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The Macquarie Conference would have never been conceived without the inspiring panel, "New Directions in Seleucid Archaeology," organized by Lidewijde de Jong (University of Groningen) and Rocco Palermo (University of Groningen). The panel was included in the joint SCS-AIA conference in 2018, otherwise known as the ABF (= Academic Big Freeze); it was through enduring multiple airplane engine defrosts and wild detours to arrive at the conference from across the world that the panelists insisted on a conference in relatively more predictable and balmier climes! Beyond, however, meeting brilliant colleagues from the other side (i.e. archaeology), as it were, the extraordinary Boston convention was hugely successful on another front too: the cold weather gave rise to amazingly hot debates in the conference rooms and hotel lobbies beyond the usual pleasantries we tend to exchange under the pressure of a tight, full schedule; encouraged by the circumstances we found ourselves in, many of us wanted to talk about approaches to the subject matter, even down to openly discussing methodologies as well as debating the need for them and the problem of applying them anachronistically. We even reflected on matters of terminology and whether we are really up-to-speed with the move from structuralism to poststructuralism and the more recent cognitive approaches to archaeological and textual evidence; in questioning how confident students of antiquity are in using modern theoretical perspectives, we concurred the answer was "little". While we attempt to revisit some of these issues in the Introduction, it is important to address a resounding thank you to the panellists of the Boston conference, and especially to Rocco and Lidewijde, for offering the platform for these crucial exchanges to begin.

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