

CONVENORS:

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Wissenschaftsfonds



International Conference

# The Archival Impulse:

Knowledge Production, Record Keeping,  
and Imperial Governance (15th-20th  
Centuries)



**18 March 2026 –  
20 March 2026**

Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Seminarraum 1, ÖAW Campus  
Bäckerstraße 13  
1010 Vienna

# Program

Wednesday, 18 March

17:15-19:00

## Welcome and Keynote I

Jan Hennings, Ulfat Abdurasulov, Paolo Sartori

**Randolph C. Head:** “Plenitude, Provenance, or Inclusion: Concepts of Archival Completeness and Incompleteness in Europe from the late Middle Ages to Modernity”

19:00 RECEPTION

Thursday, 19 March

9:30-10:50

## Panel I: Appropriation and Mobility

Chair: Mariya Kiprovska

**James E. Baldwin:** “Plundered Archives: The Capture and Circulation of Ottoman Documents in Early Modern Europe”

**Maartje van Gelder:** “Archival Silence and Imperial Desire: French and Austrian Looting of the Venetian Archives”

**Marianna Petiaskina:** “Governance Through Fragmentation: Baltic German Archives and the Problem of Imperial Rule”

**Ari Schriber:** “Confused Coercion: The Failed Production of ‘Correct’ Islamic Law in the Archives of French Colonial Morocco”

10:50-11:10 COFFEE BREAK

11:10-12:10

## Open Panel Discussion: Appropriation and Mobility

Chair: Mariya Kiprovska

Commentator: Paolo Sartori

12:10-13.00 LUNCH

13:00-14.20

## Panel II: Building Archives and Fictions of Governance

Chair: Wolfgang Mueller

**Sean Pollock:** “Requesting Protection, Recording Submission: ‘Circassian’ Petitions and Russian Archival Power in the Age of Ivan the Terrible”

**Nancy S. Kollmann:** “Knowledge Production and Preservation as Political Control in Seventeenth-Century Russia”

**Dylan Tzu-Yi Hsu:** “When Knowledge Fails: Archives Without Understanding in Dutch-Siraya Encounters (1625-1635)”

**Maarten Manse:** “State of Paper: Colonial Writing Culture, Governance Pretense, and the Colonial Necessity for Producing Archives”

14:20-14:40 COFFEE BREAK

14:40-15:40

## Open Panel Discussion: Building Archives and Fictions of Governance

Chair: Wolfgang Mueller

Commentator: Ulfat Abdurasulov

15:45-16:15

### Excursus

**Kerstin Klenke:** “Sonic Sources: The *Phonogrammarchiv* of the Austrian Academy of Sciences”

18:00-19:30

### Keynote II

**Cristina Vatalescu:** “Archival Turns, Now: Multidisciplinary Perspectives”

20:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Friday, 20 March

9:30-10:50

### Panel III: Documentation and Archival Legacies

Chair: Salvatore Liccardo

**Sergei Bogatyrev:** “The Archive of Ivan the Terrible as a Memory Site”

**Anna-Marie Pípalová:** “Archives, Knowledge, Power, and Publicity in Seventeenth-Century Bohemia”

**Simon Cubelic:** “Documenting the World from the Margins: Political Curiosity and Archival Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century Nepal”

**Shiru Lim:** “Narrativizing Nerchinsk: Commerce, Conquest, and Russian-Chinese Borderlands in Enlightenment History-Writing”

10:50-11:10 COFFEE BREAK

11:10-12:10

### Open Panel Discussion: Documentation and Archival Legacies

Chair: Salvatore Liccardo

Commentator: István Rév

12.10-13.30 LUNCH

13:30-14:50

### Panel IV: Documentary Regimes and the Diplomatic Impulse

Chair: Florian Schwarz

**Shounak Ghosh:** “Archives of Diplomatic Correspondence: Inquiring into the Mughal Chancery Records”

**Birgit Tremml-Werner:** “Reciprocal Relations: The Role of Indigenous Languages in Late Eighteenth-Century Diplomatic Archives”

**Konstantinos Poullos:** “The Documentary Afterlife of a Peace Congress: Archival Reconstructions of the Congress of Passarowitz (1718)”

14:50-15:10 COFFEE BREAK

15:10-16:10

### Open Panel Discussion: Documentary Regimes and the Diplomatic Impulse

Chair: Florian Schwarz

Commentator: Jan Hennings