

New Agendas in Remote Sensing and Landscape Archaeology In the Near East

A workshop celebrating T.J. Wilkinson's 35 years in Near Eastern archaeology

Friday, 10 January 2014 9am - 6pm
Palmer Building, University of Reading



The field of landscape archaeology has been transformed enormously over the past 35 years, and for much of this time Tony Wilkinson has been at the vanguard of this development. With 5 current major research projects spanning the Middle East, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe, encompassing big issues such as long-term settlement trends, the rise and collapse of empires, the emergence of urbanization, agent-based modeling, hydrology and human niche construction, to name only a few, Tony continues to demonstrate the importance of an interdisciplinary approach for understanding the impact of human activity on shaping the landscape and, conversely, the profound effect that landscape has on sociocultural development. His innovative field methods and pioneering intellectual pursuits in landscape archaeology – which have resulted recently in his gaining the dubious distinction of being labeled as a “post-Post-processualist” -- have also brought about numerous fruitful collaborations with scholars across many disciplines and have laid the foundation for exciting new work by an ever-growing succession of scholars now forging uncharted intellectual pathways and exploring new agendas in regional survey and the application of geospatial technologies in archaeology.

This session is intended to provide a forum for lively discussion on some of the most recent developments in remote sensing and landscape archaeology, celebrating the continuing influence of Tony Wilkinson's work on the field by featuring the research of a representative group of his current co-investigators, colleagues, and students whose projects embody the breadth of possibilities in harnessing remote sensing techniques and regional survey for comprehending past societies. Focus will be on areas of the Near East that have been previously uninvestigated or are now inaccessible, as well as on the creative use of new technologies and methods for making cultural heritage meaningful to a wide audience beyond the technocrats. Speakers will address the challenges faced by researchers in the field today, and the tools, techniques, and theoretical approaches available to resolve them within the framework of landscape archaeology. Presented papers, along with other invited contributions, will be collected in a volume published by the Oriental Institute Press (Chicago), edited by Mark Altaweel, Graham Philip, and Dan Lawrence.

Workshop Presentations

Introduction

McGuire Gibson (University of Chicago)

The Search for hidden landscapes in the Shahrizor

Mark Altaweel (University College London)

Mapping and modelling the 'Invisible Dead': Reconstructing demographics in the ancient Near East

Jenny Bradbury (Durham University) & Graham Philip (Durham University)

Beyond survey boundaries: Satellite remote sensing-based classification and dating of archaeological sites in the northern Fertile Crescent

Jesse Casana, University of Arkansas

How the Hollow Ways got their Form (and kept it): 5000 years of Hollow Ways at Tell al-Hawa

Emma Cunliffe (Durham University) & Michelle De Gruchy (Durham University)

The Rowanduz Archaeological Program 2013

Michael Danti (Boston University)

Dating ancient rivers in the Mesopotamian floodplain

Jaafar Jotheri (Durham University), T.J. Wilkinson (Durham University) & Mark Allen (Durham University)

Extrapolating Ebla: Combining Remote Sensing, Survey and Textual Sources to define an Early State

Dan Lawrence (Durham University) & Sebastien Rey (Université de Liège)

The Eastern Upper Tigris Region from the emergence of complexity to the rise of empires. Settlement dynamics in the Nineveh hinterland from the seventh to the first millennium BC

Daniel Morandi Bonacossi (University of Udine) & Marco Iamoni (University of Udine)

Early Islamic water management in the hinterland of Raqqa

Louise Rayne (Durham University)

Landscapes of Destruction and Conflict in the Caucasus

Andrea Ricci (Christian Albrechts University, Kiel)

The Gorgan Wall's garrison revealed via satellite search

Eberhard Sauer (University of Edinburgh)

Central Planning and Urban Emergence in Early Bronze Age Cities of Northern Mesopotamia

Jason Ur (Harvard University)