### From Aksum to Lalibälä: The myth of the ‘dark age’ of Eritrean and Ethiopian history (7th–13th cent.). A multidisciplinary approach

**WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH**

- **Academic Greetings**
  
  9.00  *Roberto Tottoli* (Rector UNO)  
  Adriano Rossi (President ISMEO)  
  Claudio Lo Jacono (President IPOCAN)  
  Andrea Manzo (Director DAAM)  
  Shiferaw Bekele (Emeritus Professor AAU)

  9.45  *Gianfrancesco Lusini,* Introduction to the meeting

- **Philology, Literature and Linguistics**

  10.00  *Alessandro Bausi* (**Keynote speech**), Textual transmission from Aksum to Lalibälä: A couple of case studies

  10.30  *Maria Bulakh,* Why did Old Ethiopic cease to be a spoken language

  10.50  Discussion

  11.10  **Coffee break**

  11.25  *Denis Nosnitsin,* Ethiopian scribes and re-creation of ancient documents: survey of one manuscript collection from eastern Tigray

  11.45  *Massimo Villa,* Again on an ancient Ga’az homiliary: MS EMML 8509 from Tana Qirqos

  12.05  *Martina Ambu,* Dayr al-Abyaḍ: Ethiopian pilgrimages and translations from Arabic into Ga’az at the White Monastery (12th–13th c.)

  12.25  Discussion

  12.45  **Lunch**

  15.00  *Nafisa Valieva,* First six textual units of ‘Gadla Lālibalā collection’ and their connection with homilies

  15.20  *Hagos Abrha Abay, Birhan Gebru G/Mikael,* The monastery of Arba’attu 3nsasa Ganti and its oral tradition in connection to Lalibälä

  15.40  Discussion

  15.55  **Coffee break**

  16.10  *Giorgio Banti,* Reexamining the non-Semitic lexicon of Harari, with a focus on the Kitāb al-Farāyid and the oldest religious poetry

  16.30  Discussion
THURSDAY 2 MARCH

**Archeology**

- **9.30** *Timothy Insoll (Keynote speech)*, Emerging from the Dark Ages? Harlaa (Ethiopia) and Indian Ocean trade
- **10.00** *Alemseged Beldados Aleho*, Comparative archaeobotanical studies from Medieval Christian and Islamic sites: Lalibela and Harar
- **10.20** *Michela Gaudiello*, Mifsas Bahri in the midst of a new dilemma: which is its connection with Lalibela?
- **10.40** Discussion
- **11.00** **Coffee break**
- **11.15** *Dil Singh Basanti*, New formations of mortuary practice at the Mifsas Bahri cemetery (1000–1400 AD)
- **11.35** *Hiluf Berhe*, The project of rock-carving and metal production between the 7th and 11th century in Tigray: new evidence from Gud Bahri archaeological excavation
- **11.55** *Luisa Sernicola*, Building social complexity: private space and public places in early and medieval Aksum
- **12.15** Discussion
- **12.35** **Lunch**

**Art History**

- **15.00** *Michael Gervers (Keynote speech)*, Periodization, Christianization, rock-hewn churches and the enigma of Ethiopia’s ‘Dark Ages’
- **15.30** *Philipp Tarn*, Reconstructing the narrative of Ethiopian rock-hewn churches
- **15.50** *Mikael Muehlbauer*, Lalibela as post-Aksumite architecture
- **16.10** Discussion
- **16.30** **Coffee break**
- **16.45** *Carolin Schäfer*, An old layer of paint: new discoveries in the mural painting of the church of Yammahannā Krastos in Lasta, Ethiopia
- **17.05** *Tania Tribe*, The rock-hewn church of Washa Mikael (Gazo wrada) and the emerging Solomonic cultural, religious and political domain in the 13th century: a preliminary assessment
- **17.25** Discussion

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

**History**

- **9.30** *Marie-Laure Derat (Keynote speech)*, Beyond the thirteenth century: cultural and intellectual background of the churches of Lalibela
- **10.00** *Anaïs Wion*, The king's coronation and the annual liturgy of Hos'annā in Aksum: two rites serving the memory of one community
- **10.20** Discussion
- **10.40** **Coffee break**
- **10.55** *Wolfgang Hahn*, The last decades of Aksumite coin production up to the 630s
- **11.15** *Simon Dorso*, Not so dark after all? An attempt at mapping the Ethiopian ‘Dark Ages’ in Northern Ethiopia and Eritrea
- **11.35** Discussion
- **11.55** **Conclusion**

The conference will be also hosted online for remote attendees. Please join the webinar using the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81711554049

For other information please email to: aksumtolalibala@unior.it

**NEMEES 1**

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