

Final postponement of the 16th Ernst Herzfeld Colloquy, at La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy, to July 2021

Back in April we have postponed the 16th Ernst Herzfeld Colloquy, originally planned to be held at La Sapienza University in Rome on July 2–5, 2020, to October 1–4, 2020, because of the developing Covid-19 situation. At that time, we had reason to hope for a chance to get together three months later although we also made clear that this would depend on the actual situation.

The organizer of the colloquy at Rome, Michelina Di Cesare, has now informed us that under the Covid-19 rules of physical distancing that are likely to be expected in early October, it will not be possible to hold the colloquy at La Sapienza University or in another place in Rome. It also will be likely that participants from outside the European Union or from places with travel restrictions will not be able to come. The Italian government has announced the intent to extend the state of emergency until the end of this year.

We discussed the possibility to hold the colloquy as an online video conference instead of getting together in person. While this was an option in April, now, after the exhaustive experience of four months of full online teaching and video meetings, we think that it is not useful to have an entire two and a half-day colloquy online. Also, one of the attractive aspects of the colloquies was and should be the chance to meet colleagues in person and to learn about institutions dealing with Islamic art in the city and country of the venue. On the other hand, it may be the particular interest of younger colleagues and of graduates to be present in a meeting already this year. This was not an easy decision, and we opted for a mixed solution:

- The **colloquy is postponed by one year to July 1–4, 2021**, to be held at La Sapienza University in Rome, organized by Michelina Di Cesare.
- The **graduate meeting is held on October 1, 2020**, as a video conference, organized by Sarah Johnson. The schedule and programme, and a link for the video conference will be circulated in due course.
- The winner of the **Ernst Herzfeld Award 2020** is announced **in the graduate meeting**
- The next **regular general assembly** (due in uneven years) will be held as usual as part of the colloquy in Rome.