Andrea Piras, Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and Professor of Philology, Religion and History of Iran at University of Bologna (Italy), is particularly interested in cultural history of pre-Islamic Iran, from the Achaemenid dynasty to the Parthian and Sassanian ones. His main researches deal with Zoroastrian texts in Avesta and Pahlavi languages, with intertextuality of Ancient Iranian languages and Middle Iranian ones, and with Manichaeans texts. He has been focusing on the religious anthropology of this area, by considering eschatology, soteriology, ecstatic experiences (otherworldly journeys and Shamanism), rituals and mythologies, apocalyptic lores. Among his works, the Italian edition, translation and commentary of the Avestan and Pahlavi eschatological text, Hā_dō_xt Nask, Rome 2000; two books on Manichaeans subjects: Verba Lucis. Scrittura, immagine e libro nel manicheismo (2012); Il manicheismo (2015). With Gherardo Gnoli, he has been co-editor of three volumes of Manichaen texts (2003, 2006, 2008) published by Lorenzo Valla Foundation, Mondadori.

Light Lunch Served.