

14-16 MAY 2026, LONDON, UK

# TRANSPARENT JOURNEYS ALONG THE SILK ROADS

GLASS AND CONNECTIVITY ACROSS CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND

## PROGRAMME



# PROGRAMME

---

## DAY 1, 14 MAY

**REGISTRATION** UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon  
**10:30** Square, WC1H 0PY | foyer

### Optional free visits (pre-booked)

09:00 The British Museum's Hawaii exhibition  
10:30 Tour of BM science labs  
10:30 Handling session - Egyptian glass in the Petrie  
Museum  
  
13:30 Registration closes

**SESSION 1** UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon  
**13:50-17:20** Square, WC1H 0PY | Room G6

### Chair: Ian Freestone

13:50-14:00 Introduction

14:00-14:40 The importance of glass for the study of the Silk  
Roads: changing perspectives  
**Julian Henderson**

14:40-15:00 Glass beads of the Fergana Valley in the system of  
cultural exchanges along the Great Silk Road  
**Zamirakhon Koraeva**

15:00-15:20 Scientific analysis of early Islamic glass from  
the Ush-Tur site in Xinjiang: provenance and  
technology  
**Anqi Chen, Jianzhe Niu, Jianfeng Cui**

**15:20-16:00** Coffee and tea break

16:00-16:20 Chemical and mineralogical assessment of potential  
frit from Akhsiket, Uzbekistan  
**Marcel Frenken and Thilo Rehren**



# PROGRAMME

- 16:20-16:40 Metal-in-glass beads across Central Asia: a regional review (1st millennium CE)  
**Agnes Puiyee Sung**
- 16:40-17:00 From England to China and back: exploring the connections between 18th century glass workshops  
**Kirill Vlasov, Kate Newnham, Elisa Ricci, Jamie Lewis, Tim Elliott, Benjamin Buse, David Barry, Claire Corkhill**
- 17:00-17:20 Tracing Central Asian Islamic plant-ash glass: Sr-Nd isotope insights  
**Qin-Qin Lü, Marcos Martínón-Torres, Thilo Rehren**
- 17:20 Close of Session

**POSTER SESSION** UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY | Room 612  
**17:20**

**WINE RECEPTION** UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY | Room 609  
**18:00**

## DAY 2, 15 MAY

**SESSION 2** UCL Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, WC1H 0NN | Lecture Hall 225  
**09:30-12:30**

**Chair: Daniela Rosenow**

09:30-10:10 Glass circulation along the Silk Road: a view from South Asia  
**Laure Dussubieux**

10:10-10:30 Northern Wei blue — Localized production of sodium calcium glass in Northern China from the 4th to the 6th century AD  
**Yanqin Jia, Xiaoli Duan, Jianfeng Cui**



# PROGRAMME

---

- 10:30-10:50 Chemical analysis of glass beads excavated in the Eurasian Steppe  
**Tomomi Tamura, Daisuke Nakamura, Onggaruly Akhan, Kairmagambetov Arhat, Aitkali Azat, Zhanbolat Utubaev**
- 10:50-11:30** Coffee and tea break
- 11:30-11:50 Central Asian glass bangles in the Persian Gulf  
**Charlotte Nash-Pye**
- 11:50-12:10 A Medieval glass production site discovered at Kashgar, Xinjiang  
**Shan Huang, Ailijiang Aisha, Ian C. Freestone**
- 12:10-12:30 Edges of connectivity: access to Silk Road exchange in the Northern Netherlands and Lower Saxony. A case study of Zweeloo and Rasquert  
**Nina Schreuder**
- 12:30 Close of Session
- 12:30-14:00** Lunch
- SESSION 3**  
**14:00-17:00** UCL Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, WC1H 0NN | Lecture Hall 225
- Chair: Michael Charlton**
- 14:00-14:40 Glass vessels travelling East  
**Brigitte Borell**
- 14:40-15:00 Glass beads and trans-peninsular connections: new evidence from excavations at Khao Thalu archaeological site, Chumphon Province  
**Putsadee Rodcharoen**



# PROGRAMME

- 15:00-15:20 Glass from India? Provenance and Manufacture study of archaeological glass unearthed from the southern route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang, 1st BCE - 4th century CE  
**Qian Cheng, Jinlong Guo, Bo Wang, Jianfeng Cui, Thilo Rehren**
- 15:20-16:00 Coffee and tea break
- 16:00-16:20 The introduction and distribution of Indo-Pacific beads in China's mainland from the mid-1st millennium BCE to the 1st millennium CE  
**Siwen Xu**
- 16:20-16:40 From the Middle East to the Caucasus to Berlin – a journey of medieval glassware through the centuries  
**Sujatha Chandrasekaran**
- 16:40-17:00 Zirconium, hafnium isotopes and Silk Road glass: new paths to provenance  
**Gry Barfod, I. C. Freestone, C. E. Lesher**
- 17:00 Close of Session

**CONFERENCE DINNER**  
**19:00** Antalya Restaurant, 103-105 Southampton Row, WC1B 4HH  
(pre-booked; additional £40 apply)

## DAY 3, 16 MAY

**SESSION 4**  
**09:30-13:00** UCL Wilkins Building, Gower St, WC1E 6BT | Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre

**Chair: Andrew Meek**

09:30-10:10 Urban centres as stepping stones along the Silk Roads  
**Nadine Schibille**



# PROGRAMME

---

- 10:10-10:30 Following glass in the Indian Ocean trade: a preliminary study on glass items from the site of Banbhore (Sindh, Pakistan)  
**Luca Furno, Tania Chinni**
- 10:30-10:50 Two glass bowls from the Chermedil Necropolis, Azerbaijan  
**Elif Hanar**
- 10:50-11:30** Coffee and tea break
- 11:30-11:50 Shifting the focus to production: new archaeological evidence from Pabalugala fills a critical gap in Indo-Pacific glass bead research  
**Mangala Katugampola, Jianan Fan**
- 11:50-12:10 Adoption and development of glass culture in Central Asia  
**Takako Hosokawa, Tamako Takeda, Ayano Endo**
- 12:10-12:30 On the spread of Central Asian glasswares along the Silk Roads  
**Maliya Aihaiti**
- 12:30-12:50 Glass recipes in motion - chemical evidence for circulation in Central Asia  
**Valerie Jing Yeung**

12:50 Concluding Remarks

## **AFTERNOON (EXACT TIMES TO FOLOOW)**

BM glass map



## **Optional conference related activities** (book in person on Day 1, 14 May)

Visit to BM - self-guided with Chen Chen's BM glass map and commentary

BM Gallery talk - Ian Freestone and Chen Chen

Visit to the IoA Wolfson Archaeological Science Laboratories with Michael Charlton



6

# PROGRAMME

**POSTERS** UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY | Room 612 (DAY 1, 14 May)

New trace element data on Sasanian glass from the collections of the British Museum

**Yuewen Jin**

North Africa in the Silk Roads networks: The case of Early Medieval glass beads from Walila, Morocco

**Veronica Occari, Kelsi Kaviani, Barbara Lepri, Asmae El Kacimi, Hassan Limane, Corisande Fenwick**

Compositional analysis and origins of Warring States beads in the collections of the British Museum

**Valerie Jing Yeung, Ian Freestone, Martina Bertini, Andrew Meek, Michael Charlton**

Grinding tools in primary glass making – Understanding the chaîne opératoire and its impact on chemical composition

**Marcel Frenken, Qin-Qin Lü, Thilo Rehren**

The identification of glass compositional groups in archaeological science: disentangling method from common practices

**Veronica Occari, Liam Richards, Kelsi Kaviani, Chen Chen, Valerie Jing Yeung, Michael Charlton**



## Organising Committee

---

Michael Charlton (University College London)  
Chen Chen (University College London)  
Ana Franjić (AHG, Austrian Archaeological Institute)  
Ian Freestone (AHG, University College London)  
Andrew Meek (The British Museum)  
Veronica Occari (AHG, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)  
Liam Richards (University College London)  
Daniela Rosenow (AHG, Oxford University)  
Valerie Jing Yeung (University College London)

## Scientific Committee

---

Michael Charlton (University College London)  
Ian Freestone (AHG, University College London)  
Julian Henderson (University of Nottingham)  
Andrew Meek (The British Museum)  
Thilo Rehren (The Cyprus Institute)  
Tim Williams (University College London)  
Valerie Jing Yeung (University College London)

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors:

