

Aspects and Impacts of Ramesside Imperialism in the Levant and Nubia

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Institute for Egyptology and Coptology of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

12–13 December 2025



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International Conference

“Aspects and Impacts of Ramesside Imperialism in the Levant and Nubia”

The Ramesside imperialism in Syria, Canaan, and Nubia was an important part of the historical development during the New Kingdom of Egypt as well as in the contemporary Late Bronze Age of the ancient Near East. Expansive wars, a strong military system, diplomatic actions, and foreign policy including land administration reforms led Egypt to control large parts of the Levant and Nubia. A strong Egyptian presence and governance of 13th and 12th centuries BC Palestine and Nubia have since long become clear from both textual and archaeological evidence. Any study of the material culture in the southern Levant and Nubia during the Late Bronze Age should consider the imperial relationship between Egypt and its territories in the Levant and Nubia. In the secondary literature, Egyptologists and historians often use the terms Egyptian “empire” and Egyptian “imperialism”, thus extending terminology coined in the 19th century to describe modern cases of political dominance to Late Bronze Age Egypt. The term “imperialism” describes models of domination of a national entity over others that combine territorial expansion, political control, economic exploitation, and cultural influence. Methodology of the study of this Ramesside imperialism encompasses historical, textual, and archaeological aspects to provide a holistic approach to the research problem.

Recent discoveries in Egypt, the Levant, and Nubia provide Egyptologists, archaeologists and historians with valuable information about new aspects and impacts of Ramesside Egyptian imperialism, all of which have enabled us to revise previously-held theories. The main objective of the conference is to enhance our understanding of “Ramesside Imperialism” in ancient societies of the Near East and Egypt during the Late Bronze Age.

The conference will shed light on new archaeological and historical perspectives, aspects and impacts of the “Ramesside Imperialism” in the Levant and Nubia. It will also make a broad assessment of the current state of knowledge about the “Ramesside Imperialism” and discuss how the new knowledge relates to previously held theories and provide a forum for discussion.

The presentations by leading experts will cover the different elements of Ramesside Imperialism in the Levant, Nubia, and Egypt including wars, diplomacy, imperial administration, Egyptian imperial constructions, fortifications, garrison towns, and military roads, cultural exchange, and archaeological discoveries at different sites of Egypt, the Levant, and Nubia.

Venue: The Institute for Egyptology and Coptology of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich (Katharina-von-Bora-Str. 10, D-80333 Munich)

Organisers: Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Hoffmann, Dr. Mohamed Raafat Abbas

Preliminary Program

Friday, 12 December 2025

09:00–09:15 Welcome

09:15–10:00 *Regine Schulz*: Ramesside Scarabs in the Levant and Nubia

10:00–10:45 *Aaron A. Burke*: After Empire: The Impact of New Kingdom Egypt on Canaan in the Eleventh Century BC

10:45–11:15 Coffee Break

11:15–12:00 *Nicky Nielsen*: The Tools of Imperialism: The Production, Storage and Distribution of Weapons during the Ramesside Period (Online)

12:00–12:45 *Peter J. Brand*: Imperial Overreach: Egypt's Failed Military Strategy in Syria from Horemheb to Ramesses II

12:45–14:15 Lunch Break

14:15–15:00 *Dan'el Kahn*: Egyptian Withdrawal from Canaan and Nubia during the 20th Dynasty (c. 1189–1077 BCE): A Comparative Chronological Analysis

15:00–15:45 *Carola Vogel*: Spheres of Interest during the Ramesside Period: A Military-Historical Perspective

15:45–16:15 Coffee Break

16:15–17:00 *Heidi Köpp-Junk*: Travel and Mobility in the Ramesside Empire

17:00–17:45 *Diana Liesegang*: Ramesses II and his Successors: Between Divine Leadership and Political Action (Online)

17:45 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 13 December 2025

09:00–09:45 *Anthony Spalinger*: Personality and Performance at the Battle of Kadesh: The Charioteer Menna (Online)

09:45–10:30 *Mohamed Raafat Abbas*: New Light on the Ramesside Military Imperialism in Nubia

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–11:45 *James K. Hoffmeier*: Pi-Ramesses: The Ramesside Imperial Capital Versus Memphis the Mythic Capital

11:45–12:30 *Mohamed Abdelmaksoud*: The North Sinai (Ways of Horus): A Corridor of New Kingdom Egypt to the Levant (Online)

12:30–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–14:45 *Uroš Matić*: Scribes, Spoils and Numbers: A Note on Ramesside Plundering

14:45–15:30 *Alberto Maria Pollastrini*: Auxiliaries and War Captives: Foreign Fighters in the Egyptian Army during the Ramesside Military Campaigns

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–16:45 *Roland Enmarch*: Levantine comings and goings under Merenptah: Papyrus Anastasi III and Late Bronze Age Diplomacy (Online)

16:45–17:30 *Mark Janzen*: Merneptah's Canaanite Campaign: Egyptian Imperialism in the Southern Levant in the Late 19th Dynasty

17:30–18:00 Coffee Break

18:00–18:45 *Stefan Jakob Wimmer*: Hieratic in the Levant - Which sources do we have, and what do they tell us?

18:45–19:30 Final Discussion

For registration, please contact: aegyptologie@aegyp.fak12.uni-muenchen.de



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