Società Dante Alighieri Nicosia

University of Cyprus
Department of French and European Studies

ICSAH
International Centre for Studies of Art and Humanities

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Nicosia

ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΔΙΒΙΑΤΙΕΜΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS Chypre

ALEXANDER AND THE EAST

The Indian Encounter and Its Western Echoes

ICSAH 8th International Conference

University of Cyprus
22–23 May 2026
Nicosia

Friday, 22 May 2026

Venue: Ceremony Hall of the University of Cyprus, 75 Kallipoleos Avenue, 1678 Nicosia, Cyprus

Languages: English, French, and Italian

09:00 AM – 09:45 AM: Opening Ceremony

Welcome Addresses:

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

The President of the Department of French and European Studies.

Distinguished Ambassadors.

Introduction by the Organizing Committee: Prof. Umberto Mondini, Dr. Francesca Ceci, and Assistant Professor Christakis Christofi (Chair).

09:45 AM – 11:15 AM: SESSION 1 — OPENING THE DOOR BETWEEN WORLDS

Alexander the Great and India: Opening a Door between Worlds – Umberto Mondini, ICSAH.

Alexander's Indian Expedition: from Warrior Clash to Ancient Mythology – Dan-Tudor Ionescu, Metropolitan Library of Bucharest.

Alexander the Great and the Construction of India's Irreducible Otherness – Maria Angelillo, Milano University.

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM: ☕ Coffee Break

11:45 AM – 01:15 PM: SESSION 2 — MATERIAL CULTURE AND VISUAL IDENTITY

Alexander and the King of Porus: Courage, Valor, and Clemency told in a Coin – Francesca Ceci, Capitoline Museums & Clarissa Pietrini, Sapienza University of Rome.

Draped Identities: Greek and Indian Garments in the Context of Greco-Buddhist Art – Chrysovalantis Steiakakis, Open University of Cyprus.

Alexander's Legacy on the Indo-Greek Frontier: Taxila, Bactria and Competing Notions of the 'Other' – Krzysztof Ulanowski, University of Gdańsk.

01:15 PM – 02:30 PM: 🍽 Lunch Break

02:30 PM – 04:00 PM: SESSION 3 — HISTORIOGRAPHY, SCIENCE AND RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Alexander, Arrian, and Local Guides in India – Dylan James, University of Reading.

Go East: The Vision of India in the Early Christian Tradition – Giuseppe De Spirito, Independent researcher.

Ayurveda et pensée pharmaceutique hellénistique : convergences et divergences après Alexandre – Antonios Fragkakis, Université Paris Cité.

04:00 PM – 04:30 PM: ☕ Coffee Break

04:30 PM – 06:00 PM: SESSION 4 — WESTERN ECHOES: RECEPTION AND COLONIALISM

Two Alexanders: Echoes of 'the Great' in the Writings of Alexander Burnes – Stephen Harrison, Swansea University.

Alexandre le Grand, du Roi-Soleil à l'Idéal civique : L'Inde en miroirs français des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles – Christakis Christofi, University of Cyprus.

Two Limits of Colonialism: Alexander the Great's 326 BCE March on India and Marguerite Duras's Literary Works – Ofelia R. Nikolova, Valdosta State University.

The Northern Black Sea Region during the Campaigns of Alexander the Great – Olha Morozova, University of Warsaw.

Representations of Buddha Before the Arrival of Alexander: Aniconic… and After, Representations in Human Form – Sandrine Prevot, ICSAH Researcher.

Cultural Activities and inland Excursion to historical Sites

Day 2: Saturday, 23 May 2026

- **08:45 AM – 09:00 AM | Departure & Logistics**

  Departure: Complimentary minibus departs from the University of Cyprus, Kallipoleos Campus.

  Larnaca Guests: Travel directly to Choirokoitia in private cars to meet the group.

- **09:45 AM – 10:45 AM | Ancient History at Choirokoitia**

Exploration: Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site (Neolithic settlement).

Car Switch: Larnaca guests leave private cars at Choirokoitia and join the group on the minibus.

- **11:45 AM – 01:00 PM | Scenic Drive to the Valleys**

  Arakapas Village: Visit to the 14th-century Church of Panayia Iamatiki, famous for its unique wooden roof and frescoes.

- **01:00 PM – 02:30 PM | Lunch at Kalamaras Restaurant**

  Traditional Meze or Cypriot Food: A traditional gastronomic experience in Arakapas village.

- **02:30 PM – 04:30 PM | The Heritage Trail: From Bridges to Lace**

  Akapnou: Photo stop at the medieval Venetian stone bridge.

  Vavla Village: A scenic drive through this protected heritage village, known for its white stone architecture and tranquil atmosphere.

  Agios Minas Monastery: Visit to the 15th-century convent.

  Lefkara Village: Stroll through the village of lace and silver for coffee and networking.

- **04:30 PM – 05:30 PM | Return Journey**

  Minibus Departure: Departs for Nicosia, stopping at Choirokoitia to drop off Larnaca guests at their vehicles.

  05:30 PM: Final arrival back at the Kallipoleos Campus.

Important Practical Notes for Day 2

Dress Code: Modest attire (covered shoulders and knees) is mandatory for the Monastery entry.

Footwear: Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the archaeological site and village strolls.

Costs: Minibus transport is free, but lunch and coffee breaks are covered individually by participants.