



BLOOMSBURY SUMMER SCHOOL

OF CARAVANS AND CROSSROADS: CULTURES OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE SILK ROAD IN ANTIQUITY

A Study Day with Dr Paul Wordsworth & Dr Gai Jorayev

Saturday 8th June 2019, 10.00 am - 5.30 pm

Cruciform Lecture Theatre, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

This study day will delve into the origins of the famous Silk Roads and explore the ways in which commerce and travel shaped the cultural connections of a continent. Through four thematic sessions, we will look in detail at the societies of Central Asia and their fundamental role in transforming the ancient and medieval world while untangling some of the pervasive myths of this network over a thousand years of its history. Long overlooked in the grand historical narratives of Western Europe, we will focus on the extraordinary polities of the region from the Sogdians to the Samanids, whose ground-breaking innovations underpinned long-distance trade in silk and other exotic goods, but also promoted extraordinary travel. In addition to examining the fragments of histories and personal narratives which illuminate this colourful past, our lecturers will draw upon the astonishing archaeological and architectural remains of Central Asia, which are testament to the wealth and knowledge associated with the region often described as the ultimate cultural crossroads.

The first three lectures will be given by Dr Paul Wordsworth, Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Paul's research focuses on the archaeology of the medieval Caucasus and Central Asia. He is currently directing a new archaeological project exploring the remains of a frontier city of the early Islamic Caliphate in Azerbaijan, and has carried out extensive archaeological fieldwork in Central Asia (Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). The fourth lecture will be given by Dr Gai Jorayev, Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Gai specialises in the archaeology and heritage of Central Asia, and is Deputy Director of the Ancient Merv Project.

The lectures will be:

- The Origins of the Silk Road and the Genesis of Trans-Asian Connections*
- Whither the Sogdians? Central Asian Traders and their Culture in the Classical and Late Antique Periods*
- Islam on the High-Roads of Asia: travel in the Medieval period through the lands of Bukhara and Samarkand*
- The Heritage of the Great Silk Roads*

For further information & ticket sales by PayPal:
www.egyptology-uk.com/bloomsbury

To attend our **Of Caravans and Crossroads** study day please send us a cheque for **£40** per ticket made payable to Bloomsbury Summer School (no staples please), together with a stamped addressed envelope and this booking form to: Lucia Gahlin, Bloomsbury Summer School, c/o Department of History, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Or please request the BSS bank details if you would prefer to pay by bank transfer. The price of the ticket includes tea/coffee in the afternoon and morning breaks, but does not include lunch.

I would like ticket(s) at **£40 each** for the **Of Caravans and Crossroads** study day.
I enclose a **sterling** cheque for **made payable to Bloomsbury Summer School.**
I enclose a **S.A.E.:** yes / no (if 'no', your ticket will be emailed to you). **NO STAPLES PLEASE.**

I would like to be sent a map for finding the lecture theatre: yes / no
Title: Forename: Surname:

(of all participants)
Address:

Email address:
Telephone number: