

NIT lecture

Wednesday April 11 (18:00, Auditorium)

Whose identity? Material culture in Hellenistic and Roman Commagene

Dr. Miguel John Versluys (Leiden University, University of Amsterdam):

An important problem of Commagenean archaeology is that we only seem to witness Antiochos I (ca. 69-36 BC) and the products of his **Kulturpolitik**, like at the famous site of Nemrud Dağ, or derivations of that concept. Almost all elements of this program have in common that they purposefully give the impression of showing a dual identity: 'Greek' on the one side, 'Persian' on the other.

Interestingly we know from texts that at the same time Antiochos presents himself as "the friend of the Romans and the friend of the Greeks": this remark suggests a consciously chosen position between two identities. But how to understand the categories chosen and the invention of a 'Graeco-Persian' style as consequence of a Romanization of the East?

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