

SEAC 26th, Graz (Austria), August 27 – September 1, 2018

Harmony and symmetry: Celestial regularities shaping human cultures

First Announcement

Scientific Rationale

Culture is impossible without structure, and structure means regularity, the repetition of similar units of social behaviour. Astronomy as the oldest of natural sciences was always strongly connected with these regularities in human societies. Astronomical observations were important for temporal and spatial structuring daily life, providing orientation in a purely practical, but also in its spiritual meaning, thus connecting natural phenomena with astrological and religious interpretations of the world. The celestial sphere, regarded as the sky of astronomy and meteorology, as well as the heaven of divine numina, from the early times of Anaximander and Pythagoras till Copernicus and Kepler was equated with symmetry, harmony, and beauty. Till today this has been reflected in the structure of cultural creations, from architectural objects to musical forms. This broad conception of Astronomy in Culture will form the basis of the conference.

The UNESCO honoured the city by including in the World Heritage List the historic centre (1.12.1999) and Eggenberg Palace (1.8.2010), because of its “diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of the interchanges of influence from many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe from the Middle Ages until the 18th century” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/931/>). Graz, the capital of Styria and the second-largest city in Austria, is situated on the river Mur about 200 km southwest of Vienna, with a population of about 320.000 residents (in 2017). With 6 universities and 44.000 students Graz is a place of international encounter as well as intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. Karl-Franzens University is the oldest university in Graz, founded in 1585 by Archduke Karl II. Famous scientists were living and working in Graz, for example Johannes Kepler, Ludwig Boltzmann or Erwin Schrödinger.

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Schloss Eggenberg is a beautiful example of harmonious architectural skill: The building, commissioned in 1625 by Prince Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, was erected on a rectangular plain in a large garden. It represents a precisely calculated cosmos: 365 exterior windows, 24 state rooms with 52 doors, a Planet Hall with paintings created by Hans Adam Weissenkircher showing the seven celestial bodies or the twelve signs of the zodiac.

Conference venue

The conference will take place at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, the second-oldest and second-largest university in Austria. It was founded in 1585 by Archduke Karl II. About 32.500 students are currently enrolled at the university, which is divided into six faculties. Nine Nobel prize laureates lived and worked in Graz, amongst others Erwin Schrödinger and Victor Franz Hess as well as other renowned scientists as Leopold Biwald, Ludwig Boltzmann, Ernst Mach or Alfred Wegener. Here you may find a plan of the whole University campus.

The conference venue is the baroque castle "Meerscheinschlössl" in Mozartgasse 3. The contemporary building dates back to 1706. The paintings in the central hall are from the Italian Baroque painter Giulio Quaglio the Younger. Since 1914 the building has been used for educational purposes.

The city and its sights are within walking distance from the university. The best way to explore Graz is by foot, however the excellent public transport network in and around Graz allows you to be completely flexible.

More information regarding travel and accommodation on www.seac2018.org.

Call for Papers

We invite you to submit proposals for the SEAC 2018 to be held in Graz, Austria. The conference will consist of invited talks, oral presentations, and posters.

Proposals may consider the role of astronomy in any aspect of culture and may address any time period or region. We are interested in current research covering the history of astronomy, techniques of celestial navigation, astronomical knowledge hidden in archaeological sites, ethno-astronomy and cultural astronomy as well as any other aspect of cultural astronomy.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Oral presentations (except invited talks) are limited to 20 minutes (17 minutes presentation + 3 minutes discussion). A special poster session will be held. Like the oral presentations, posters will only be accepted for presentation at the conference, if the author is personally present. In case of too many applications for oral presentations, some authors will be asked to present their work as a poster.

Abstract Submission

- **No abstract submission without registration!**
- Abstracts written in English can be submitted until February 1st, 2018.
- Length of the abstract: 500 – 700 words + at least 1 reference + (optional) 1 picture
- Abstracts should consist of: title, author(s), material studied, goals, methods, discussion, conclusions, references
- Information of acceptance: till March 1st, 2018
- On the website www.seac2018.org there is a **Registration form** and an **Abstract Submission Form**. Details for payment of the registration fee will follow soon.

Preliminary Program

Mo, 27.8., 18:00 – 21:00	Welcome reception and registration
Tu, 28.8., 8:00 – 18:00	Registration, festive opening, scientific talks
We, 29.8., 8:00 – 18:00	8:00 – 12:30 Scientific talks 14:00 – 18:00 special scientific session at Eggenberg Palace
Th, 30.8., 8:00 – 18:00	Scientific talks and poster session
Fr, 31.8., 8:00 – 18:00	8:00 – 14:00 Scientific talks 16:00 – 18:00 guided city tour
Sa, 1.9., 8:00 – 15:00	8:00 – 13:00 Scientific sessions 14:00 – 15:00 SEAC general assembly
Sa, 1.9., 19:00	Conference dinner
Su, 2.9., 8:00 – 18:00	Post-conference tour

Conference fees

Fee	early	Late/On-site	Covers:
Full	300	360	Scientific sessions, guided tour and special session, coffee breaks, conference dinner, abstract book and proceedings (pdf)
Reduced*	180	200	Scientific sessions, guided tour and special session, coffee breaks, conference dinner, abstract book, proceedings (pdf)
Accompanying persons (1 per full payer)	180	200	guided tour and special session, coffee breaks, conference dinner
Daily ticket	80	100	Scientific sessions, coffee breaks, proceedings (pdf)

*Students with valid student ID or persons in need

Dates and deadlines

Date	August 27 – September 1, 2018
Venue	Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria
First announcement and website	November 15, 2017
Opening of registration, abstract submission	December 1, 2017
Deadline for proposals	February 1, 2018
Preliminary program	April 5, 2018
Deadline for regular registration	until June 30, 2018