



Ghent, 1 July 2025

27th Conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art First Circular

Dear Colleagues,

As announced during the last EASAA meeting in Leipzig, the *27th Conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art* (EASAA) will take place in **Ghent, Belgium from 6 to 10 July 2026**. The event will be hosted by Ghent University.

Format of the Conference

Since its establishment in 1970, the primary aim of EASAA has been to facilitate scholarly exchange and deepen understanding in the fields of archaeology, art history, architectural history, material culture studies, numismatics, and epigraphy relating to South Asia. Priority is given to research based on primary sources, such as:

- Results of recent fieldwork, including museum-based research
- Unpublished findings from earlier excavations or surveys
- New discoveries, interpretations, or supporting documentation

Geographically, the scope of the conference extends across the whole of South Asia. Research relating to neighbouring regions may also be considered, provided that the subject matter bears direct relevance to South Asian contexts.

As in most previous editions, the programme will comprise two parallel sessions:

- Prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology
- Historic archaeology and art history

As requested by the Scientific Committee, the format will not include independent or themed panels. The conference is conceived as an open forum offering a broad snapshot of current scholarship in the field. We will, however, make every effort to organise sessions coherently, grouping contributions thematically, regionally, or chronologically as appropriate.

Abstracts

Each participant may submit one abstract, either for a 20-minute paper or for a poster presentation. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Due to the high number of expected participants, it is essential to adhere strictly to the time limit, ensuring

space for discussion. All accepted abstracts will be included in the conference abstract book. Please note that no participant will be permitted to deliver more than one presentation.

Doctoral students wishing to present must include a letter of recommendation from their academic supervisor.

Abstracts should not exceed 350 words and must be submitted as an electronic document in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, or .rtf. Unicode-compliant fonts are required, especially if using diacritical marks.

The **deadline for abstract submission is 1 December 2025**. Submissions should be sent to: egasaa2026@ugent.be

About Ghent

Located in the heart of Flanders, Ghent is a vibrant and historic city renowned for its well-preserved mediaeval architecture and canals. Once one of the largest and wealthiest cities in Europe during the Middle Ages, Ghent boasts a unique blend of Gothic, Romanesque, and Baroque architecture. Highlights include the majestic Saint Bavo's Cathedral (home to the world-famous *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* by the Van Eyck brothers), the mediaeval Castle of the Counts, the Graslei and Korenlei riverside quays, and the Belfry of Ghent, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city also offers a dynamic contemporary art scene and a wide range of museums.

Ghent is easily accessible, located approximately 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Brussels and well connected by frequent train services (a journey of about 30 minutes). International visitors can conveniently reach Ghent via Brussels Airport or Brussels South Station (connected to high-speed train networks).

Further information regarding accommodation and travel will be provided in due course. However, should you require any preliminary details to assist with travel planning or funding applications, please do not hesitate to contact us at: egasaa2026@ugent.be

Detailed information on conference logistics and associated events will be communicated in the Second Circular.

The conference website will be online shortly, and we will share the link as soon as it goes live. You can follow updates on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn using the hashtag #egasaa2026.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Ghent next year.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Daniela De Simone
President of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art