



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PREMODERN ASIA, WESTERN BRANCH

The 2026 meeting of the Western Branch of the American Society for Premodern Asia (ASPA; formerly AOS), will take place on **October 22–24** at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. All members of the society are cordially invited and enthusiastically encouraged to attend, to organize panels, and to present papers.

Please send a title and 250-word abstract for a proposed paper by **Wednesday, July 15**, via email to the Secretary-Treasurer, Timothy Davis: [wbasp1951@gmail.com](mailto:wbaspa1951@gmail.com). Successful applicants will be notified in early August. Once notified of acceptance, please submit your registration form and payment (this will help confirm your participation and facilitate creating the meeting schedule). Accepted papers will be allotted 30 minutes (20 minutes for the presentation, followed by questions from the audience). The final program will be emailed to participants at the end of September.

All registration forms and payments (for both paper presenters and attendees who do not wish to present a paper) must be received by **Tuesday, September 1**. Please send your registration form via email to Secretary-Treasurer, Timothy Davis at this address: [wbasp1951@gmail.com](mailto:wbaspa1951@gmail.com). Registration payments can be made on the [WBASPA website](#) (scroll to the bottom of the homepage for payment options) or sent to Timothy Davis (see instructions on the attached Registration Form).

**Attendance at the conference does not require ASPA membership, but to present a paper you need to be a member of the American Society for Premodern Asia.**  
ASPA Membership information is available at the society's website: <http://www.aos-site.org>.

### Graduate Student Travel Awards

Two "Graduate Student Travel Awards" (\$500 each) will be offered to subvent expenses to attend the Western Branch meeting. Graduate students who intend to apply for the award should indicate this in the email that accompanies the submission of their abstract. All applications to the Graduate Student Award will be anonymously reviewed by members of the Executive Committee of the Western Branch. Awardees will be recognized during the banquet and on the society's website. The number of future awards will depend on the amount of donations made for this purpose. If you would like to support this program with a donation to the Daniel Bryant Memorial Fellowship Fund, please see the [WBASPA website](#).

### Meeting Arrangements

Afternoon sessions on the first day (Thursday, October 22) will be held at the Provo Marriott Hotel and Convention Center (101 W 100 N, Provo, UT). Friday (Oct. 23) and Saturday (Oct. 24) sessions will be held at the Wilkinson Student Center (1060 E Campus Dr, Provo, UT) on the campus of Brigham Young University.

## Accommodations

Arrangements have been made with the **Provo Marriott Hotel and Convention Center** (101 W 100 N, Provo, UT) for a discounted conference rate of \$159/night for a Queen Bedroom. The conference rate will be available either until September 20 or until all rooms are booked, whichever comes first. We strongly encourage you to make your reservation at the Marriott right away. Note that fewer rooms are available at the discounted rate for Wednesday night (Oct. 21)—if you plan to arrive on Wednesday consider booking your room as soon as possible. To ensure access to the conference rate, please book using this link only:

[Book your group rate accommodations for the Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Society for Premodern Asia \(WBASPA\)](#)

Should the rooms at the conference rate sell out, [The Hyatt Place in Provo](#) is a good second option as it is located across the street from the Marriott.

Because there are no suitable hotels next to campus, Thursday afternoon sessions and the reception will be held at the hotel. Shuttles will be used to transport attendees from the hotel to the campus on Friday and Saturday.

## Travel from the Salt Lake International Airport (SLC)

Rideshares (Uber/Lyft) cost around \$70 one-way and take around 45 minutes. If anyone wants to prearrange sharing a ride from the airport to the hotel, they can use [this Google sheet](#) to coordinate communication.

If you are driving, onsite parking at the hotel is available for \$15 per day.

Shuttle services are available through [Express Shuttle/All Area Shuttle](#). This may take a bit longer than Uber/Lyft because you might have to share the shuttle with another customer who is stopping at a different location along the way. The cost is similar to Uber/Lyft (around \$70).

Public transportation is an affordable option, but it will take about 2 hours to get from the airport to the hotel. Take the UTA Trax light rail (Green Line) from the Airport to the “North Temple” stop, descend the escalator and board the “Front Runner” Commuter Train south bound to “Provo Central Station.” Either walk 15 minutes to the Marriott Hotel or arrange for a short Uber ride. Total ticket cost will be about \$10 one-way. [Click for more information](#). Download the [“Transit” App](#) to plan your trip and to purchase tickets. The commuter train does not run on Sunday.

## Flying Directly to the Provo Airport (PVU)

In recent years, the [Provo Municipal Airport \(PVU\)](#) has expanded its commercial air services. Budget airlines Breeze and Allegiant offer direct flights to Provo from several locations, and American Airlines offers direct flights from Phoenix and Dallas to Provo. It is a 15 minute Uber/Lyft ride from the airport to the hotel; cost is around \$20.

## Weather

Mid-October is usually a delightful time in Provo, with clear skies and daytime highs in the 60s, and nighttime lows often in the 40s. This can vary of course, so please check weather forecasts before departure.

## Reception and Banquet

At the conclusion of the afternoon sessions on Thursday, October 22, a **reception** with drinks and light snacks will be held at the Marriott hotel 6:30–8:30 PM. The annual meeting **banquet** will be held Saturday evening 7:00–9:30 PM (location pending). The traditional keynote address will be given by **Professor Wendy Swartz** (Rutgers University).