The Zoroastrian tradition has its roots in Central Asia in the first or even the second millennium BCE but we see little of it in the material record until a massive floruit in Sasanian times from the 3rd century CE onwards. This talk will provide a background to the rise of the Zoroastrian tradition and the material and architectural evidence that tells its story.

Professor Alison Betts is Professor of Silk Road Studies at the University of Sydney and the Director of the University of Sydney Central Asian Programme.

Professor Betts’s research interests include the Epipalaeolithic to Bronze Age Levant on the arable/steppe margins, the pre- and proto-history of Central Asia, the background to Zoroastrianism, nomadic peoples, nomad/state relations, early pastoral communities, game drives, lithic studies, graffiti and rock art, and the prehistory of herbal medicine.

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