

*Experience Report: on behalf of the Austria-Israel Academic Network Innsbruck*

Hereunder, please find a brief experience report concerning my research stay at the University of Innsbruck between 22.01 and 1.02 2020, on behalf of the Austria-Israel Academic Network Innsbruck (AIANI).

I was invited by Prof. Robert Rollinger from the Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik. The major goals behind my research visit can be summarized as follows:

1) First of all, to strengthen the cooperation between universities of Innsbruck and Tel Aviv and to discuss future plans for joint scientific ventures, in particular in the fields that study the interactions between the Greek World and the Ancient Near East during the Iron Age. A special attention was dedicated to exploring the modes of connections within the framework of imperial domination in the Near East (Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Persian Empires). During numerous personal meetings with Prof. Rollinger, we have discussed a variety of ways one can tackle these problems, including the possibilities for applying for joint research grants around these research topics (such as European Research Council; Israeli Science Foundation, etc.).

In addition, we have decided to embark on preparation of a research archaeological and historical study trip for Innsbruck students and faculty members in Israel

2) During my stay, I've delivered a public lecture, on a very complicated topic, under the title: "Mediterranean Chronology during the Iron Age: Where Do We Stand?" (see the attached photo). The lecture was well-attended by both the students and the faculty members, resulting in lovely and inspiring discussions before and after the talk.

3) During my stay, I've met several advanced students from Innsbruck in order to discuss their academic advances and research (Angelika Kellner, Florian Dieter Feil, and others). I have to emphasize in particular my prolonged meetings with Angelika Kellner, who just submitted her PhD on the topic of Greek Chronology, under the guidance of Prof. Rollinger. This topic is of special importance to me and we've discussed in detail a variety of ways how to deal with complications and inconsistencies in Greek chronological schemes, on the background of wider pan-Mediterranean perspective.



4) During my stay, I also had an opportunity to meet many prominent members of Innsbruck faculty (namely Professors Martin Lang, Harald Stadler, Peter Trebsche and others) in order to discuss research questions relevant to our joint fields of interest and possible venues for scientific cooperation. Such an opportunity is extremely useful for creating scientific international research networks.

All in all, it was one of the best research exchange experiences I had during my academic career and I want to thank in particular to the representatives of the AIANI, Drs. Marion Wieser and Verena Mungenast for their help and advice during my stay.

Prof. Alexander Fantalkin (Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Tel Aviv University).