



XVII CONGRESSVS INTERNATIONALIS EPIGRAPHIÆ GRÆCÆ ET LATINÆ

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Panel 14: At the Crossroad of Cultures Epigraphy in Ancient Syria and in the Levant

Chairs: Margherita Facella, Charles Crowther

The rich and heterogenous cultural profile of Hellenistic and Roman Syria is characterised by borrowings, blendings, and interchanges of different traditions. Although similar processes can be observed to a degree in other areas of the Near East, the geographical location of Syria made it particularly susceptible to cultural interactions over the course of its history. Despite the constraints placed on national and international fieldwork by the events of and since 2011, epigraphic research, which has contributed so much to our knowledge of these cultural processes in Syria during the Hellenistic and Roman periods, has continued. Between 2008 and today, a dozen volumes of the indispensable *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie* series (<https://igls.mom.fr/corpus>) have been published. Volume VI of the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* has recently been completed; separate small projects have also contributed to the advance of epigraphy in the Levant. The *XVII Congressus Internationalis Epigraphiae Graecae et Latinae* offers an opportunity to assess the progress of epigraphic research in these areas and to strengthen the network of scholars working in this field.

The focus of the panel will be on intercultural exchanges as reflected primarily in the Greek and Latin epigraphic evidence. The interplay of ancient and new traditions is perhaps most visible in the religious sphere. Translation and adaptation of divine entities (the so-called *interpretatio graeca*) was widespread in the Near East: Greek gods were not simply imposed but integrated into existing religious landscapes with naming conventions and divine roles adapted to new cultural contexts (R. Parker, *Greek Gods Abroad: Names, Natures, and Transformations*, California 2017). Epigraphic data also constitutes the main source for recent investigations in which the interactions between ancient religious systems is central, such as the ERC project *Mapping Ancient Polytheisms* directed by Corinne Bonnet (<https://map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/>).

At the same time, religion represents only one of the areas that the panel seeks to explore. We welcome contributions addressing any forms of cultural interaction attested in Greek, Latin, or multilingual epigraphic sources in Syria and the Levant. Proposals will be selected with the aim of encompassing the broadest range of perspectives and methodological approaches. We anticipate that members of the *IGLS* team will be present to guide the discussion.

