The Connected Past 2026

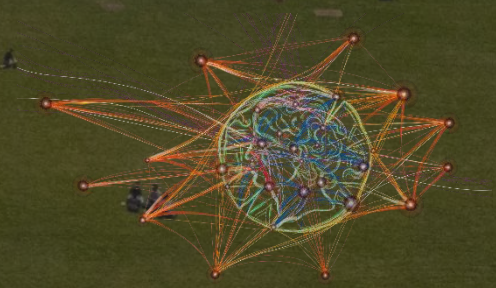
University of Toronto, ON Canada

September 22-25, 2026

Keynote by Dr. Barbara Mills

“Connecting Chaco: How Network Analysis Changed my View of the Chaco World”

Network science workshop by Dr. Tom Brughmans, Dr. Paula Gheorghiade and Dr. Lena Tambs



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations

Mediterranean Archaeology
Collaborative Specialization

The Archaeology Centre
University of Toronto

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Department of Classics | Jackman Humanities Institute | Department of Art History

WELCOME TO THE CONNECTED PAST 2026

We are very happy to welcome you to Toronto and look forward to what will certainly be a productive and exciting week of fascinating research papers, posters, and good company.

We are thrilled to have **Dr. Barbara Mills** joining us as the keynote speaker. She will be giving her talk, *Connecting Chaco: How Network Analysis Changed my View of the Chaco World,* on the evening of September 23rd.

A network science workshop (preregistration required) will be led by **Dr. Tom Brughmans, Dr. Paula Gheorghiade,** and **Dr. Lena Tambs** on the first day and a half of the meeting. This will be followed by two and a half days of papers, a reception at a local pub, and a poster session with catered lunch.

In the following you will find links to maps for the conference venues, nearby places to eat, pharmacies, and shops along with details on how to get into the city if you are travelling by plane, train, or bus. There are also tips for getting around Toronto and to the University of Toronto using public transit.

Here you will also find information on the network science workshop as well as the detailed conference schedule. Abstracts for individual presentations can be found on the Connected Past website.

If there are any questions leading up to the conference or throughout the week, please email us at **theconnectedpast2026@gmail.com**.

VENUES

Please note that the Connected Past 2026 takes place in person at **the University of Toronto St. George campus** and there are **different venues** within this campus during this conference.

Click on the venue name to find it on Google Maps and to get directions. Need more direction? There will be volunteers on the day of posted at the entrances to help direct you to the room(s). **Look for people wearing Connected Past badges** as you enter the buildings.

Day 1 - September 22, 2026

Workshop: Sidney Smith Hall, 6th Floor, Department of Art History, Room SS 6033, 100 st. George Street, Toronto.

Day 2 - September 23, 2026

Workshop: Sidney Smith Hall, 6th Floor, Department of Art History, Room SS 6033, 100 st. George Street, Toronto.
Talks and Keynote: Student Commons, B100 East Side Multipurpose Room 230 College St, Toronto.
Reception: Duke of York, 39 Prince Arthur Ave, Toronto

Day 3 - September 24, 2026

Talks: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor, 569 Spadina Cres, Toronto

Day 4 - September 25, 2026

Talks: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor, 569 Spadina Cres, Toronto
Poster Session and Lunch: Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, BF 200B, 4 Bancroft Ave. 2nd Floor.

Locations of all event venues:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1hIwMyahg8rj-1rr2EfJ5-o6WyDJGoys&usp=sharing

Places to eat, grocery stores and drug stores in and around the UofT campus:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1OWcNFXw8JhzxDkv5KikqIAwSaOub9HA&usp=sharing

REGISTRATION

The conference is open only to registered participants. In person registration will be possible, including day registrations with an option to pay at the door.

The Connected Past registration desks will be available throughout the conference at each day's venue.

Workshop attendees may register and pick up their badges at the workshop venue. Registration will open at 8.30 am on September 22nd, in front of the workshop room (Sidney Smith Hall, 6th Floor, Department of Art History, Room SS 6033, 100 st. George Street, Toronto.

The talk attendees may register and pick up their badges at 1 pm on September 23rd, at Student Commons, B100 East Side Multipurpose Room 230 College St, Toronto.

Please make sure that you have the confirmation email with the QR code to be able to register when you arrive.

TRANSIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

From **Toronto Pearson International Airport:**

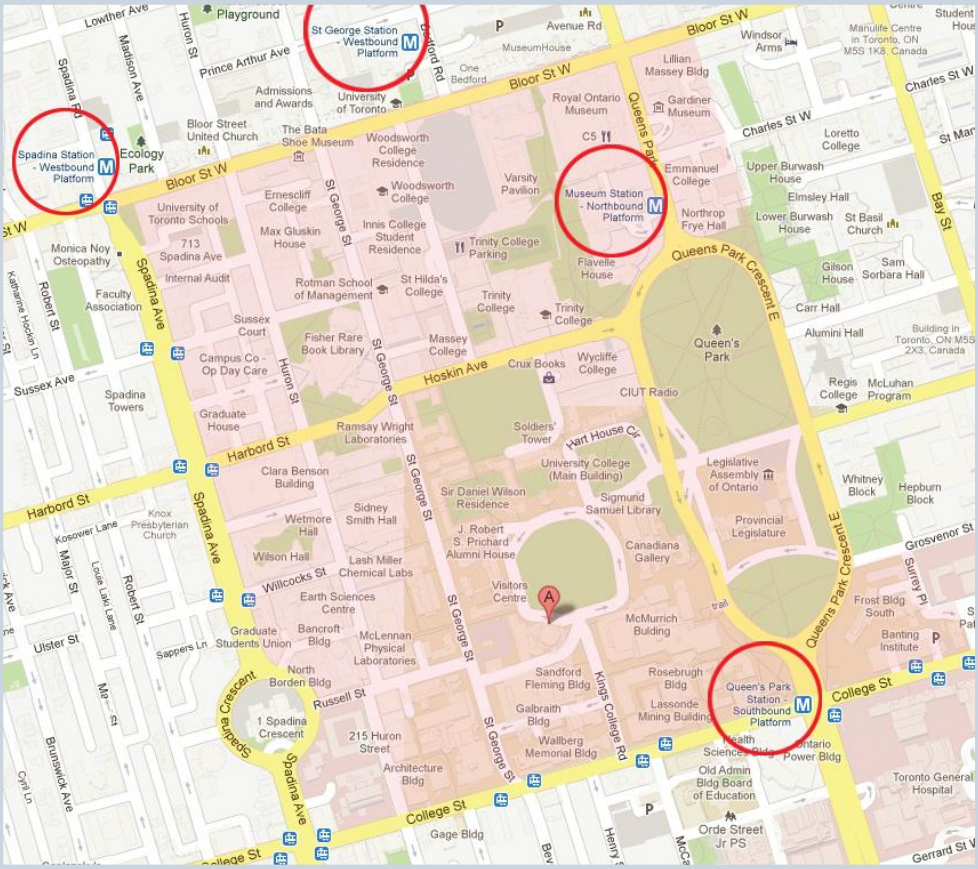
Union Pearson (UP Express): Take the train directly to Union Station. See the UP Express website for detailed instructions and the train schedule. From Union Station take the 1 line north (Yonge-University toward Vaughan Metropolitan Central Station) and get off at the Museum stop. From there it is a short walk to all venues.

From **Billy Bishop Airport:**

The easiest way to get to campus is via streetcar (#510) from Spadina Ave at Queens Quay West North Side. Get off at the Willcocks St stop. See map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/KocaqfN7YGV6izaf8

From **Union Station:**

If you are arriving to Toronto by bus or train, you will most likely stop at Union station. From here, it is very easy to access the UofT campus. The most direct route is via the 1 line north (Yonge-University toward Vaughan Metropolitan Central Station) and get off at the Museum stop.



Subway stations located around University of Toronto

INTERNET ACCESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

U of T visitors from a participating eduroam institution

The eduroam network at U of T is accessible to visiting scholars from other participating eduroam institutions. Simply connect to the eduroam Wi-Fi network using your home institution credentials.

Before leaving your home institution, check that your device can connect to the eduroam Wi-Fi network. If you encounter any issues, contact your institution's help desk for assistance.

U of T visitors who do not belong to an eduroam institution

If your institution is not part of eduroam the conference organizers will grant access to participants by providing credentials. These credentials will be available for the duration of the conference. These can be picked up from the registration desks through out the conference.

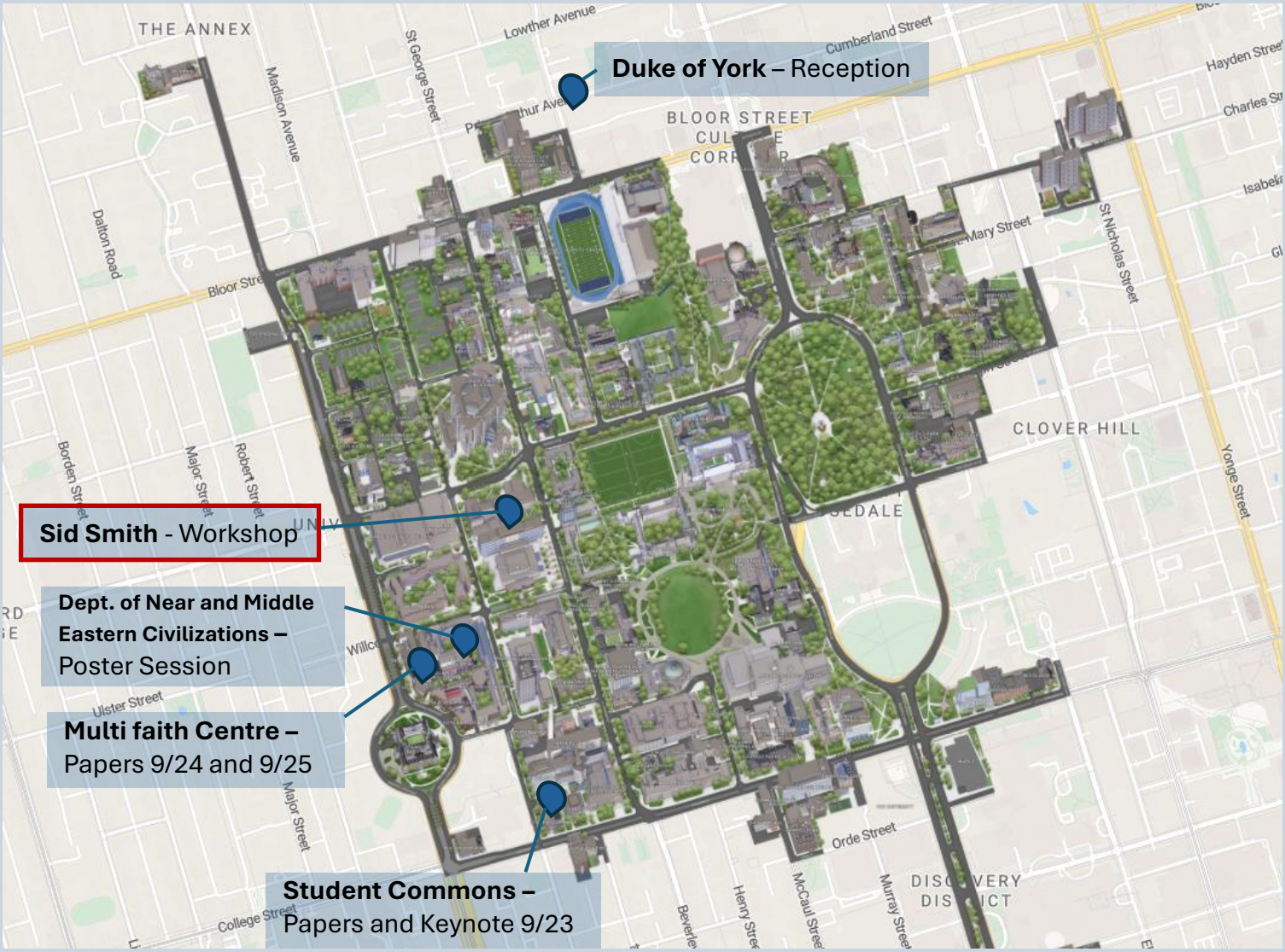
Connecting to eduroam

Select the Wi-Fi network called "eduroam" on your device and login using the credentials you received from the registration desk. Once complete, you will have Wi-Fi access on all three U of T campuses for the duration of the conference.

WORKSHOP

If you signed up to participate in the workshop, **you will receive a separate email** with instructions on how to get to the location, a detailed outline of the workshop, and what you need in preparation.

The workshop will meet on **September 22nd** will run from **9:00am-4:30pm** and on **September 23rd** will run from **9:00am-12:00pm.** Participants will meet in **Sid Smith (SS) Room 6033.**



University of Toronto Campus

CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 23rd – Afternoon

Location: Student Commons, B100 East Side Multipurpose Room

Session 1 - Texts, communication, and mobility in the ancient world

Time	Name	Title
1:30–1:50	Virginia Martos Armenteros	"Should I Stay or Should I Go?": Tracing Migration Routes and Travel Concerns in the Hellenistic Period through the Oracular Tablets of Dodona
1:50–2:10	Tom Francis, Muhammad Rehan	Modeling Alphabet Diffusion and Community Interactions in Ancient Italy with Spatiotemporal Point Processes
2:10–2:30	Adam Schor	The Social Reach of Roman Elite Men (350–430 CE): Letter Collections, Ego-Network Comparison, and Static Network Simulation
2:30–2:50	Emma Glenister	Understanding the Viziers of Egypt's Early Middle Kingdom through Social Network Analysis
2:50–3:10	Discussion	

3:10–3:40 Coffee Break

Session 2 - Relational ecologies, landscapes, and archives

Time	Name	Title
3:40–4:00	Francisco Rivera	Archives of Migration and Disrupted Connections during Northern Chile's Industrial Mining Expansion
4:00–4:20	Marcony Alves, Carl Knappett	The Affordances of the Amazonian Floodplain in the Late Precolonial Period (CE 1000–1600)
4:20–4:40	Agnieszka Brylak	Connecting Nahua Gods: Network Analysis in the Study of Pre-Hispanic Religion
4:40–5:00	Discussion	

5:00–6:00 Keynote:

Prof. Dr. Barbara Mills

Connecting Chaco: How Network Analysis Changed my View of the Chaco World

6:10–8:00 Reception

Location: Duke of York, 39 Prince Arthur Ave.

Thursday, September 24th – Morning

Location: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor

Session 3 - Settlements, landscapes, and regional systems

Time	Name	Title
8:50-9:10	Khaled Abu Jayyab, Elizabeth Gibbon, Lisa Wolff, Lianna Sternklar, Deniz Dernek, Koushan Amir-Khosravi, Emmett Kohl McPherson, Rowan Berrian, Aly El Hemasy, Brittany Mayers	The Structure of Domestic Life: A Multivariate and Network Analysis of Chalcolithic Houses in Mesopotamia
9:10–9:30	Kristina Donnally	People, Place, Palace: Integrating Spatial and Social Networks within the Middle Bronze Age Palace at Mari (Tell Hariri, Syria)
9:30–9:50	Camilla Mazzucato, Ricardo Alba, Dan Chamberlin, Ramazan Parmaksız, Lisa Yeomans, Beatrice Demarchi	Human-avian hybrid communities within socio-material-ecological networks: the case of Çatalhöyük
9:50–10:10	Discussion	

10:10–10:30 Coffee Break

Session 4 - Materials, cult, and community in the Near East and Egypt

Time	Name	Title
10:30–10:50	Yulia Prozorova	Pottery Decoration and the Interaction Sphere of the Yarmoukian Culture in the Neolithic Levant: A Network Analysis Approach
10:50–11:10	Luisa Garcia Gonzalez	Beyond the Macro: A Graph-Based Approach to Model Material-Social Intersections in tomb QH35p of Elephantine (Egypt)
11:10–11:30	Rocío Da Riva	Moving gods and elusive temples in Late Babylonia
11:30–11:50	Discussion	

11:50–1:10 Lunch

Thursday, September 24th – Afternoon

Location: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor

Session 5 - Deposition, ancestry, and regional identity

Time	Name	Title
1:10–1:30	Ana Arzelier, Alycia Menuge, Delphine Linard, Marie-Hélène Pémonge, Fanny Mendisco, Mickaël Legros, Arnaud Blin, Marie-France Deguilloux, Muriel Gandelin, Vincent Ard & Mélanie Pruvost	Connecting the dead: kinship, mobility, and social networks in Neolithic dolmens of South-Western France
1:30–1:50	Emma Buckingham	Networks of Ancestrality: Funerary Assemblages and Elite Self-Fashioning in South Italy and the Adriatic
1:50–2:10	Tamás Czuppon	Avar networks. Analysing burial customs to model regional networks
2:10–2:30	Inga Utkina-Wöhrl	Looking at hoards through networks: First results of the network research on early medieval depositions in the Middle Dnieper Area
2:30–2:50	Discussion	

2:50–3:20 Coffee Break

Session 6 - Bronze Age Mediterranean maritime interaction

Time	Name	Title
3:20–3:40	Giulia Michienzi	Networks in Motion: Modelling Interactions in the Bronze Age Central Mediterranean
3:40–4:00	Karl Smith, Linda Hulin, Max MacDonald	Agent-Based Sailing Models as a Basis for Network Analysis: a Case Study from The Practical Mariner
4:00–4:20	Discussion	

Friday, September 25th – Morning

Location: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor

Session 7 - Method, inference, and uncertainty

Time	Name	Title
8:30–8:50	Shawn Graham, Pedro Trapero Fernández	Travellersim Redux: Generating Networks from Archaeological Data
8:50–9:10	Paula Gheorghiade, Tom Brughmans, Michele Coscia, Nikolas Salamanos	How Similar is "Similar"? Bridging Theory and Method in Ceramic Network Analysis
9:10–9:30	Ray Rivers	Possibilistic and Probabilistic Uncertainty in Modelling Exchange Networks
9:30–9:50	Adrian Proestos, Stephen Smith	Re-evaluating stratigraphic relationships at Gravina di Puglia through network analysis
9:50–10:10	Discussion	

10:10–10:50 Coffee Break

Session 8 - Routes, roads, and spatial networks

Time	Name	Title
10:50–11:10	Steven van Ens	Integrating Diachronic Road Networks and Archaeological Survey Data in the Roman Hinterland
11:10–11:30	Antonio Merola	Mapping Romanization: Social and Spatial Networks in the Peligna Valley
11:30–11:50	Discussion	

Lunch and Poster Session 12:00–2:00

Location: Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, BF 200B, 4 Bancroft Ave. 2nd Floor.

Robert Crotts – *The View from Beaver Hall: Joseph Frobisher's Estate and Social Networks in Early Nineteenth-Century Montreal*

Shaghayegh (Poppy) Ghasemi – *Present but Unseen in Timurid Iran*

Rosemary Ott – *Representation Matters: Visibility of the Foreign in the Iconography of New Kingdom Egyptian Queens*

Friday, September 25th – Afternoon

Location: Multi Faith Center (Koffler House), Main Activity Hall (KP 208), 2nd Floor

Session 9 - Cult, ritual practice, and settlement networks

Time	Name	Title
2:30–2:50	Alice Capobianco	From Living Practices to Ancient Networks: Ethnoarchaeology for the reconstruction of Roman unguent and incense production
2:50–3:10	Sebastian Kheml	Economic and Military Drivers of the Worship of Asclepius in Roman Dacia: A Quantitative Approach
3:10–3:30	Discussion	

3:30–3:50 Coffee Break

Session 10 - Transmission, patronage, and connection in medieval and early modern worlds

Time	Name	Title
3:50–4:10	Sarah Ahmed	John Wesley's Global Medical Networks
4:10–4:30	Anna Penkała-Jastrzębska	The Formation of a Network of Political Allegiance, Social Relations, and Magnate Influence in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the First Half of the Eighteenth Century — preliminary research
4:30–4:50	Ke Ma	Mapping Chinoiserie: A Data Modelling Approach to Chinese Cabinets in the Court Architecture of the Holy Roman Empire, ca. 1650–1800
4:50–5:10	Discussion	

5:10-5:30 Closing Remarks

The Connected Past 2026 is sponsored by:

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University of Toronto, the Archaeology Center

University of Toronto, Department of Classics

University of Toronto, Jackmans Humanities Institute

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