

**Dr. Rocco Rante (Paris)**

***Crossroads of Civilizations: The Flourishing Oases of Central Asia, 1st Millennium BCE to Early 1st Millennium CE***



This presentation explores the dynamic oasis networks of Central Asia between the 1st millennium BCE and the early 1st millennium CE, a period marked by intensified migrations, cultural exchange, economic growth, and political transformation. Positioned along the arteries later known as the Silk Roads, these fertile enclaves functioned as vital nodes linking the Mediterranean, Iranian plateau, South Asia, and East Asia. Drawing on archaeological, textual, and environmental evidence, the analysis would like to highlight, through a few examples, how people migrated and settled, how irrigation drove settlement distribution, how these oases evolved from localized agrarian settlements into interconnected hubs of exchange and cultural experimentation. The paper highlights Central Asia's pivotal role as a mediator of technologies, artistic styles, and religious ideas during a formative era of Eurasian history.