on archaeological reports and evidence, always published or at least housed in museums. There are no plans to conduct original archaeological excavations or surveys. This project will apply both qualitative and quantitative research methods, e.g. counting inscriptions and producing epigraphic curves in select areas of the ancient Near East (e.g. in Phoenicia, parts of Syria and Palestine) and conducting detailed analysis of individual inscriptions in stone, mosaics and coin series.

6. Activities planned during project implementation:

Most activities planned during project implementation is research in the fields of classics, ancient history, oriental studies with sub-disciplines such as epigraphy, numismatics. The results of research will be disseminated as books, journal articles, conference papers. Among planned activities are two conferences: Melammu Workshop in 2023, with a topic strictly related to the this project and a large, high-caliber conference within the series "New Achaemenid History Workshop" in 2025 in which end results of this project will be presented by all participants. Over the duration of the project its participants will be meeting at regular seminars, twice per semester, presenting their work in progress. In addition the doctoral student(s) of the project will participate in Wroclaw-Innsbruck joint doctoral seminars. Professor Rollinger will preside on project seminars and will be offering mentoring to junior members of the project group. All members of the project group are expected to submit papers (2 per participant) to high quality journals and to present papers at conferences. Since two conferences will be organized at the UWr within the framework of this project, acts of both will be published as volumes co-edited by Professor Rollinger and a member of the project group. Post-docs are expected to edit books based on their doctoral dissertations and to submit them to good international publishers before the end of this project.

7. Expected benefits for the Polish science and the Applicant

See sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

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4.2 Do you plan to apply for research component financed by the National Science Centre?

yes

no

4.2.1 Research component financed by the National Science Centre:

RESEARCH COMPONENT

1. THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

a. Materials and small equipment:

- computers for the Project group members together with licenses and software development costs: PLN 30.000

section "a" in total: PLN 30.000

b. External services:

- costs of purchasing other specialist services necessary for the proper implementation of the Research component: language corrections – ca. PLN 12.000; preparation of maps and purchase of copyright over photographs and illustrations necessary for the Project group members publications – ca. PLN 23.000 in total.

section "b" in total: PLN 35.000

c. Business trips:

- costs of participation in seminars/conferences related to the subject of the Research component: costs of participation in two seminars in Innsbruck of four Project members (Experienced scholar, two postdocs and the doctoral candidate). Transportation – PLN 16.000, accommodation – PLN 4.500, per diem – PLN 7.500. In total: ca. PLN 28.000. Additionally, participation in one scientific conference of each Project group member: ca. PLN 25.000 in total.

- travel expenses (including assignments) necessary to implement the Research component e.g. queries, field studies, etc.: library and museum queries of the team members in the foreign centres such as British and American School at Athens, Bodleian and Sackler libraries, Getty Institute, University of California, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien and Römermuseum – five weeks for each team member (Visiting Scientist, Experienced Scholar, two Postdocs and the doctoral candidate). Costs of one person stay: transportation – ca. PLN 2.000, accommodation – ca. PLN 7.500, per diem – ca. PLN 5.500; PLN 15.000 in total for one team member; PLN 75.000 for the whole Project group. Abovementioned costs are drawn up on the basis of the travel rates applicable at the University of Wrocław

section "c" in total: PLN 128.000

d. Visits, consultations:

- costs of individual arrivals/visits of external collaborators and/or consultants closely related to the subject of the Research component: the Research Component allows to invite other specialists in the particular fields of research carried out by the members of the project group. Such seminars will create the perfect opportunity to shape their course through consultations and debates with other experts in the subject. Planning to invite at least seven scientists the costs will include: accommodation and transportation: transportation ca. PLN 16.000, accommodation ca. PLN 6.500. In total: PLN 22.500.

section "d" in total: PLN 22.500

e. N/A

f. Other:

- other costs not belonging to other categories, including costs of purchasing data/databases or access to them: among the costs there is included purchasing the access to databases collecting all ancient literary texts of greco-roman world like Trismegistos (two years access, ca. PLN 9.000 in total), Brill's databases: Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum Online, Jacoby Online and New Pauly Online (ca. PLN 56.000 in total for two year fee including the Subscription Price and the Instalment Price) which are essential for reliable and accurate research in suggested subject. Moreover, the access to L'Année Philologique, the standard bibliographic tool for research in classical studies, is a necessity for exhaustive and in-depth inquiry concerning the fields examined in the project i.e. language, literature, history and culture of ancient world (ca. PLN 10.000 for two year access). The approximate cost of buying the subscriptions of those databases: PLN 75.000

- specialist publications/teaching and professional aids: specialist books/publications in a paper form – PLN 40.000

section "f" in total: PLN 115.000

The eligible costs in total: PLN 330.500

2. INELIGIBLE COSTS

a. N/A

b. indirect costs (20%): PLN 66.100

c. N/A

TOTAL COSTS: PLN 396.600

4.3 Applying for other research grants to funding institutions in Poland and abroad:

Conducting the NAWA project provides the UWr with further opportunities in applying for other research grants, both domestic and international.

International grants: the members of the project group will apply for grants within the offer of the European Research Council [ERC]. Either the Visiting Scientist or the experienced scholar (5.5.1) or both will apply for an ERC Advanced Grants, which would enable the research group to conduct further research in the main field of interest. Application will be filled within the call of 2023 and, if not successful, it will be filled again in 2024. The Visiting Scientist will work towards creating a large interdisciplinary research team linking UWr with strong partners in Europe and USA in order to conduct a large, complex research project. If he succeeds in that, the international research

team will apply for an ERC Synergy grant, most likely in 2023. Bearing in mind the size and prestige of Synergy grants and the opportunity for ground-breaking research they afford, this is the preferable way of conduct; if an application for a Synergy grant is filled, there will be no application for an ERC Advanced Grant in 2023. All the dates listed above are conjectural since the appropriate calls have not been announced yet. At least one of the junior members (5.5.3 or 5.5.4) of the research group is also expected to apply for an ERC grant, either a Starting Grant or a Consolidator Grants. This application should be filled in 2023 and, if not successful, filled again in 2024. The younger scholars can also apply already in 2021 for General Research Grants from Gerda Henkel Stiftung and for Humboldt Research Fellowships to conduct their research in Germany. Visiting Scientist with other project team members can also apply for funding on the research seminars or conducting research to The Getty Foundation's Connecting Art Histories initiative (this program is strongly connected with the field of Mediterranean Studies, the greatest percentage of grants awarded were focused on Greater Mediterranean). This application will be filled in 2022, so that seminars started under NCN research component may continue with Getty scheme. Beginning in 2021 all members of the research group are expected to apply for a Fulbright scholarships: Fulbright Junior Research Award for the PhD candidate, Fulbright Senior Award for other members of the research group. This should allow for conducting research at a US university, to teach a class in the host university, to present results of the research conducted within this project to a wider audience, and, finally, to work on building a network for future research projects. At least one member (5.5.1, 5.5.3 or 5.5.4) of the research groups is expected to apply for an Individual Fellowship of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. This application is likely to be filled in 2023 or 2024.

Besides applications for international grants the research group created by the Visiting Scientist will apply for domestic grants, although this is contingent upon success or failure in application for international grants, since the success in application for a major grant (ERC in particular) will make applying for some Polish grants unnecessary. Nevertheless some domestic grant applications will be filled notwithstanding the application process for ERC grants. First of all an application will be submitted for a grant within the Central European Science Partnership project (CEUS) awarded by NCN in cooperation with the Austrian Science Fund. Then, the experienced scholar (5.5.1) will apply to the National Science Centre [NCN] for a Maestro grant which, if successful, would allow her/him to build her/his research team. Finally in 2021 or early 2022 the research group created by the Visiting Scientist will apply for a NCN Opus grant so that research began under the NCN research component of this project can be continued when this funding expires at the end of 2022. The research group will considered applying for a grant from the National Program for the Development of Humanities [NPRH], if a call somehow related to the area of expertise of this projects is announced in 2022 or 2023. Furthermore, the project's post-docs (5.5.3, 5.5.4) are expected to apply for their own grants which would fund their academic position after this project expires. The doctoral student supported by this project is expected to apply for a Preludium grant no later than the third year of her/his doctoral studies. Closer the end of her/his doctoral studies she/he is expected to apply for relevant grants, Sonatina in the first place. Applying for the internships in the foreign centres is a must for the project's participants, hence it is anticipated that all members (5.5.1, 5.5.3 - 5.5.) will submit their proposals to NAWA Bekker program starting in 2021. Additionally, both post-docs and the PhD candidate will apply for Lanckoronski Foundation Scholarships from 2021 as well.

4.4 Additional information: references and graphics, illustrations, charts, etc. (if needed).

n/a

Part 5. Project Group description

5.1 Do you plan to create a Project Group?

yes

no

5.2.1 Start date:

2021-03-01

5.2.2 Number of months:

48

5.2.3 End date:

2025-03-01

5.3 Short description of the Project Group – goals, task, etc.

The project group will be composed of one (fairly) experienced scholar, two postdocs, one doctoral student and administrative assistant. They will all conduct research both directly related to the empire of the Near East and its transformation in the long term, and to specific topics which contextualize the empire. In particular the project group should contribute to study on the empire of Alexander the Great and its position within the cultural tradition of the ancient world, to continuity and change within vassal kingdoms of empires of the Near East, to ethnic and social transformation of elites and of cities in the Levant. Their research will thus enrich and complement the principal line of study of transformation and long-durée of empires of the Near East to be conducted by the Visiting Scientist. All members of the project group will have their individual tasks: writing and submitting books (post docs), journal articles (all), conference papers and chapters to edited volumes planned as the outcome of the project (all).

5.4 Planned number of Project Group members

5

5.5 Description of the Project Group members.

Please describe a scientific profile, required research skills and tasks to be carried out by each Project Group member (only members whose remuneration is to be covered by NAWA).

5.5.1 Profile of the 1 Project Group member

Experienced scholar within the field of classics/oriental studies/ancient history who meets or is about to meet the criteria for a PI at NCN Maestro, i.e. over the period of the last 10 years she/he: published a major monograph, published at least 5 papers in renowned international journals, acted as the PI in at least two research projects funded in competitive calls for proposals, presented papers at renowned international conferences, has been a member of a scientific committee of at least one international conference. This scholar should have a track record of publications within the area of this project, preferably on Alexander the Great or the early-Hellenistic age. She/he is expected to contribute to the study of social, political and cultural consequences of transformation of empires of the Achaemenids and of Alexander the Great, with particular emphasis on intercultural contacts, conflicts and misunderstandings in the Eastern Mediterranean from the 5th until the 3rd c. BC.

5.5.2 Profile of the 2 Project Group member

A part-time administrative assistant. The successful candidate should be holding PhD within the field of (broadly defined) classical studies/ancient history, with a very good knowledge of English and Polish, substantial international experience: if the applicant is a Polish national, she/he should have spent at least three semesters in academic institutions outside of Poland; if the applicant is not a Polish national, she/he should have spent at least three semesters in academic institutions in Poland prior to filling an application. The applicant has to demonstrate at least 4 years of administrative experience in running a research project in Poland, preferably within the field of broadly defined classical studies/ ancient history and preferably international in nature. The applicant should also have substantial experience in organizing international conferences, from advertising, through logistics, to publishing acts.

5.5.3 Profile of the 3 Project Group member

A post-doc. A successful candidate should hold a PhD in classics/ ancient history, earned not earlier than 2018. She/he should have a very good knowledge of Latin and Greek and reading ability in relevant modern languages other than English; any additional language of the ancient Near East is a bonus. Preference will be given to a candidate whose dissertation relates to the topic of this project. Other essential criteria are: publications and conference papers in antiquity studies. Experience in team work in antiquity studies is at premium. The successful candidate is expected to contribute to the study of reaction of and changes within local population in a select area in the Eastern Mediterranean (e.g. Levant, Egypt) to transforming empires in the ancient Near East. If the candidate's dissertation falls within this area of study, a book derived from it and submitted to a high-caliber publisher would be a desirable outcome of her/his work in the project.

5.5.4 Profile of the 4 Project Group member

A post-doc. A successful candidate should hold a PhD in classics/ ancient history, earned not earlier than 2018. She/he should have a very good knowledge of Latin and Greek and reading ability in relevant modern languages other than English. Preference will be given to a candidate whose dissertation relates to the topic of this project. Other essential criteria are: publications and conference papers in antiquity studies. Experience in team work in antiquity studies is at premium. The successful candidate is expected to contribute to the study of reaction of and changes within lesser powers in the Eastern Mediterranean (temple states, native kingdoms, client kingdoms) confronted with the transforming empires in the ancient Near East. If the candidate's dissertation falls within this area of study, a book derived from it and submitted to a high-caliber publisher would be considered a desirable outcome of her/his work in the project.

5.5.5 Profile of the 5 Project Group member

A PhD student. A successful candidate should be working or should plan to work towards her/his PhD within the field of classical studies/ ancient history. She/he should have a very good knowledge of Latin and Greek, with any other ancient language of the Near East as a bonus. Indispensable is reading ability in relevant modern languages other than English. Other relevant criteria are: publications and conference papers in antiquity studies. The successful candidate is expected to do doctoral level research on elite in the Levant confronted with the transformation of empires in the ancient Near East.

Part 6. Project schedule

6.1 Please give the general information about aims per year

Schedule of the Visiting Scientist's stay in the institution

2021	one week in the middle and two weeks in the end of the spring semester (academic year 2020/2021); one week in the middle of the fall semester (academic year 2021/2022)
2022	two weeks in the end of the fall semester, one week in the middle and two weeks in the end of the spring semester (academic year 2021/2022); one week in the middle of the fall semester (academic year 2022/2023)
2023	two weeks in the end of the fall semester, one week in the middle and two weeks in the end of the spring semester (academic year 2022/2023); one week in the middle of the fall semester (academic year 2023/2024)

2024	two weeks in the end of the fall semester, one week in the middle and two weeks in the end of the spring semester (academic year 2023/2024); one week in the middle of the fall semester (academic year 2024/2025)
2025	two weeks in the end of the fall semester, one week in the middle and two weeks in the end of the spring semester (academic year 2024/2025)

6.2 Please give the dates of the most important activities/tasks in the project (milestones) – up to 20 activities/tasks.

Schedule of implementation of the project

(planned research/development work, didactic/mentoring activities, dissemination and other)

No	Planned activity/task	Start date	End date
1	First Project seminar in Wrocław with the Project group members and invited guests	2021-04-01	2021-04-30
2	First Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Wrocław with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History; Second Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2021-06-01	2021-06-30
3	Third Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2021-11-01	2021-11-30
4	Second Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Innsbruck with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History; Fourth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2022-01-01	2022-01-31
5	Fifth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2022-04-01	2022-04-30
6	Sixth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests; Third Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Wrocław with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History	2022-06-01	2022-06-30
7	Seventh Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2022-11-01	2022-11-30
8	Eighth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests; Fourth Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Innsbruck with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History	2023-01-01	2023-01-31
9	Ninth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2023-04-01	2023-04-30
10	The Melammu Project Workshop in Wrocław	2023-05-04	2023-05-31
11	Tenth Project seminar in Innsbruck with Project group members and invited guests; Fifth Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Wrocław with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History	2023-06-01	2023-06-30
12	Preparation and publication of the post-conference volume (Melammu) published by the Austrian Academy of Sciences	2023-09-01	2024-12-31
13	Eleventh Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2023-11-01	2023-11-30
14	Twelve Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests; Sixth Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Innsbruck with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History	2024-01-01	2024-01-31
15	Thirteen Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests	2024-04-01	2024-04-30
16	Fourteenth Project seminar in Wrocław with Project group members and invited guests; Seventh Wrocław/Innsbruck doctoral seminar in Wrocław with the Project group members and doctoral students in Ancient History	2024-06-01	2024-06-30