



Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Palmyra series

Trans-Imperial Lives Between Parthia and Rome

A talk by Dr. Supratik Baralay, Princeton University

Huerta/Vera Cruz Room, Student Center Level 1, UCSD

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 5 p.m.

This paper recounts how the Parthian imperial landscape was described by writers from within and outside the empire, and suggests that the Arsacid kings successfully integrated the Jewish and Palmyrene diasporas in Mesopotamia. Yet, these communities consistently exercised quieter frequencies of non-violent refusal of Arsacid rule, and carved out distinct cultural identities that were to thrive for centuries. Jews and Palmyrenes in Mesopotamia also integrated in their mother cities within the Roman Empire, Jerusalem and Palmyra, and embodied a trans-regionalism that challenged imperial borders and claims to space.

Supported by the Department of History and the Center for Hellenic Studies, UCSD

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