



**SSZ Circular**  
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SSZ will periodically circulate and maintain a listing of upcoming events related to Zoroastrianism organized by various Zoroastrian Associations, academic departments and other institutions around the world. If interested, please forward all relevant details (speaker name with her/his brief bio, date, time, Zoom links and other applicable information) to Meheryar N. Rivetna at [mrivetna@comcast.net](mailto:mrivetna@comcast.net). The information and recordings of such events, when available, will be posted on the SSZ website [www.s-s-z.org](http://www.s-s-z.org)

## **Upcoming Scholastic Events Related to Zoroastrianism**

**June 2024**

### **The British Institute of Persian Studies**

*Historical Controversies Involving the Rise of the Achaemenid Empire*  
by  
*Reza Zarghamee*

**Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

**Time: 12 noon EST/11:00 a.m. CST/5 p.m. BST**

**Registration required. Please register at the link below to attend this event (Ctrl+Click to follow link). The Zoom link will be provided to all registrants.**

**[at this link.](#)**

The political background to the Achaemenid Empire remains elusive and the subject of important shifts in scholarly consensus over the past four decades. Specifically, scholarly perspectives regarding the importance of the Medes as imperial predecessors of the Persians, the dynastic unity of Cyrus II and Darius I. This presentation provides an overview of the changing paradigms, and counter theories, along with a call for a more synthetic and less radical approach to the sources.

Reza Zarghamee is both a practicing attorney and a Fellow in Ancient History at the University of St. Andrews where he obtained his Ph. D. for a thesis, entitled “Mythical Models: Reflections of Iranian Traditions in the Classical Accounts of Median and early Achaemenid Royalty.”

He is the author of “Discovering Cyrus” (2013), a historical biography of Cyrus the Great.