

Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis

*Curator of Iranian and Islamic Coins, The British Museum*

# Coins, Kings and Gods in Ancient Iran

**Date:**  
**Thurs. Nov. 12**

**Time:**  
**3:30-5:00 pm**

**Where:**  
306 Hagerty Hall  
1775 College Rd  
Columbus, OH 43210



Parthian and Sasanian coins of 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC- 7<sup>th</sup> century AD provide important information about the relationship between kingship and religion. The Parthian and Sasanian kings used religious symbolism to show that they enjoyed divine protection and were chosen by divine beings to rule over their empire. This lecture studies the changing nature of

Parthian and Sasanian iconography by using numismatic evidence as well as sculptures and reliefs. It will look at the various strands of influence, such as nomadic, ancient Iranian and Hellenistic, from which the Parthians synthesized their royal iconography. It will move away from a western interpretation of the symbolism and, instead, interpret the iconography in an Iranian and Near Eastern context.

Inquiries:

## Middle East Studies Center

321 Oxley Hall  
1712 Neil Ave  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Phone: 614-292-5897  
Fax: 614-292-4273  
E-mail: [mesc@osu.edu](mailto:mesc@osu.edu)

**Co-sponsors:** Near Eastern Languages & Cultures  
Middle East Studies Center  
Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies  
OSU History Department

For more information about this or other activities, please send a request to the Middle East Studies Center via mail, 322 Oxley Hall, 1712 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210-1219, telephone (614) 292-5897, email [mesc@osu.edu](mailto:mesc@osu.edu), or see our web site: [mesc.osu.edu](http://mesc.osu.edu). Please let us know if you have questions concerning access, or need to request accommodations for a disability. Early requests are encouraged, and a week will generally allow organizers to provide seamless access.

