Critical Debates in the Archaeology of the Middle East
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About BANEA

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About BANE A

The British Association of Near Eastern Archaeology (BANE A) is a charitable organization set up to facilitate information exchange on the archaeology of the Ancient Near East and related fields between professionals and non-professionals alike. The most important forum for information exchange is the annual conference which rotates between universities in the United Kingdom where related subjects are taught.

Organising committee
Christoph Bachhuber
Robert Bewley
Paul Collins
Jacob Dahl
Bill Finlayson
Ine Jacobs
Jade Whitlam
Paul Wordsworth

Sponsors and Partners
British Institute at Ankara (partner)
British Institute of Persian Studies (partner)
British Institute for the Study of Iraq (partner)
Council for British Research in the Levant (partner)
Egypt Exploration Society (partner)
Khalili Research Centre for the Art and Material Culture of the Middle East (sponsor)
Oxbow Books (partner)
Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research (sponsor)
Wolfson College Ancient World Research Cluster (sponsor)

Conference Information
Registration will take place at St. Cross College, in the West Wing of the college
St Cross College
61 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LZ
+44 (0)1865 278490 (Lodge)

Getting Around
While St. Cross, the Ioannou Centre, and the Ashmolean are all within a few steps of each other, Wolfson is farther from the city centre. For the evening events at Wolfson on the
evening of 10th January the conference is arranging taxi van pickups to shuttle to and from Wolfson. Users will need to pay taxi drivers for the taxi service.

- To Wolfson: taxi pickup in parking area in front of the Ioannou Centre and St. Cross, 17:30
- Return to city centre (following plenary panel): taxi pickup in front of Wolfson College lodge, 19.30
- Return to city centre (following conference dinner), taxi pickup in front of Wolfson College lodge, 21.00

Alternatively:

- A Walking route is marked on the map on page 6, it takes around 25 mins
- The buses 7, 7A, 500, S4, S5, and X4 all pass Wolfson. They run every 10-15 mins from bus stop C3 on Magdalen Street. Ask the driver for St Margaret’s Road East. It is then a further 7 minute walk: cross the street and continue to Linton Road on the right, the college is at the end of the street. Allow 30 minutes for travel.
- There are taxis in Gloucester Green or you can call a taxi provider such as:
  - ABC Radio Taxis – 01865 242424
  - 001 Taxis- 01865 240000
  - College Porters can also call a taxi for you

**Accessibility**

All our conference venues are accessible. If you require assistance or have any questions do talk to a conference organiser, or staff at the venue.

**Ashmolean:** There is a ramp at the front entrance, and there is a lift.

**Ioannou Centre:** Level access and a lift.

**St. Cross College:** There is flat access from the side gate on Pusey Lane, you can ask a porter to open it for you.

**Wolfson Auditorium:** Level access and space for wheelchairs at the front.

If you would like to check any other university venues, visit this website: [https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk](https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk)
Conference Information

A – St. Cross College
B – Ioannou Centre
C – Ashmolean Museum
D – Wolfson College

Magdalen Bus Stop
Gloucester Green
St. Margaret’s Road East
### General Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:30-10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Connecting People, Plants, Animals, and Things; Approaching Heritage Landscapes</td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Legacies; Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes;</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 10:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:30 – 12:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Connecting People, Plants, Animals, and Things; Approaching Heritage Landscapes; Current Fieldwork</td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Legacies; Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes; Heritage Landscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>13:30 – 15:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rethinking Origins; Waterscapes and Water Management</td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes; Practices; Ritual Contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>15:30 – 17:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Poster Presentations</strong>&lt;br&gt;Annual General Meeting</td>
<td><strong>Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes; Methodology; Ritual Contexts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of BIRI Plenary Panel 1</td>
<td>Plenary Panel 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19.15 – 21.00</strong></td>
<td>Drinks Reception</td>
<td>Conference Dinner</td>
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Thursday

**Detailed Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>St Cross College – West Wing Auditorium</th>
<th>Ashmolean – Headley Lecture Theatre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Registration Opens – St. Cross West Wing</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 - 15:00</td>
<td>Rethinking Origins</td>
<td>Waterscapes and Water Management, Session 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break, St. Cross West Wing and Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-17:00</td>
<td>Textual and Visual Culture</td>
<td>Waterscapes and Water Management, Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30-19:15</td>
<td>BANEAs and Ashmolean Introductions, presentation of BIRI, followed by Plenary Panel “The Relationship Between Archaeology and Heritage in the Middle East”, Randolph Sculpture Gallery, Ashmolean</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:15 – 20:45</td>
<td>Drinks reception in the Ashmolean Museum Foyer, open to Ancient Egypt and Sudan Gallery</td>
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**Rethinking Origins**

13:30 – 15:00 St Cross College West Wing Auditorium


14.00 Pertev Basri and Dan Lawrence, “Wealthy Inequality in the Ancient Near East: A preliminary assessment using GINI coefficients and household size”

14.30 Hava. B. Korzakova, “Rethinking Origins of rethinking the origins. Homeric archaeology in Homer’s times”

**Textual and Visual Culture**

15:30-17:00 St Cross College West Wing Auditorium

15.30 Laura Quick, “Iconography of Dress and Adornment in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East”

16.00 Ademar Camara, “Ownership inscriptions: Literacy, Materiality and Genre”

16.30 Haggai Olshanetsky, “Were there Jewish Gladiators?”

**Waterscapes and Water Management**

13:30 – 17:00 Ashmolean Headley Lecture Theatre

**Session 1**
BANE 2020
Critical Debates in the Archaeology of the Middle East

13.30 - Michele Massa, “Water management and society in the Konya Plain (central Anatolia) across the Holocene”

14.00 - Kristen Hopper, et al., “Documenting historic water Management in the Tabriz Region, Iran”

Session 2

15.30 - Alison Gascoigne, “Reconstructing the town and water-scapes of the northeast Nile delta: the island city of Tinnis”

16.00 - Georgia Andreou, “Maritime Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa Project (2019-2024)”

Plenary panel discussion 1: “The relationship between archaeology and heritage in the Middle East”

17.30 Ashmolean Museum, Randolph Sculpture Gallery

This panel will be an assessment of the relationship between archaeological methodologies/fieldwork/researchers in the Middle East and heritage. Heritage can be approached in two ways: as ‘critical heritage’ which is a major component of the emergence of heritage studies as an academic discipline; and as ‘heritage management’ which includes the implementation of mostly national policies in the Middle East related to archaeology. Critiques launched from heritage studies have called for the removal of archaeologists and their methodologies from the domain of heritage (for an extreme position, mostly developed in the post-colony of the New World, see Waterton and Smith 2009*). Broadly, this position argues that archaeologists are unable to serve the interests of the public (which are different from the narrow interests of the state), in particular if archaeologists are of European descent and work in formerly colonized countries. Also, the professionalization of heritage management has led to the diminished role of archaeologists globally in the public aspects of archaeology.

Yet, the most well-funded archaeology-related heritage initiatives in the Middle East are driven by archaeologists (and supported by archaeological methodologies, for example remote survey), and some of the largest are based in the UK. Towards answering the question “What is the relationship between archaeology and heritage in the Middle East?”, panelists are encouraged to consider differences between countries in the Middle East, and between the Middle East and other regions of the world.

This plenary panel discussion will be moderated by Mrs. Carole Souter CBE, Master of St. Cross College and former Chief Executive of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund (2003–2016) Memorial Lottery Fund.

Discussion Point 1. Agree or disagree: archaeological involvement in any aspect of heritage is inevitably self-serving, in particular through preservationist agendas that may align with national interests but often do not take account of local interests, circumstances and needs.

Discussion Point 2. Agree or disagree: the gulf between academic/national and local/popular interest in archaeology in the Middle East is as large as ever. So long as archaeological research continues to be mostly foreign-led the gulf between academic/national and local/popular interest will continue to grow, resulting ultimately in the further destruction to archaeological landscapes.
Discussion Point 3. Agree or disagree: the inevitable result of the removal of archaeologists (including foreign ones) from the domain of heritage is the ‘disneyification’ and/or misrepresentation of archaeology.

Discussion Point 4. If ‘sustainability’ is the goal for any resource, what does ‘sustainable’ mean to archaeologists?


Panellists:

Prof. Çiğdem Atakuman (Professor of Archaeology, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey)
Prof. Reinhard Bernbeck (Professor of Archaeology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Dr. Robert Bewley (Director, Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa, Oxford)
Prof. Eisa Esfanjary (Professor of Architectural and Urban Conservation, Art University of Isfahan, Iran)
Prof. Ömür Harmanşah (Professor of Art History, University of Illinois, Chicago, USA)
Dr. Joanne Rowland (Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Edinburgh)

Friday

**Detailed Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>St Cross College – West Wing Auditorium</th>
<th>Ashmolean – Headley Lecture Theatre</th>
<th>Ioannou Lecture Theatre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00</td>
<td>Connecting People, Plants, Animals and Things, <em>Session 1</em></td>
<td>Approaching Heritage Landscapes, <em>Session 1</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00–10:30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong> – St. Cross College West Wing and Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30–12:00</td>
<td>Connecting People, Plants, Animals and Things, <em>Session 2</em></td>
<td>Approaching Heritage Landscapes, <em>Session 2</em></td>
<td>Current Fieldwork, <em>Session 1</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12–13:30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong> (not provided by conference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00–16:00</td>
<td>Poster Presentations and Coffee Break – St. Cross College West Wing and Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00–17:00</td>
<td><strong>Annual General Meeting</strong>, St. Cross College West Wing Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00–19:45</td>
<td>Wolfson College introductions, Student Poster Prizes followed by <em>Plenary Panel</em>, “Still Digging? The Future of Archaeology’s Methodologies in the Middle East”, Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:45</td>
<td>Conference Dinner, Haldane Room, Wolfson College</td>
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Connecting People, Plants, Animals and Things

8:30 – 15:00 St. Cross College – West Wing Auditorium

Session 1

8.30 Branka Franicevic, “Animals of the Silk Road: distribution of wealth and disease”


9.30 Alathea Fernyhough, “Metalwork in the Mesopotamian countryside: a preliminary examination of metal composition from Tell Khaiber, southern Iraq”

Session 2


11.00 Arkadiusz Soltysiak, “Patterns of agropastoralism in Iran: review of human collagen stable isotope data”

11.30 Lynn Welton, “Reconstructing animal management and landscape exploitation via isotopic analysis: early complex societies in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Jordan Valley”

Session 3

13.30 Alexander Weide, “Understanding plant domestication within a framework of socio-economic relationships: moving beyond the agro-technological paradigm”

14.00 Tom Maltas, et al., “Reassessing the absence of ‘staple finance’ in Early Bronze Age western Anatolia”

14.30 Valentina Tumolo, et al., “Olive cultivation and oil production in the EB II-III Central and Southern Levant: new insights through a multidisciplinary approach”

Approaching Heritage Landscapes

9:00 – 15:00 Ashmolean Headley Lecture Theatre

Session 1

9.00 Eisa Esfanjary Kenari, “Lessons learned from the processes of restoration and reconstruction of the Dih Nau Mosque in Maibud, Iran”

9.30 Assaad Seif, “Urban archaeology in Beirut, challenges and solutions”
Session 2

10.30 Aqeel Almansrawe et al., “Survey and Documentation of Endangered Archaeological Sites in ThiQar Province, Southern Iraq”

11.00 Letty ten Harkel and Ahmed Shams, “The SinaiArchaeoWater project: remote and field-based survey of recent heritage sites in a landscape context”

11.30 Andrea Titolo, “Monitoring emerging archaeological sites using multitemporal NDWI: case studies from Iraq.”

Session 3

13:30 Mohamed Kenawi and Luciana Carvalho, “Rosetta Project: endangered archaeology and a dynamic heritage

14.00 Mouhamad Sater et al. “Site preservation and loss in the Bekka Valley: using the EAMENA database to combine legacy data, with the evidence of remote sensing and ground control”

14.30 Michael Fradley, “Opening up remote-sensing for archaeology over Israel and Palestine”

Current Fieldwork

10:30-15:00 Ioannou Centre Lecture Theatre

Session 1

10.30 Mohamed Kenawi, “Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit, Egypt ca. 700 BC – AD 1000”

11.00 Michael Fisher and Gil Stein, “Approaches to periodization at Tell Surezha, Kurdish Regional Government”

Session 2

13.30 Amy Richardson, “The Central Zagros Archaeological Project: integrated approaches to the Early Neolithic”

14.00 John MacGinnis, “Excavations in the Darband-i Rania, Iraqi Kurdistan”

Poster Presentations

15:00 - 16:00 St Cross West Wing

Sarah Elliott, “Scientific geo-ethnoarchaeology and its archaeological application to investigate farming, settlements and agriculture in the past”

Claire Frampton, “In what ways have critical debates in the archaeology of the Near
East been explored through contemporary theatre and performance?”

Hannah E. McQuail, “View from the heavens: using satellite imagery to study Babylon and its surrounds”

Michal Michalski, “The great dispersal - exploratory data analysis”

Maria Rabbani, “Investigating human-environmental interactions in the Zagros region during the Late Glacial and Early to Mid-Holocene period”

Giulia Ragazzon, “After they ‘turned to clay’: exploring life and death in ancient Mesopotamia”

Leia Kristen Tilley, “‘Desert kites’ – place and relation within the landscape”

Joseph Uhlar, “Deleuze and Guattari in the ancient Near East”

Kevin Woodbridge, “Long-term changes to gravity-based irrigation of semi-arid plains and the role of river avulsions – examples from the Khuzestan Plains of Iran”

Plenary panel discussion 2: “Still digging? The future of archaeology’s methodologies in the Middle East”

18.00 Wolfson College, Leonard Wolfson Auditorium

This panel will be an assessment of the viability of archaeology’s traditional fieldwork methodologies in the Middle East today. Ongoing geo-political instability is an obvious consideration that impacts fieldwork, but also the increasing constraints by ministries on foreign/western fieldwork projects, ministries’ prioritization of archaeological conservation and heritage development management over research, the increasing costs of fieldwork, and the recent (funding) success of archaeology projects in the Middle East that have little or no fieldwork presence. As regards the latter, arguably the most impactful methodological developments in the archaeology of the Middle East in the past decade have derived from ‘big data’ projects that rely overwhelmingly on legacy and remote sensing data. What is the future of ‘dirt archaeology’ in the Middle East in the face of geo-political and financial adversity, as well as the expectations of ministries, and potential criticism for its outmoded-seeming methodologies?

This plenary panel discussion will be moderated by Prof. Amy Bogaard, Head of the School of Archaeology and Professor of Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology, University of Oxford.

Discussion Point 1. Agree or disagree: Archaeological fieldwork (excavation and on the ground survey) is the most important aspect of doing archaeological research. Without it, archaeology loses its disciplinary identity and begins to resemble other disciplines, for example geography when relying on remote sensing.

Discussion Point 2. Agree or disagree: Large-scale excavation involves outmoded methodologies and can be potentially unethical because of its destructive aspects, and because it relies too heavily on a large pool of local, low-paid labour.
**Discussion Point 3.** Agree or disagree: It is acceptable to conduct excavation or other fieldwork with on-site security provision.

**Discussion Point 4.** Agree or disagree: Foreign archaeologists have a responsibility to become front-line cultural ambassadors in the Middle East, which includes committing themselves to national development agendas and improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities.

Panellists:

Dr. Abdulameer al-Hamdani (Minister of Culture, Baghdad, Iraq)

Prof. Alison Gascoigne (Professor of Medieval Archaeology, Southampton University, Southampton)

Prof. Basema Hamarneh (Professor of Early Christian Archaeology, Universität Wien, Austria)

Dr. Dan Lawrence (University Lecturer in Archaeology, Durham University, Durham)

Prof. Scott Redford (Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology, SOAS, University of London)

Prof. Assaad Seif (Professor of Archaeology, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon)

**Saturday**

**Detailed Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>St Cross College – West Wing Auditorium</th>
<th>Ashmolean – Headley Lecture Theatre</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10</td>
<td>Legacies, <em>Session 1</em></td>
<td>Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes, <em>Session 1</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td><em><strong>Coffee Break</strong></em> - West Wing and Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>Legacies, <em>Session 2</em></td>
<td>Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes, <em>Session 2</em></td>
<td>Approaching Heritage Landscapes, <em>Session 4</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td>Practices</td>
<td>Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes, <em>Session 3</em></td>
<td>Ritual Contexts, <em>Session 1: Neolithic Figures</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td><em><strong>Coffee Break</strong></em> – West Wing</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-17:00</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes, <em>Session 4</em></td>
<td>Ritual Contexts, <em>Session 2: Mortuary</em></td>
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**Reconstructing Ancient Landscapes**

*9-17:00 Ashmolean Headley Lecture Theatre*
9.00 Lucia Novakova and Ahmad Heidari, “Archaeological landscape of central Birjand”


Session 2

10.30 M. A. Valsecchi Gillmeister, “Landscape archaeology in cross-check. Comparing surface collections and excavation data at Oymağaç Höyük/Nerik (Turkey)”

11.00 Ömür Harmanşah, “Yalburt Yaylası Survey Project in west-central Turkey: fieldwork in the landscapes of the Holocene and the Anthropocene”

11.30 Michele Massa and Christoph Bachhuber, “Are we any closer to the lost Hittite capital Tarhuntašša? Assessing the Late Bronze in the Konya Plain, Turkey”

Session 3

13.30 Dan Lawrence et al., “Reconstructing long term patterns of land use and productivity in the ancient Near East: a preliminary view”

14.00 Michelle de Gruchy and Dan Lawrence, “Climate change and spatial trends in early urban trajectories: a reassessment of the 4.2k event across the northern Fertile Crescent”

14.30 Francesca Simi, “Trajectories of change in settlement pattern and agricultural strategies in the Navkur Plain (Iraqi Kurdistan)”

Session 4

15.30 Pascal Flohr, “More than meets the eye: locating the Late Neolithic on the Karak Plateau, Jordan”

16.00 Mariam Shakhmuradyan, “An archaeological mystery of the 20th Century. What are ‘desert kites’?”

16.30 Caitlin L. Jensen, “Experience of weather in ancient Egypt”

Approaching Heritage Landscapes

Session 4

10.30 Arwa Kharobi et al. “Community archaeology in time of war: the Mozan/Urkesh project in northeastern Syria”

11.00 Lucy Bennison-Chapman, “Community engagement at Çatalhöyük: achievements and limitations of an international archaeological project”
11.30 Servane Hardouin “Approaches to landscape and communities on the west bank of Luxor, Egypt”

**Legacies**

9-12:00 St Cross West Wing Auditorium

**Session 1**

9.00 Reinhard Bernbeck, “The promotion of jihad by Germany and Near Eastern archaeology”

9.30 Dolla Merrilles, “(Un)Located”

**Session 2**

10.30 Josef Mario Briffa, “Searching for Sodom. The legacy of Teleilat Ghassul at 90”

11.00 Katie Campbell, “Rethinking stratigraphy and archaeological narratives at urban sites: an example from Otrar in Kazakhstan”

11.30 Pascal Flohr, et al., “Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan (MaDiH)”

**Ritual Contexts**

13.30-17.00 Ioannou Centre Lecture Theatre

**Session 1: Neolithic Figurines**

13.30 Monique Arntz, “Deposit or trash? A contextual analysis of figurines from Neolithic Tell Sabi Abyad (Syria)”

14.00 Çiğdem Atakuman, “Bodies, figurines and pits at the Neolithic Site of Ugurlu-Imbros Island”

**Session 2: Mortuary**

15.30 Latif Öksüz, “Quantitative analysis of burials in western and central Anatolia in the Bronze Age”

16.00 Lana Chologauri, “The role of Late Antique silverware from a royal necropolis in studying the social and political background in Caucasian Iberia”

16.30 Graham Philip et al., “Death in Mesopotamia: comparing burial and settlement records in the Ancient Near East”

**Practices**

14.00-15:00 St. Cross College West Wing Auditorium

14.00 Yağmur Heffron, “The second shift in archaeological fieldwork? Invisible labour of local archaeologists as fixers to foreign projects”
14.30 Bill Finlayson, “ODA funding, research, cultural heritage, and neo-colonialism”

Methodology
15:30-17:00 St. Cross College West Wing Auditorium

15.30 Piotr Jacobsson, “Some aspects of 9th millennium cal BC radiocarbon chronologies in the Levant”


Abstracts

Almansrawe, Aqeel, Jaafar Jotheri, Sayantani Neogi, William Deadman, Graham Philip: *Survey and Documentation of Endangered Archaeological Sites in ThiQar Province, Southern Iraq*

This paper aims to identify the endangered sites in the ThiQar Province, southern Iraq and to identify and assess the intensity of the different disturbances that are impacting them. The entire province has been intensively surveyed through remote sensing and ground survey methods. The remote sensing methodologies include the identification of archaeological sites and potential threats using modern high-resolution satellite imagery, and declassified Corona images from the 1960s and 1970s. Ground survey consisted of assessing, measuring and documenting threats in the field. More than 90 endangered sites have been identified across the study area. The archaeology faces six main threats: dune movements; flooding; looting; urbanism; farming and agricultural activity. This work has helped to alert the relevant authorities and the general public of ThiQar to the threats facing the archaeology of the region, and the immediate action that must be taken to save them and prevent further irreversible damage.

Andreou, Georgia: *Maritime Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa project (2019-2024)*

The maritime cultural landscape faces an increasing number of threats, including rising sea-levels, coastal erosion, agricultural, urban and industrial development, conflict, unauthorised excavations and looting. In addition, regional variability in heritage legislation and management strategies often affects broader assessments of large-scale heritage landscapes. These challenges highlight how crucial and timely a geographically broad, rapid and comprehensive recording of underwater, foreshore and coastal heritage landscapes is to understanding the engagement of people with the water, and the impact connectivity has on local and regional level. The Maritime Endangered Archaeology (MarEA) project aims to document and assess threats to the maritime and coastal archaeology with emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MarEA combines satellite imagery, marine geophysical datasets, spatial analysis, published and archival data from coastal and nearshore zones to explore consistently heritage landscapes. The project also endeavours to establish new and reinforce existing partnerships with colleagues from the MENA region, but also to form global collaborations for the sustainable management of endangered maritime heritage.

Documentation of endangered maritime archaeology and conditional assessment for analysed sites are consolidated within the open-access EAMENA database platform hosted by the University of Oxford. This online platform (Arches) will enable integrating information on coastal and marine
processes, as well as submerged paleo-landscape features, which provide evidence for past sea-levels and shoreline change.

The geospatial documentation of endangered maritime sites, seascape change and submerged features, will enable the consolidation of a substantial maritime database, unique to the MENA region. Such a database constitutes a fundamental tool for national cultural authorities and marine planners to consult and integrate in the protection and management of heritage landscapes.

**Arntz, Monique**: *Deposit or Trash? A Contextual Analysis of Figurines from Neolithic Tell Sabi Abyad (Syria)*

In the past Near Eastern anthropomorphic figurines (zoomorphic figurines have been afforded much less attention in general) have been interpreted as ‘art’, ‘mother goddesses’ and are fetishized in museums and art galleries. In recent excavations in the Near East, however, patterns have emerged where figurines are often found in ‘mundane’ contexts, such as external midden areas. Their apparent ‘discard’ of figurines amongst household rubbish seems to contradict sharply with current attitudes towards these objects.

Tell Sabi Abyad in Syria (ca. 7500-5500 BC) offers a case-study where figurines have been excavated with detailed contextual information. Excavations at the site yielded some 1500 figurines which have been recorded with great contextual detail. This site shows that depositions in what we regard as refuse contexts are at times, in fact, intentional depositions. The various find contexts at the site also give information about different life biographies of various figurines and it provides insights into possible different conceptualisations of the figurines as perceived by the inhabitants of Neolithic Tell Sabi Abyad.

**Atakuman, Çiğdem**: *Bodies, Figurines and Pits at the Neolithic Site of Ugurlu-Imbros Island*

Approximately 100 anthropomorphic figurines have been discovered at the Neolithic site of Ugurlu Höyük (6800-4500 BC) in the Northern Aegean island of Imbros. Based on their stylistic attributes, spatial contexts and raw material choices, this presentation will try to uncover the significance of figurines for the Neolithic community of Ugurlu.

**Barcina, Cristina**: *On the “origins of civilization” and the paradigm of ‘hierarchy’*

In the course of my PhD research on how palace and temple came to be one symbiotic institution at the beginning of the third millennium, I have noticed that archaeologists dealing with prehistorical periods, and Assyriologists dealing with our first textual sources, abundantly and predictably invoke concepts that are derived from what I have termed “the paradigm of hierarchy”. I have termed it so because it is deemed to be so inevitable that it is all pervasive and imbued with deus-ex-machina qualities. This concept of ‘hierarchy’ is of course never articulated at the eco-cultural and decision-making dimensions of a virtually ever-changing community, but it is instead applied to ‘villages’, ‘proto-cities’, ‘networks’, ‘chiefdoms’ and ‘polities’ as if they were monoliths belonging to one stage in the race towards awe-inducing complexity.

A more historical understanding of the events that eventually led to a “corruption of the communal”, my aim, needs to take into account diversity and process. To interpret the (unreliable) evidence at our disposal in a more realistic frame of mind, I placed myself in McCulloch’s ‘heterarchy’ (brain). Instead of Crumley’s use of this concept for landscape archaeology, I envision ‘heterarchy’ as hierarchies operating at the decision-making level (invisible background since the process towards single-rulership visibly starts at the end of the fourth). At the end of my analysis I will try to see whether an
adaptation of Douglas’ group-grid model (based on households/collectivity) and diversification/intensification strategies may be of use.

**Basri, Pertev and Dan Lawrence:** *Wealth Inequality in the Ancient Near East: A preliminary assessment using GINI coefficients and household size*

Investigating how different forms of inequality arose and were sustained through time is key to understanding the emergence of complex social systems. Due to its long term perspective, archaeology has much to contribute to this discussion. However, comparing inequality in different societies through time, especially in prehistory, is difficult because similar metrics of value are not available. Here we use a recently developed technique which assumes a correlation between household size and household wealth to investigate inequality in the Ancient Near East. Our results show that inequality increased from the Neolithic to the Iron Age, and we link this increase to changing forms of social and political organisation. We see a step change in levels of inequality around the time of the emergence of urban sites at the beginning of the Bronze Age. However, urban and rural sites were similarly unequal, suggesting that outside the elite, the inhabitants of each encompassed a similar range of wealth levels. The situation changes during the Iron Age, when inequality in urban environments increases and rural sites become more equal.

**Bennison-Chapman, Lucy; Allison Mickel and Patrycja Filipowicz:** *Community Engagement at Çatalhöyük: Achievements and limitations of an international archaeological project*

The Çatalhöyük Research Project excavated annually in Turkey’s rural Konya Plain region for 25 years. The project was ground-breaking not just in its duration, but also in its scale and in the diversity of participants. From the beginning, community engagement was an integral component of the project. Local villagers undertook crucial positions, as archaeologists, tour guides, housekeepers, guards, cleaners and cooks. Additionally, a series of formal initiatives sought to involve local people in the work of the project, with the aim of bringing about positive social and economic change for villagers living within the immediate vicinity of the site. Initiatives varied from the opening of a village library, the involvement of local women in the creation of displays for the on-site museum, annual archaeological workshops for local school children and internships for Turkish university students.

This paper offers a critical insight into the range of programmes and activities undertaken by the Çatalhöyük Research Project to involve members of the public, local and from further afield, in the successes of the project. The aims and impact of individual initiatives are investigated, within the context of Anglo-Turkish relations, the inscription of Çatalhöyük on the UNESCO World Heritage List (2012) and the changing Turkish political landscape. With the foreign-led project now ended, the legacy of the Çatalhöyük Research Project within the Konya Plain region is evaluated.

**Bernbeck, Reinhard:** *The Promotion of Jihad by Germany and Near Eastern Archaeology*

In this paper, I discuss the contribution of the excavator of Tell Halaf, Max von Oppenheim, to World War I propaganda efforts. Oppenheim was not only a Near Eastern archaeologist but had also strong ambitions to serve as a diplomat. With governmental consent, he founded immediately after the start of World War I the „Intelligence Bureau for the East“ and organized a prisoner–of–war camp south of Berlin that was exclusively for Islamic PoWs. Oppenheim’s plan was to transform the prisoners into jihadists who would later be inserted into the Ottoman army to fight against British, French and Russian forces. The so-called „Half-Moon Camp“ for the PoWs included a mosque built specifically for the purpose of re-education. The terrain has recently been re-excavated. I describe the remains found, including those of the mosque, the oldest built in Germany, and the fate of Oppenheim’s project. At the end, I turn to the more recent and absurd history of the grounds of the former camp.

**Briffa, Josef:** *Searching for Sodom. The Legacy of Tel Reilat Ghassul at 90.*
In November 1929, the Jesuit Fathers of the Pontifical Biblical Institute started excavating at Teleilat Ghassul, just north of the Dead Sea, on the east bank of the Jordan. If the initial impetus was the search for Sodom and Genesis Pentapolis, then actively debated among scholars, the expedition found itself uncovering a new epoch, soon called the Chalcolithic. Excavating over several seasons (1929-1938, 1959-60), the expedition left not only a legacy of archaeological material, but also a significant archive: plans and sections, glass plate negatives and photo albums, pottery registration cards, finds registers as well as excavation diaries. This paper explores the legacy of the excavating providing insights into their developing excavations methods, and considers the potential for future research.

Brown, Michael: Rabana-Merquly: A Royal City of Adiabene in the Zagros Mountains, Iraqi Kurdistan

On the slopes of Mt. Piramagrun in the Zagros Mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan lies the fortified site of Rabana-Merquly. Ruins spread across c. 100 ha represent a major occupation during the Parthian period (c. 100 BC-AD 100). Matching rock-reliefs that depict an anonymous ruler flank the entrances to two adjoining settlements. Pronounced similarities in attire between these sculptures and the statue of a king of Adiabene found at Hatra suggest a possible identification for both this individual (Natounissar) and the ancient city (Natounia- on-the-Kapros). Behind the formidable perimeter defences intramural buildings include a citadel and a sanctuary complex. A network of towers provides commanding views of the adjacent Charmaga valley, which enabled the site’s occupants to control strategic communications along the western side of the Zagros Mountains. As a major settlement at the intersection between highland and lowland zones, it is likely that Rabana-Merquly played an important role in regulating interactions between the kingdom of Adiabene and tribal populations on its eastern border, through military coercion and as a meeting place for trade. Fieldwork at Rabana-Merquly is a collaboration between Heidelberg University and the Sulaymaniyyah Directorate of Antiquities.

Camara, Ademar Quint: Ownership inscriptions: Literacy, Materiality and Genre

Short inscriptions are clearly difficult to interpret, though very numerous. However, materiality of those inscriptions can demonstrate the role of writing and give insight on how literacy spread in the kingdoms of Judah and Israel in Iron Age II. The case study in focus is the ownership inscription, a common short genre from the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age IIC. It is defined grammatically by a name, alone or accompanied to the preposition “l” (belonging to). A corpus of 425 objects bearing ownership inscriptions were divided in four groups, seals, bulla, vessels and others. They are analysed in terms of literacy in three categories: relation between word and image, words average per inscription and vocabulary as names and titles. In the Material side, the inscriptions are analysed by object type, the writing technic, firing, archaeological context, social system, and finally geographical and chronological distribution. The results indicated a process of spread of writing in the Iron Age II, from meagre representation in the Iron Age IIA to a higher use in Iron Age IIB Israel and Iron Age IIC Judah. However, Judah presented much higher elementary literacy than Israel in inscription both by impression and by hand.

Campbell, Katie: Rethinking Stratigraphy and Archaeological Narratives at Urban Sites: An example from Otrar in Kazakhstan

This paper will look at methodologies for understanding the impact of the Mongol conquest at the city of Otrar in Kazakhstan, a site which was extensively excavated in the second half of the 20th century, and remains a key site for understanding urbanisation in Kazakhstan. Using previous archaeological reports, I focus on the most notorious event at this city, the arrival of the armies of Genghis Khan in 1219, at a site which was occupied for more than a millennium. A carefully adapted methodology employed plan regressions, revisited open excavation areas and studied published coin catalogues from the site, which indicated that the archaeological deposits used for previous narratives...
of the Mongol Conquest at Otrar, might not in fact date to this period. This led to a small re-excavation, to retrieve samples for scientific dating at relevant parts of the site, to build a clearer picture of the 13th and 14th centuries from archaeological evidence, an important resource which is often overlooked in historical narratives of the period. Based on this work, I argue that understanding the methodologies employed in previous excavations, and adapting present practices to investigate such cities would clarify the dating and stratigraphy of these important sites. This approach is widely adaptable and has a broad relevance to different periods and geographic locations, and this careful stratigraphic approach provides a rigorous framework to enhance the contextualisation and thus the value of scientific analyses of materials from urban site

**Campbell, Stuart and Elizabeth Healey : Obsidian in the Near East: New Studies and Future Directions**

The dissemination of exotic materials such as obsidian across much of the Near East as early as the Upper Palaeolithic onwards offers us approaches to obtaining insights into inter-regional contact, social networking, changing meanings of materials as much as it helps us understand processes of resource acquisition. As a technique, the provenance analysis of obsidian artefacts is well established. Until recently it was something that tended to be done on small, highly selective samples, providing only a very generalised interpretation. Recent approaches have made it possible to analyse much larger samples and from a greater variety of sites. This is transforming our understanding of the use of obsidian, placing a much greater emphasis on contextual understanding, shorter term change and the exploitation of minor sources, and it is also enabling new perspectives on how obsidian can be understood in a social context. Equally, however, the increased accessibility of obsidian source analysis emphasises the need to better understand of the archaeology and geology of the source regions themselves as well as to develop greater methodological rigour. This paper particularly draws on recent examples of both prehistoric and historic obsidian use examined by the Manchester Obsidian Laboratory.

**Carvalho, Luciana and Mohamed Kenawi: Rosetta Project: Endangered Archaeology and a Dynamic Heritage**

During the medieval period new towns emerged in the Nile Delta, some becoming important cultural and economic centers. Following the damage to the sea port of Alexandria, Rosetta (Rashid in Arabic) flourished. Commercial activities relocated to the town as it became the main access to the Mediterranean. During the Mameluke and Ottoman periods, Rosetta was the second most important city in Egypt after Cairo. However the events of the last two hundred years have transformed this once prosperous city into another small and neglected town in the Nile Delta. The city’s archaeological and historical heritage has been extensively damaged and what remains today does not reflect its glorious past.

Satellite and field visits were recently conducted in Rosetta to document and monitor its heritage. Moreover at The Amasili Complex, an Ottoman house and granary, a new project started to take shape, led by an Italian team. Previous interventions to the house have led to extensive damage, particularly to roof and walls. The first stage of the Project comprises interventions to stop further deterioration using more sympathetic and locally materials. Subsequent stages will see the repurposing of internal rooms for meetings, research and exhibitions. The intention is that the Amasili Complex becomes a hub for archaeological missions working in the area, a platform for artists and a meeting point for the local population.

**Chologauri, Lana: The Role of Late Antique Silverware from Royal Necropolis in Studying the Social and Political Background in Caucasian Iberia**
Kingdom of Iberia (East Georgia) had always been a crucial zone of cross-cultural encounter due to its strategic location. It was one of the principal points of contacts between Eastern and Western imperial powers throughout the centuries. In Late Antiquity the Caucasus was a buffer zone during the conflicts between Rome and Sasanian Empire. Archaeological materials together with the written sources are very important for the study of historical, political and economic situation in the region. Among the archaeological data burial rituals and grave goods are rather important for the study of this problem.

A large amount of late antique silverware is found on the territory of Georgia. Most of the silver vessels are found in the rich graves from Armaziskhevi and Bagineti Royal Necropolis and other graves belonged to local elite. According to the archaeological data silverware is one of the most important components of the late antique burial rituals in Iberia. Supposedly, silverware which mainly represents the diplomatic gifts from Roman Emperors or Sasanian kings, were very important for local nobility and had always been deposited in the graves together with the owners. Silverware, together with other grave goods are very important not only for the study of Iberians' daily life and beliefs but furthermore, they give us an important knowledge about the social and political situation in the country.

De Gruchy, Michelle and Dan Lawrence: *Climate Change and Spatial Trends in Early Urban Trajectories: A Reassessment of the 4.2k Event across the Northern Fertile Crescent*

The rise and (especially) fall of a range of ancient societies across the globe has been attributed to rapid climate change (RCC) events. The 4.2 KYA event has been implicated in societal changes across the Old World, including the collapse of the Akkadian Empire in the Near East. In this paper, we employ a regional dataset to identify broad trends and spatial patterns in urbanism, including the identification of ‘hot spots’ of urban growth and collapse before, during, and after the 4.2 kya event. This spatial analysis is underpinned by over 160 urban sites extending from Lebanon to southern Turkey and across northern Syria into north-western Iraq. Our results show a high degree of spatial variability in response to the 4.2k event with regional and local differences.

Elliott, Sarah: *Scientific geo-ethnoarchaeology and its archaeological application to investigate farming, settlements and agriculture in the past*

Common methods to investigate the development of archaeological farming villages rely on the interpretation of archaeological contexts and their associated material culture. However, new approaches are being developed to examine past human activities, for example the analysis of sediments and their microscopic remains. We can go one step further and incorporate scientific microscopic techniques in combination with modern ethnoarchaeology to gain further insights. This paper presents the application of multi-methodologies which combine a range of scientific geo-ethnoarchaeological approaches to answer questions about farming, settlements and agriculture in the past specifically focusing on Neolithic case studies in the Middle East.

Typical archaeological proxies such as macrobotanical remains and animal bones are subject to decay, and the morphological traits associated with domestication are not observed until hundreds of years after plant cultivation and animal management started. I aim to better interpret the ephemeral archaeological signatures of the Middle East by developing a multidisciplinary approach that examines microscopic inorganic remains which are not subject to the same preservation issues as artefactual evidence. My method involves the analysis of sediment samples from known activity areas in modern villages and dung samples from targeted animal species, which will then act as a comparative dataset to interpret samples from Neolithic sites. This enables key concepts such as sedentarisation, domestication, and the use of space to be investigated. The remains which are targeted include sediments, phytoliths, and animal dung. Documenting penning deposits, through identification of compacted animal dung (using micromorphology) enables the identification of early animal management 500-1000 years before it is evident from bone morphological changes. Animal dung has
provided an independent marker for animal management (Matthews et al. 2013). Signatures of human activity and construction practices can be discerned through combined analysis of geochemistry and phytolith analysis (Jenkins et al 2017, Allcock et al forthcoming).

**Esfanjary, Eisa: Lessons Learnt from the Processes of Restoration and Reconstruction of the Dih Nau Mosque in Maibud, Iran**

The Jami Mosque of Dih Nau is the only surviving architecture heritage of a 14th-century abandoned neighborhood, which is believed, was demolished by flooding. The site has gradually turned into the agricultural lands and farms, therefore, was subjected to gradual physical damages and no single roof was present in the whole building. Since there was no alterations and repair works, the original plan and structure remained highly authentic. Although a rooftopless and partly ruined structure, there was a strong commitment among the local people to maintain the mosque; so they keep having the building cleaned and say their prayers there. Full documentation and research reflected in the reconstruction plan and step-by-step implementation and recording of all the restoration works. This is a conservation plan which matches perfectly with the cultural context, and the community were ready to invest and contribute voluntarily.

The strategy was to learn from the original building, applying techniques coherent to the past structure, taking the high quality local workmanship as the foundation, combining with additional structural treatments to consolidate and reconstruct its original form and fabric. The project is a good example of a homogeneous conservation technique, a systematic approach, and a long-term implementation strategy on an earthen heritage in Iran. It provides a model for the restoration and reconstruction of endangered buildings and sites.

**Fernyhough, Alathea: Metalwork in the Mesopotamian Countryside: A preliminary examination of metal composition from Tell Khaiber, southern Iraq**

Recent excavations at the site of Tell Khaiber, led by the Ur Region Archaeology Project (URAP), have produced a new and unique assemblage of southern Mesopotamian metalwork. The site dates to the mid-2nd millennium B.C. and is a rare excavated site relating to the elusive Sealand Dynasty. The overwhelming majority of extant collections of southern Mesopotamian metalwork are dominated by material from huge city sites such as Kish and Ur. Located in the hinterlands approximately 19km north-west of Ur, Tell Khaiber offers metalwork from a very different type of site; small in scale, but a centre of rural administration. The Tell Khaiber assemblage also includes incomplete and less well-preserved items from contexts typically absent from other Mesopotamian metalwork collections due to the practice of only retaining aesthetically pleasing and better-preserved objects. Utilising portable X-Ray Florescence readings taken in the field, this preliminary study is a key step towards advancing our current understanding of southern Mesopotamian metalwork beyond the restrictions and concentrations of previous research.

**Finlayson, Bill: ODA funding, research, cultural heritage, and neo-colonialism**

In recent years the UK has endeavoured to increase spending on research designed to support ODA objectives (primarily “the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries”). Unlike traditional routes for development related research which have been managed by DFID (Department for International Development), most of the new funding has been managed by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) as the GCRF and Newton funds, distributed through their normal delivery partners - the research councils (now UKRI) and the Academies. These funds represent significant new research funds with apparently great potential to the research community, and there have been numerous successful applications to these schemes for cultural heritage research within the Near East. However, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) has made a number of criticisms of these funds, including querying whether the Newton fund...
was achieving its ODA objectives. A key issue is perceived tensions between research excellence, the promotion of soft power, and development impact. This paper will consider the difficulties of conducting heritage research within an ODA remit, the potential problems arising from working within an overt soft power framework, and the inherent problems of developing equal partnerships within a openly asymmetrical development and funding context.

Fisher, Michael: *Approaches to Periodization at Tell Surezha, Kurdish Regional Government*

Tell Surezha, a 22-ha, multiperiod site located on the Erbil Plain, evidences a nearly continuous sequence of prehistoric occupation phases dating from the Halaf to the LC 4 period. Over five seasons, the Oriental Institute has excavated the remains of these levels but has recently focused on the transition from the Ubaid period to the Late Chalcolithic. The project is now interrogating not just the chronological boundary and changes in pottery styles, but what those changes might have meant for the site’s inhabitants despite strong architectural and spatial continuity across a broad area.

In order to address this question, our team has exposed over 300 contiguous square meters of the high mound and has engaged with digital, microarchaeological, INAA, p-XRF, and spatial-functional methodologies. The radiometric evidence indicates an early 5th millennium date for the Ubaid terminus, challenging the basic framework of Upper Mesopotamian periodization. This suggests that either the traditional dates need reconsideration or that the Erbil Plain represents a localized variant—or both. As we consider the results of the 2019 season in the context of earlier work, it becomes apparent that the periodization of the 5th millennium requires a flexible, holistic approach that goes beyond radiometric data and ceramic styles.

Flohr, Pascal: *More than Meets the Eye: Locating the Late Neolithic on the Karak Plateau, Jordan*

This project aims to assess the human-environment interactions of early farming societies through studying Late Neolithic settlement patterns on the Karak Plateau. Today the area contains both rain-fed agricultural and steppe zones, with an interface that is highly sensitive to climate change. The Late Neolithic is the key period in which the Neolithic transformation finally coalesced into mixed farming hamlets and pastoralist (sub)groups, providing the basis for increasing social complexity, urbanism, and state formation. The period experienced profound climatic oscillations, so is of major interest for the study of the potential impact of climate change on societies, and their adaptation and resilience.

Late Neolithic sites are relatively underrepresented in the record, which is due partly to research bias, and partly to the low visibility of the often small sites, covered by alluvium or eroded, with few easily recognized diagnostic artefacts. This paper presents the results of desk-based literature and remote sensing research in combination with two one-week scoping and site visit field seasons. These results are being used to develop a GIS based model predicting site location, which will be tested during a field survey in June 2020.

Flohr, Pascal, James Smithies, Fadi Bala’awim, Shatha Mubaideenm, Alessandra Espositom, Carol Palmer,, Sahar Idwanm, Shafer Rababeh, Samia Khouri, Issa Mahasneh,, Raya Sharbain: *Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan (MaDiH)*

As archaeologists and other cultural heritage specialists we collect large amounts of data. This data takes many forms (excavation information, museum objects, survey gazetteers, photographs, 3D models, and much more), and is kept all over the world in various formats from handwritten notes in an excavator’s loft to extensive online shared databases. For Jordan alone there are hundreds of, often not easily accessible, datasets. How can we find our way through this large amount of information? How can we ensure that the datasets are not lost and optimally used by researchers, heritage professionals, and policy makers alike?
The MaDiH (Modal): Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan project, a cooperation between various Jordanian and UK universities and organisations, aims to answer the above questions by assessing and listing the cultural heritage datasets that are available for Jordan, collecting them in the open access CKAN portal. Using information about these datasets we are assessing requirements, policies, and standards, and deliver prototype tools to define future phases of infrastructure development, to be aligned to Jordan’s governmental infrastructure capabilities and strategies.

The project is being delivered in memory of Andrea De Silva Zerbini (1984-2019), the driving force behind the conceptualisation and planning of the project.

**Fradley, Michael:** *Opening up remote-sensing for archaeology over Israel and Palestine*

The use of satellite imagery has developed as a key tool in the survey and monitoring of archaeological sites across the Middle East. One area where the impact has been limited is in the area over Israel and Palestine, where a U.S. legal restriction known as the Kyl-Bingaman Amendment has held back access of very high-resolution satellite imagery. This paper will explore the work of the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project in analysing and challenging this censorship issue. The presentation will highlight the clear benefit that will be gained to archaeology and other scientific in removing these restrictions, which is impede work in the border areas of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. It will also highlight how archaeologists and other groups can help push for reform and help further research in the region.

**Frampton, Claire:** *In what ways have critical debates in the archaeology of the Near East been explored through contemporary theatre and performance? What are the unique ways performance has facilitated engagement with issues?*

A Museum in Baghdad by Hannah Khalil premiered in October 2019, presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The play is about cultural heritage in Iraq, and blended historical and contemporary cultures. The storyline is set in 1926 and 2006, with two women, acting eighty years apart. In 1926 Gertrude Bell founds a museum, in 2006 Ghalia Hussein is working to reopen the museum after it had been looted during the war. The play engages with contemporary issues, such as ‘the value of museums’ and ‘where a country’s objects should be kept’ (notes from programme).

Anti oil sponsorship group BP or not BP organised a protest in February 2019 at the British Museum, creating a 200 metre living artwork, challenging BP sponsorship of the Assyrian exhibition. The campaigners also drew attention to objects in the exhibition perceived as looted. Protest also took place in the Assyria gallery, with members of Fossil Free London playing BP executives, with oil dribbling down their faces (bp-or-not-bp.org).

**Franicevic, Branka:** *Animals of the Silk Road: Distribution of Wealth and Disease*

From the time the Silk Road opened trade with the West until its decline little thought was given to the role of animals in shaping its legendary route networks. With an aim to understand the process of bringing together civilisations, the archaeological record focuses mainly on trade routes and trade goods. Judging by the scarcity of other evidence, it would appear that domestic animals and wildlife had been mainly consumed or/and used for transport. However, as new cultures and beliefs were exchanged, different functions animals had in everyday life were inevitably introduced and adopted. It is therefore possible that these functions justify only certain aspects of connecting East to West. This paper argues that the heartbeat of the Silk Road was essentially the animals that were intimately connected with its making, existence and its decline. In doing so, it discusses them as keys to the trade and international relations to include animal role in the creation of the Silk Road, the silk-making, transportation, trade of luxury goods, religious belief, military support and the spread of disease. A
proposed framework of study is a combination of theoretical interpretations, iconography and imagery, and the material evidence.


Digital documentation and excavation recording technologies have seen gradual incorporation into archaeological research since the new millennium. Over the last ten years of excavation at Tel Burna (Israel), the incorporation of new techniques and technologies has streamlined the excavation recording and finds documentation process. In the absence of spare funds for more common items of digital site recording equipment (e.g. laser scanning or total station) the excavation team has integrated the widely available software packages Agisoft Metashape and PlanGrid into field documentation. With a few simple tweaks this has created a low-cost and high-precision integrated documentation system which has allowed the excavation process to become fully paperless. In the light of our experience with the incorporation of digital methods into the excavation and recording process at Tel Burna, alongside those of other excavations across the Near East, we review the pros and cons of paperless excavation methods and the need (or lack thereof) for hard-copy documentation in the excavation process.

Gascoigne, Alison: Reconstructing the town- and water-scapes of the northeast Nile delta: The island city of Tinnis

The landscapes of the northeast Nile delta are characterised by coastal lagoons and wetlands, which have been occupied and used in diverse ways through time. This talk will focus on the appearance and development of large and important late antique and early medieval urban centres located on islands in the brackish waters of Lake Manzala. It will focus particularly on the site of Tinnis, and outline recent research into the urban form and characteristics of this important city, and the challenges and experiences of living and working there.

Gillmeister Valsecchi, M. A: Landscape archaeology in cross-check. Comparing surface collections and excavation data at Oymağaç Höyük/Nerik (Turkey).

The multidisciplinary investigation (2005-2019) of Oymağaç Höyük/Nerik (Samsun, Turkey) started with a two years intensive survey at the mound of Oymağaç and its surroundings. The long-term excavation and the geophysical prospection make the site suitable as a case study for the methodological cross-check of the survey data with those produced by other methods of investigation. This paper presents the chronological, spatial and quantitative results of the Late Bronze Age pottery from the survey in comparison with the materials retrieved from the latest structural phase documented during the excavation. Together with the analysis of the taphonomic and erosion process and the topography of the höyük and its surroundings, the cross-check of the data allowed to make new assumptions about the archaeological landscape of the area and a critical evaluation of established survey methods.

Hardouin, Servane: Approaches to landscape and communities on the west bank of Luxor, Egypt

The landscape that this paper deals with is located in Egypt, in present-day Luxor, or ancient Thebes. More precisely, it is on the west bank of the Nile, where there is an ancient Pharaonic necropolis on the foothills of the Theban mountain. Since the 17th century at least, local communities have lived around - sometimes inside - the Pharaonic tombs and temples of the Theban hillside. Most modern hamlets, commonly known as “Gurna”, were destroyed by bulldozers in 2007-2010. This paper will argue that the lack of care for local communities and modern built heritage located within the perimeter of the archaeological park, and more generally for the landscape surrounding the ancient tombs, is not new: it has often been overlooked since the beginning of modern explorations of the
site. This paper will present a quick review of how the cultural environment and the community inhabiting it were dealt with in heritage practices, focusing on two main approaches to the landscape: cartography and toponymy.

**Harmanşah, Ömür: Yalburt Yaylasi Survey Project in West-Central Turkey: Fieldwork in the Landscapes of the Holocene and the Anthropocene**

Yalburt Yaylasi Archaeological Landscape Research Project investigates the political ecology of water in the southern borderlands of the Hittite Empire, using the landscape field methods and documenting the history of land use and settlement in west-central Turkey. A sacred pool complex and an earthen dam were built in the 13th century BCE, suggesting the implementation of water infrastructure and renewed settlement network in the region. Since 2010 in western Konya Province (Ilgin and Kadinhanı districts), the project used intensive systematic fieldwalking, GIS-based mapping of surface architecture, and geomorphology, to document land use and settlement in the vicinity of two major imperial monuments of the Late Bronze Age. The methodological innovation of the project is the comparison between the Holocene landscapes of Hittite borderlands and degraded landscapes of the Anthropocene, produced by the water infrastructure projects of the modern Turkish state during the 20th century. Following an irrigation project in mid-to-late 20th century, the drained Kurugöl basin is now the planned site of a coal-fired power plant and open pit mine. The project critiques the methodological tendencies in survey archaeology that avoid altered post-industrial landscapes, and contributes to the debates on environmental crises and climate change through eco-critical fieldwork.

**Heffron, Yağmur: The Second Shift in Archaeological Fieldwork? Invisible Labour of Local Archaeologists as Fixers to Foreign Projects**

Archaeological excavations in the Middle East typically rely on hiring local labour. Histories of managing this labour are increasingly bringing the practices of early excavators under scrutiny. In this paper I consider a different category of local archaeological labour, particularly common in Turkey, which is performed by trained archaeologists or archaeology students in training. In addition to their ordinary tasks as team members, local archaeologists and/or students routinely act as interpreters and intermediaries helping foreign projects run effectively in an unfamiliar cultural landscape. The service they provide is vital yet seldom recognised as a job in its own right, and often uncompensated despite the considerable mental load and time deficit it generates. Where local archaeologists are regularly called upon to facilitate the research and training needs of their non-local counterparts, pre-existing inequalities between the two groups are amplified. In order to better understand the dynamics involved, I propose borrowing the term “fixer” from journalism, where we find a comparable relationship between local and foreign colleagues. In the absence of such a term in archaeology, the assistance required from local archaeologists to help transcend cultural and linguistic barriers becomes additional, uncompensated labour. Here I propose borrowing yet more terms, this time from feminism, to account for the considerable “double burden” of local archaeologists as they regularly undertake a “second shift” on top of their professional duties. Looking outside archaeology for key concepts to illustrate implicit imbalances in workload will be a useful first step towards a structured examination of labour relationships between local and non-local archaeologists working on foreign projects in Turkey.

**Hopper, Kristen: Documenting historic water management in the Tabriz Region, Iran**

This paper explores the relationship between the city of Tabriz and its historic water management systems within the framework of the EAMENA (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa) Project. During the course of the 20th century, traditional water management systems in Tabriz, as in many parts of the Middle East, were significantly impacted by agricultural intensification and urban expansion. By using historical aerial and satellite imagery, modern satellite imagery, historic maps, and textual sources we have been able to document these fast disappearing features, which
include qanats and canals, and explore the development of water management in the Tabriz hinterland over time. Our methodology includes the construction of a DEM modelled on historical aerial photographs from 1941 which has been compared to digitised qanat and canal systems to better understand their relationship with the city and wider landscape. Our results highlight both the sustainability of traditional water management systems and their fragility in the face of rapid development.

Jacobsson, Piotr: Some aspects of 9th millennium cal BC radiocarbon chronologies in the Levant

Radiocarbon chronologies of the 9th millennium cal BC are of inherent interest to defining the directionality of the PPNA-PPNB transition in the Levant (including Cyprus). This is of particular relevance to the discussion of uni-centric as opposed to polycentric models of plant domestication and thus bears on some of the most dynamic debates in the Final Pleistocene/Earliest Holocene of SW Asia of the past years. Since the 1990s two key developments took place that still require a more thorough integration into this debate. On the one hand, contexts dating to the mid to late-9th millennium cal BC being discovered in the southern Levant. The second was the more comprehensive publication of some of the northern Levantine sites, allowing for a more critical engagement with the relevant radiocarbon record.

This paper discusses how these two developments affect our understanding of the PPNA/PPNB transition and, to a lesser extent, the Early to Middle PPNB transformations that follow. The difficulties of summarizing the available data, combined with variable precision of the radiocarbon measurements and concerns about sample taphonomy provide grounds for a much more substantial amount of chronological ambiguity than was hitherto considered.

Jensen, Caitlin: Experiences of weather in ancient Egypt

Perception of landscape has become crucial to how we recreate ancient experience, linking landscape to concepts of embodiment, identity, and dwelling, but the perception of weather has been absent from these discussions. While historical climatology has reconstructed past climates using quantitative methods, limited research has been done on the impact of weather phenomena, both mundane and extraordinary, on cultural experience and expression. Weather is not only what we perceive the landscape through, but it is itself an ephemeral part of the landscape specific to a certain place and time. How an individual responds to weather depends on their cultural, social, religious, and geographical backgrounds, as well as their individual personalities. This paper considers how we can study the 'weatherworld' of cultures far-removed from our own, and challenges our biases and assumptions about weather. As a case study, this paper focuses on how the ancient Egyptians perceived, conceptualised, and interacted with their 'weatherworld', particularly precipitation, as evidenced through archaeological remains and textual sources, combined with sensorial experience. This approach to weather has the potential to broaden our understanding of the ancient world and introduce further complexity into our interpretations of ancient lives.


This research project aims to use a strategy of systematic sampling of plant, water and invertebrate samples taken from targeted locations across Jordan to characterize geographical isotopic variation and create the first multi-isotope map for Jordan (87Sr/86Sr, δ18O, δ34S, δ13C, δ15N). This map will be the first of its kind in the Middle East, and thus its creation will position Jordan at the forefront of developments in isotope research. The resulting multi-isotope map will also have widespread impact outside of the field of archaeology, as understanding geographical isotopic variation has a wide range of applications in areas of commercial and governmental activity.
The project is funded through the AHRC Newton-Khalidi programme ‘Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development in Jordan’, and is designed to enhance research capacity within Jordan in isotopic analysis and to address issues for movement and identity within past communities.

The first period of field data collection was successfully undertaken in June 2019. A total of 48 locations were visited across northern Jordan, east into Az Zarqa and Al Ma‘fraq and along the King’s Highway towards the famous archaeological site of Petra. We will provide an introduction to the project, present our initial results and discuss our overall aims and future ambitions.

Kenawi, Mohamed: Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit, Egypt ca. 700 BC – AD 1000

In 2012, fieldwork began at two large sites in the Beheira Province in the western Nile Delta: Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit. Being close to the important ports of Thonis-Heracleion, Alexandria, and Rosetta meant that they had been ideally placed to take advantage of the trade between the Mediterranean and Egypt. The sites are being thoroughly investigated to reveal their archaeological significance. Dating from the Late Dynastic to the Early Islamic period the remains found at Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit demonstrate for the first time the rich archaeological heritage of the region.

Kharobi, Arwa, Federico Buccellati, Giorgio Buccellati, Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati: Community archaeology in time of war: the Mozan/Urkesh project in northeastern Syria

The Mozan/Urkesh Archaeological Project had developed a vigorous community archaeology program while excavations were ongoing. Since the beginning of the war in 2011, excavations were brought to a halt, but community archaeology took on a whole new dimension. The foundations laid by the expedition took on a whole new meaning, as different communities around the site found here a common bond deriving from a remote past. Urkesh was one of the earliest cities in history, abandoned around 1200 B.C., long before any of the current groups of stakeholders came to the area; but there is a shared pride in the territory that unites the present with the past. An important component of this has been the great care with which the expedition has treated the human remains from the excavations in concomitance with the modern cemeteries that are present on the tell: the dignity of the dead has been a running theme with our commitment to both past and present at the site.

Korzakova, Hava: Rethinking origins of rethinking the origins. Homeric archaeology in Homer’s times

The first mention of the interest in ancient objects already appears in the first literary text of the Western Civilization – the “Iliad”. Many of the realia mentioned there are of Asian origin, which is not surprising because the plot of the poem is developing in Asia Minor. Homer is interested in the Asian objects and landscapes.

The detailed analysis of the text of the “Iliad” reveals that Homer presents in many cases the “Asian side” of the story, actually “rethinking the origins” of the Greek heroic tradition, which is not surprising either, because Homer among the other things represents an ancient Asian tradition revealed due to the discoveries of the Hittite texts. Not only the literary sources but the study of the material objects mentioned by Homer (and demonstrated in the museums in Turkey) and the relatively new branch of Archaeology called the Landscape Archaeology can reveal the reality behind the basic texts of the Western Civilization. “Relatively new” because it already has been practiced at least in the Hellenistic Era, and even by Homer, as the present paper suggests.

Lawrence, Dan, Lynn Welton, Michelle de Gruchy: Reconstructing Long Term Patterns of Land Use and Productivity in the Ancient Near East: A Preliminary View

Models dealing with the emergence of complex societies in the Near East have emphasised the differential access to agrarian resources as a key driver in promoting hierarchical social systems.
Further afield, scholars have also linked the degree to which states are autocratic or permit collective action to the way in which they generate revenue; states which rely on local agricultural production tend to be more collective, but also bureaucratic, than those which rely on foreign trade or conquest. The spatial distributions of population and productive capacity, especially in relation to surplus production, are therefore of great importance in understanding the form and function of early complex societies. In this paper we use a combination of GIS and remote sensing data, palaeoclimate modelling and historical sources on crop yields, to reconstruct past land use and productivity for the entire Fertile Crescent in a series of snapshots from the Late Chalcolithic to the Iron Age. Although preliminary and subject to caveat, the results allow us to make statements on the relationships between climate, population, subsistence practices and technological change through time.

MacGinnis, John

The Darband-i Rania Archaeological Project

This communication will present an update of the results of the Darband-i Rania Archaeological Project, the northern of the two field projects run by the Museum as part of the Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme. The project is located in the Darband-i Rania, a strategic pass in the mountains of Kurdistan. Autumn 2019 saw the completion of the fifth season of excavations. At the site of Qalatga Darband, a major settlement complex commanding the western approach to the pass dating to the early Parthian period (2nd-1st centuries BC), attention was focused on the Area E monumental building. The investigations have now revealed the complete plan of the building, in the process yielding a rich repertoire of small finds, not least of which are pieces of Hellenistic sculpture. Meanwhile work at Usu Aska, a fort in the pass itself dating to the time of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (9th-7th centuries BC), exposed both a 100 m section of the main fortification wall and two areas of the interior architecture.

Maltas, Tom, Vasif Şahoğlu, Hayat Erkanal: *Reassessing the absence of ‘staple finance’ in Early Bronze Age western Anatolia*

From the golds of Troy to the monumental fortifications of Liman Tepe, the ‘citadel and lower town’ settlements that characterise the Early Bronze Age of western Anatolia show overt displays of elite identity and power. The means by which this power was achieved has been the subject of recent discussion, with the suggestion put forward by Frangipane (2018) of trade-based wealth comparable to D’Altroy and Earle’s (1985) notion of ‘wealth finance’. In contrast, the importance of control over agricultural production, or ‘staple finance’, is downplayed due to limited archaeological evidence for large scale storage or administration. This paper reassesses this assertion utilising archaeobotanical data from sites across western Anatolia including Liman Tepe, Troy and Küllüoba. It is suggested that the habitation of coastal zones favoured an agricultural system in which emerging elites may have amassed wealth through the acquisition of land. Against this new understanding, the potential for elite power based in agricultural production is reconsidered.

Massa, Michele: *Water management and society in the Konya Plain (central Anatolia) across the Holocene*

The Konya Plain (central Turkey), home to the Neolithic agro-town of Çatalhöyük, is a semi-arid endorheic basin dominated by a large river delta complex at its centre and steppe around it. Several climatic and environmental proxies further indicate low and fluctuating rainfall regimes across the Holocene, barely above the threshold for dry farming. A new regional archaeological project in the Konya Plain is uncovering evidence that this environmental context may have prompted the early onset of water management practices in the region. Combining elements of landscape archaeology, remote sensing, environmental studies and bioarchaeology, the aim of the paper is to understand
the diachronic development of water management practices and their relation to the local socio-political systems, between the Neolithic and the Late Ottoman period.

**Massa, Michele and Christoph Bachhuber: Are we any closer to the lost Hittite capital Tarhuntašša? Assessing the Late Bronze in the Konya Plain, Turkey**

This paper draws together the results of the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project (KRASP) to address one of the largest unknowns in Hittite archaeology and historiography: the location of Tarhuntašša. In the early 13th century BCE, Great King Muwatalli II moved the Hittite capital from Hattuša to Tarhuntašša. Following his death, the capital was returned to Hattuša but Tarhuntašša would remain a powerful polity and adversary of the Hittite state until the collapse of the Hittite empire around 1180 BCE. While a series of detailed border treaties locates the territory of Tarhuntašša between the central Anatolian plateau and the Mediterranean, the location of its capital city has been debated for over 80 years. In 2019 intensive surveys at a site called Türkmen-Karahöyük revealed a very large Late Bronze Age and Iron Age centre at Türkmen-Karahöyük (ca 125-150ha in both periods), including the chance discovery of a Hieroglyphic Luwian-inscribed stele associated with the Great King Hartapu (Middle Iron Age, ca. 800 BC). In this paper we combine the data and approaches of landscape archaeology with historical/political geography to bring forward our hypothesis that Türkmen-Karahöyük is a likely candidate for the lost capital Tarhuntašša.

**Mcquail, Hannah: View from the Heavens: Using satellite imagery to study Babylon and its surrounds.**

In recent years the amount of medium to high resolution satellite imagery available to researchers has increased dramatically. While the highest resolution imagery is often prohibitively expensive for archaeological research, lower resolution imagery such as Sentinel-2 (10m) and Planet (3m) are available open access or free to academic researchers.

In this poster I will present some of the initial investigations from my PhD research into the use of this open access satellite imagery for studying the archaeology and recent history of Babylon.

Located on the banks of the Euphrates in Southern Iraq, Babylon has suffered reconstructions, war and occupation in recent decades. The complexity of the site’s recent history makes it an interesting case study and highlights the potential satellites such as Sentinel-2 hold for assisting future archaeological research.

**Merrillees, Dolla: (Un)Located**

Today we think of museum collections as time capsules for posterity, yet few beyond those on the inside realise that thousands of objects have been lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, accidentally discarded or transferred, or were officially classified as “unlocated”. The real scale of these missing items is unknown yet Museums nervous about reputational damage and reluctant to publicise their own failures rarely speak about the loss of priceless objects and artworks integral to their collections.

Using the extraordinary story of a chance discovery of a long lost ancient Assyrian sculpture in the storerooms of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as a case study, Merrillees explores the life of this object and asks what it means when objects are separated from the information about them, their stories, their metadata. Do they lose much of their value, connection and legacy? Museums hold both objects and stories, and stories are even more easily displaced than artefacts.

The arrival of Old-World antiquities in Australia for the first time around the mid 19th century A.D. is a metaphor for the cultural dichotomy that still prevails in the country today. Brought in by educated
Englishmen who were steeped in the Classics and world of the Bible, inspired by the Enlightenment and appointed to responsible positions in the Colonies, these ancient artefacts from Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome were intended to reinforce the Western orientation of the European settlers and educate the masses. Merrillees’ research centers on a singular piece of stone bas relief from the northern palace of the Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal, who ruled from Nineveh in ancient Mesopotamia, modern Iraq, between 668 B.C. and 627 B.C. This genuine fragment, unique in Australia was donated to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in 1858 and lay undisturbed and unrecognised for over 140 years. Who donated it and why?

Merrillees raises greater questions about the role of collecting institutions in preserving and storing the tens of millions of items held in their trust and rarely seen by the public. With many cultural institutions burdened with hundreds, even thousands of artefacts many of which will never be displayed, are these collections relevant and sustainable for future generations? Archived in basements or some other storage facilities, what is the afterlife of these objects separated from their makers, owners and origins? Merrillees helps us to understand that loss is intrinsic in the formation and processing of collections and reminds us not only of the fragility and ephemeral nature of things but challenges assumptions and notions about permanence.

Michalski, Michal: The Great Dispersal – Exploratory Data Analysis

The emergence of successive Large Territorial Empires in the Ancient Near East has a profound impact on the landscape organisation in the Levant and Northern Mesopotamia. The tell-dominated landscape was reshaped, and the nucleated centres were superseded by smaller, rural settlements and occasional large cities. This structural change in settlement pattern was termed ‘The Great Dispersal’ (Wilkinson, 2003).

My PhD project explores the spatial and temporal variation of this phenomena as well as explain its social and political dimensions. In doing so, I am analysing almost continuous coverage of archaeological legacy surveys at an unprecedented scale.

This poster will showcase the methodological framework and present as a case study the Exploratory Data Analysis of sites recorded by a Land of Carchemish Project. The methodology embraces the Data Science paradigm, an ‘a set of statistical, computational, and analytical techniques and workflows’ (Singleton and Arribas-Bel, 2019, p.2). This approach emphasises open science through a command line interface and reproducibility and by applying state of the art in coupling R language and GIS software. R is a versatile statistical language that provides an environment for data manipulation, analysis, modelling and visualisation.

Novakova, Lucia and Ahmad Heidari: Archaeological Landscapes of central Birjand

The presentation focuses on archaeological landscape of South Khorasan Province in northeastern Iran, an area that has not yet been fully archaeologically explored. The archaeological survey conducted in 2012 identified 145 sites. Of these, 72 were discovered for the first time, while 73 had been known in the past. Of the new finds, 20 sites had two or more settlements and the rest were single settlement sites. Based on the study of the archaeological finds, the following chronology can be proposed: Iron Age Ill, Achaemenid and post-Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid, Late Sassanid to Islamic, Samanid and Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Timurid, Safavid, from the end of Safavid to the early Qajar, Qajar, and from the end of Qajar to the Pahlavi I period. The archaeological finds included 3 dams, 3 caravanserais, 3 ice-cellar buildings, 3 watchtowers, 3 ancient cemeteries, 6 water storage pools, 9 watermills and 1 windmill, 7 garden and 1 dwellings, 10 mosques, 5 pictographs, 2 colonial buildings, 19 forts, 2 Islamic inscriptions, and 59 sites containing pottery or archeological remains. In this presentation, finds that show the distribution of settlements in wider chronological span, are introduced.
Early human civilization developed in the area of the “Fertile Crescent”, the eastern side of which passes west of Iran, where there were wide rivers like the Karun, Karkhe, Tigris and Euphrates. Regional geophysical characteristics were vital to settled farming and urban development in their earliest stage. However, in the south of Khorasan, as there were no permanent rivers, no sedentism was possible until the use of technology allowed the supply and retention of water sources. The earliest settlements began in the early period of the historical dynasties of Iron Age III period, the Medes and the Achaemenids. They were located in the northern plain of Birjand, near the current watercourse, which probably had runoff at that time. The mound that can be possibly attributed to the Iron Age III period is the “Cheshme Molid Tower”. An example of its pottery is compatible with the Iron Age III pottery from the west of the country.

Based on comparison with some sites in southwestern Iran, the only site that can be attributed to the Achaemenid period is the hill of Takhcharabad. The hill has a form in which a hidden circular structure is presumed. It was probably built in the fourth century B.C. The construction of similar buildings is attributed to the Parthians. The history of ethnic movements in this period suggest that after the fall of the Achaemenid period, all parts of northeastern Iran were taken over by the tribes generally called the Scythians. They infiltrated the south until they settled in Sistan and changed its name to Sakastan. Taking into the consideration its small size and circularity, it may be probable that it was a tumulus or kurgan belonging to the elite of some northern tribes, or Scythians. This hypothesis needs to be confirmed by further research. A comparable example to this mound is a mound of Firitu in Afghanistan.

Four sites, which belong to the Late Achaemenid period (sometimes also referred to as Post Achaemenid period), were identified on a plain north of Birjand, adjacent to a watercourse. In a relatively short period, there appears to have been adequate rainfall on this plain and a pasture developed on which animals could be reared. The most important pottery finds came from the Ghale-Ghoch area. Some pottery fragments from Ghale Ghoch recall the finds of the Late Achaemenid and the early Parthian pottery (third century B.C.) from the northwestern Iran. These finds can be considered as the first triangular pottery (Triangle Ware) identified in Khorasan and northeast of Iran. According to the other finds, it seems that a settlement in this area flourished from the fourth and third centuries B.C. to the early Parthian period. During the Parthian and Sassanid periods, residents settled on the higher slopes of the Bagheran Mountains. The Parthian-period settlement to be identified was at a site called Chardeh Sorg Hill.

Scattered villages also grew in the early days of Islam. Central Birjand saw an increase in population and settlements after the Mongol invasion. The construction of numerous castles created a sense of security for the inhabitants as the weakness of central government and invasion of northern Khorasan tribes caused them to settle and continue their daily lives close to the fortified areas. Mountain castles were usually built (from irregular stone, plaster and sometimes “saroj”) on high mountains and are difficult to access. Examples are Nasserie Castle, Kamar Ghalb Shushood, Hoz Gholamkash Castle or Koh Shakhen Castle. They include facilities that help to endure a siege, such as storerooms, living rooms, tower or rampart. Such types of structures are attested from the Ismaili (Seljuk) to the Safavid periods. Some of these have been re-used in the later periods.

Rural castles were usually built (from irregular stone and mud) on hills or cliffs overlooking the countryside. Their structure is temperate and loose in general, and they do not have the strength of mountain castles. The best examples are Sama castle, Yahn castle, or Koch castle. They date from between the Safavid and the early Qajar period. Some structures, such as the one at Hesar Sangi, cannot be included in this classification. These buildings are made entirely of irregular stone and semi-smooth stone; their plan is rectangular and well-designed. The precision in tower mirroring and relatively accurate calculations on the sides of the castle suggest that it was built in the Timurid or Safavid period.
After the fall of the Safavids until the early Qajar period, or until 1860, when Khiva, Kharazm and, finally, Eshghabat (1886) were conquered by Russia, a period of disorder and looting that affected northeastern Iran and the wider region of Khorasan. Occasionally, Turkmen, Uzbeks, or Imagh Turks invaded the southern parts of Khorasan and plundered the area’s property. These attacks were usually carried out with religious justifications (suppressing Shia in the region), and sometimes just to plunder residents’ property. Hence, the local people built brick-and-earthen fortifications of a similar architectural style close to their villages. Examples can be found in the villages of Sarachah Tazian, Rahnishak, Noghab, Estakhhr, Naqench, Koch-e Alghar, Zarifi Bala and Kandar.

Oksuz, Latif: *Quantitative Analysis of Burials in Western and Central Anatolia in Bronze Age*

By applying a large-scale approach to the mortuary data from Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia, I seek to identify patterns that have gone undetected by previous studies which often deal with Bronze Age burials. The huge amount of burial data from the different regions and periods has not been synthesized to allow the examination of large-scale geographical and chronological patterns. Doing so, should offer additional insights into mortuary practices, allowing the detection of patterns, space-time patterns in the form, quantity and representation of age and gender within the burial record, which can be considered against the background of wider socio-political changes in Anatolia. Drawing upon this dataset, I will offer a review of funerary practices in Anatolia. My presentation will focus on numbers, burial traditions and types of grave goods from these two different periods to make shed new light on mortuary practices in Bronze Age Anatolia. Thus far, the dataset consists of 3000 graves and the associated grave goods from locations in Western and Central Anatolia during the Bronze Age. The area under investigation includes four modern regions, and the dataset contains around 1000 graves from each region.

Olshanetsky, Haggai: *Were there Jewish Gladiators?*

The arena and the shows that were presented in it were a vital part of daily Roman life. The most famous spectacle of them all was the gladiatorial games. Exactly like the games, there were Jews throughout the empire. Henceforth the question: did the Jews participate in the games as gladiators? This lecture is not the first time that this question is discussed, as it was presented in the past in the context of the land of Israel as a geographical unit or in the context of specific archaeological findings. The most famous finds and material that were used to make this claim are: the gladiator's helmet from Pompeii, the issue of Reish Lakish, other Talmudic evidence, the grave of Germanus in Beit She'arim and the burial caves at Tel 'Eton. Unlike previous academical works, this lecture will try to encompass the full scale of the Jewish gladiator phenomenon and all the different finds in one place. Including the central question, we will examine how common a phenomenon it was, if it existed at all. In order to do so, all the different findings that were previously claimed as relevant will be reexamined.

Philip, Montesanto, Mia Montesanto, Dan Lawrence: *Death in Mesopotamia: comparing burial and settlements records in the Ancient Near East.*

This paper will present the preliminary results of the project “Death and Demographics: Comparing Settlement and Burial Records in the Ancient Near East” carried out at Durham University. The project seeks to create new information by extending and combining extant datasets (burial data from “The Invisible Dead project“ and settlement data from the “Fragile Crescent Project“) to investigate both space-time patterning in mortuary practices, and to quantify the relationship between settlement evidence and mortuary data across the Ancient Near East from the 4th to the 1st millennia BC.

Quick, Laura: *Iconography of Dress and Adornment in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East*

Approaches to dress and adornment in the Hebrew Bible have tended to focus on providing lexicographical surveys of the various items of clothing, jewellery, and cosmetics which are described...
in the biblical texts. Yet the results of this are limited by our lack of material evidence for ancient clothing articles, and related to this, the problems in properly translating and interpreting the various technical terms used to describe these items. This is exacerbated by the long period of time in which the multiple texts that make up the Hebrew Bible were composed and compiled. The various meanings of particular lexical items are context-specific and may shift over time. On the other hand, we do have access to visual depictions of ancient Israelites and Judeans and so of their dressed and adorned bodies. The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (858-824 BCE), a ninth century king of Assyria, provides the earliest incontestable depiction of an ancient Israelite. Our first iconographic representation of Judean women in Assyrian art comes from the reign of a later Assyrian king, the Lachish wall relief of Sennacherib (705-681 BCE). In this paper, I will consider the potential of the iconographic evidence for reconstructing dress and adornment in the Hebrew Bible.

**Rabbani, Maria: Investigating Human-Environmental Interactions In The Zagros Region During The Late Glacial And Early To Mid-Holocene Period**

The significant wide-scale transition from mobile hunter-gatherer to sedentary farmer communities in the Fertile Crescent during the Neolithic period marked the beginning of a new lifestyle. The palaeoenvironmental records for Southwest Asia during the Late-glacial and Holocene period indicate a delay in oak woodland expansion. It is vital to investigate human-environmental relationships at that time to explain the extent to which anthropogenic activity and climate change impacted on vegetation cover, including the oak woodland delay.

The aim of this research is to reconstruct the environmental history of Hashilan wetland (Iran) and Lake Ganau (Iraq) during the Late Glacial and Early to Mid-Holocene period (13,000-5000 cal. BP) with a view to correlate changes in vegetation cover and land-use with nearby archaeological records and known periods of climate change. To produce high-resolution palaeoenvironmental records, sediment core sequences have been sampled for pollen, microscopic charcoal, non-pollen palynomorphs, organic matter, magnetic susceptibility, and geochemical analyses (ITRAX).

The poster presents preliminary data and analysis of the cores extracted from Lake Ganau and Hashilan wetland. This interpretation forms a key component of the multi-proxy research for the Zagros region to form a better understanding of human-environmental relationships at the hunter-gatherer to farmer transition.

**Ragazzon, Giulia: After they “turned to clay”: exploring life and death in ancient Mesopotamia**

Whenever archaeologists expose human remains, a connection is established between the living and the dead: when those who had “turned to clay”, dying and reuniting with the primordial matter, are brought back to life, they become the protagonists of stories that need to be historically and scientifically founded. However, for some phases of the Mesopotamian history, similar reconstructions are complicated by a scarcity of contextual data affecting the understanding of how ancient communities lived, faced change and, ultimately, responded to death.

The present research explores patterns of life and attitudes towards death between the VI-IV millennia BC in an area corresponding to modern Iraq, with a focus on the activities of the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino (CRAST) on Tell Baqarat 7. This work, which initially delineated a diachronic picture of funerary practices in Mesopotamia based on the critical review of published reports and excavation diaries, is still ongoing on the site, where fourteen burials were excavated between 2017 and 2019. The data provided by these funerary contexts and by the analysis of human remains offer a privileged perspective for the reconstruction of life and death in a community of the Mesopotamian alluvium around the IV millennium BC, allowing future comparisons within a broader geographical setting.
Richardson, Amy: The Central Zagros Archaeological Project: integrated approaches to the Early Neolithic

The Central Zagros Archaeological Project draws together inter-disciplinary methodological approaches to explore the diverse lifeways of sedentarising communities in the Eastern Fertile Crescent. Across a fragmented landscape, the Early Neolithic people of the Zagros maintained complex networks of innovation and knowledge exchange. Expanding on earlier work in western Iran and eastern Iraq, the latest phase of the project is developing integrated approaches to examine emerging complexity and the inter-relationships between people, plants, animals and materials in the Neolithic transition through key sites, including Zarzi Cave, Bestansur and Shimshara. This paper highlights the strategic objectives of the project, considers case studies of evidence for the curation of networks through key findings from recent fieldwork, and sets out future strands of investigation.

Rouhani, Bijan: Documenting historic water management in the Tabriz Region, Iran

Sater, Mouhamad Abdel, Sayantani Neogi, Graham Philip, William Deadman, Selim Germanos and Sarkis Khoury: Site preservation and loss in the Bekka Valley: using the EAMENA database to combine legacy data, with the evidence of remote sensing and ground control

The paper presents a study of heritage sites in an area of the Bekaa measuring 46 km x 27km. It draws together data from multiple sources- historic maps, Landsat 8, CORONA imagery and Marfoe’s 1978 University of Chicago doctoral thesis. These data are combined with, and compared to, evidence captured using contemporary Google Earth data and field visits. The combined data is added to the EAMENA database which provides a tool that allows us to map, not only the types and numbers of sites in the study area, but to investigate patterns of site loss and new discovery. In addition, it has also been possible to identify the most prominent threats and damages to these sites that has led to their deterioration between the last century and now. This has also contributed towards mapping the risks and to suggest a clear plan to combat with these problems.

Seif, Assaad: Urban Archaeology in Beirut, Challenges and Solutions

Dr. Seif’s Presentation explores the practical, ethical and legal challenges of heritage management in urban Beirut. It discusses the complex issues facing the archaeological venture in the urban reconstruction process. It also tackles the developer funded archaeology as experienced in the Lebanese context explaining its advantages and limitations.

On the other hand, knowing that urban excavations are more or less driven by the urban development dynamics, the policy to adopt discrete and alternative scientific and research strategies in order to fit within this imposed urban development framework is also explained.

In fine, Dr. Seif exposes the “preservation of the spatial memory” concept through the archaeological integration process in the modern urban fabric. This is done in order to solve the dilemma between preserving the past and building for the future in the cityscape.

Shakhmuradyan, Mariam: An Archaeological Mystery of the 20th Century: What are ‘Desert Kites’?

By the early 20th century, British pilots flying over the Middle Eastern deserts, identified large-scale stone structures of different forms. The flight lieutenant Lionel Rees likened the forms of these structures to child toy kites and named them ‘kites’. This name gained wide acceptance among researchers and continues to be used to present day.

The research of the kites has a century-long history, however, to date, neither the function nor the place and time of their origin are known. There has been a long-standing debate on the function of these structures. According to the first and most widespread theory, kites were used as hunting traps.
for the herd of wild ungulates and especially gazelles. According to the second theory, they were used for pastoral activities. According to the third theory they were defensive systems. According to the fourth theory - water control structures. According to the fifth theory – cultic buildings. The third and fourth theories (i.e. defensive system, water control structure) are considered outdated and are not discussed anymore, while the first, second and fifth theories (i.e. hunting trap, corral, cultic building) are equally circulated.

The aim of this paper is to discuss all the mentioned theories in the light of new discoveries and a thorough analysis of the whole published data. Based on the recent archaeological fieldwork at Arteni and Aragatsavan regions (Armenia), new data will be presented, that open a new frontier and a new methodology in the research of these enigmatic structures.

**Simi, Francesca:** *Trajectories of change in settlement pattern and agricultural strategies in the Navkur Plain (Iraqi Kurdistan)*

The paper aims to show the transformation of land and agricultural exploitation of one of the most fertile alluvial plains of Upper Mesopotamia from the mid-late 3rd millennium BC to the first half of 1st millennium BC. The results of the Tell Gomel Archaeological Survey shed light on the changing patterns of agricultural exploitation and settlement across almost two millennia. The diachronic approach of the study and the data coming from the intensive off-site survey fit well in explaining changes in settlement dynamics through the transformation of land exploitation. Starting with the first urbanisation process occurred in the plain around the mid of 3rd millennium BC, the settlement dynamics of the plain were always bond with the socio-political transformation of the region. The intensive exploitation of the area was firstly triggered by the necessity of sustaining the growing city of Tell Gomel (during the mid-late 3rd millennium and the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC), while later the plain was converted in a breadbasket for the emerging new empires (Mitanni, Middle Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian). The paper shows how the integration of data coming from multiple sources (satellite and aerial images, field survey, soil chemical analysis and written documents) helps us to sketch the changing role of agricultural exploitation within the transformed landscape.

**Soltysiak, Arkadiusz:** *Patterns of agropastoralism in Iran: review of human collagen stable isotope data*

Research on proportions of stable carbon (δ13C) and nitrogen (δ15N) isotopes in collagen retrieved from archaeological human remains is a standard tool in research on diet and subsistence in past human populations. Although this method has not been so far very popular in Iranian archaeology, there are available data from nine cemeteries covering northern Iran along Alborz and Aladagh Mountains, from Zanjan province in the west to North Khorasan province in the east. They are dated from the Chalcolithic to the Parthian period (c. 4500 BCE – 200 CE). At most sites average δ15N values are higher than expected considering local annual precipitation, suggesting intensive model of farming with high level of manuring on a limited plant cultivation area. This is especially evident at the sites located on the alluvial fans. At several sites, especially in the mountains, negative correlation between δ13C and δ15N has been observed, likely a result of dimorphic subsistence with intensive agriculture at small spots within the valleys (low δ13C, high δ15N values) and herding in the steppe abundant in wild C4 plants (high δ13C, low δ15N values).

**Ten Harkel, Letty and Ahmed Shams:** *The SinaiArchaeoWater project: remote and field-based survey of recent heritage sites in a landscape context*

This paper presents the SinaiArchaeoWater project, a collaboration between the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) and the Sinai Peninsula Research (SPR) projects. These two projects are both primarily concerned with the protection of endangered sites and landscapes but utilise very different methodologies, remote sensing v. field survey. The aim of the
SinaiArcheoWater project is to develop a multi-sectoral and cross-disciplinary integrated watershed management plan and devise a realistic buffer zone for the protection of archaeological/heritage sites in the High Mountains area.

The field survey of the SPR identified a living landscape in which many heritage sites are embedded, including many features related to agriculture and water management that are still in use today. Combining these data with EAMENA’s remote sensing methodology for carrying out condition and risk assessments led to a clearer understanding of the main factors impacting on the region’s heritage and wider landscape.

As such, the SinaiArcheoWater project makes an important contribution to a full-scale assessment of the opportunities for, challenges to, and management of cultural heritage and archaeological sites in the Sinai High Mountains area, combining an environmental management and protection plan with a multi-disciplinary geospatial database.

Tilley, Leia: *Desert Kites* – *Place and Relation Within the Landscape.*

‘Desert kites’ are known from a number of countries, including Syria and Jordan where they have been most extensively studied; however, the purpose of these structures remain nebulous (Morandi Bonacossi: 2014, Barge: 2015, Chahoud: 2015, Bar-Oz: 2011, Zeder: 2013). The most common interpretation is that they were used for a system of drive trapping for herd species, to enable easier hunting. This research utilises remote sensing of satellite imagery of Southern Syria to explore the relationship between these structures and the wider landscape. This includes how they relate to settlement and agricultural features. ‘Desert Kites’, though sometimes isolated features are also sometimes located near settlement/agricultural features, some of which may pre-date them. Indeed, ‘Desert Kites’ also seem to be directly related to each other in vast networks. The connectivity of these features seems to suggest the existence of ‘Desert Kite’ landscapes. How these features were influenced by landscape topography is also an intriguing concept; are these features designed to complement the landscape or do they rebel against it. Furthermore, the project is concerned with recording their state of preservation and monitoring potential threats to these incredible features using EAMENA (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa) project methodology.

Titolo, Andrea: *Monitoring Emerging Archaeological Sites Using Multitemporal NDWI: Case Studies from Iraq.*

Among the many threats that archaeological sites are subject to in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, dam construction and artificial lakes formation have been some of the most common since the last 50 years. Notwithstanding past archaeological surveys and salvage excavations in threatened areas, the formation of artificial reservoirs often results in the permanent loss of archaeological data. However, recent evidence from the Mosul dam lake has shown that a sharp fall of the water level due to climatic events or dam management, could lead to the emerging of some archaeological sites from the water, allowing for their brief and targeted investigation. Reservoir water level change is not unique to the Mosul dam, but it is a phenomenon affecting most of the artificial lakes of present-day Iraq. However, to know in advance which sites will be affected by the retraction of reservoirs can be a difficult task, especially without field investigation or high-resolution satellite images. The present paper will try to monitor “patterns” of emerging archaeological sites in the Mosul, Haditha and Hamrin lakes using multitemporal medium-resolution satellite images, combined to obtain spectral indexes for different years. The Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) is suitable for differentiating between water bodies and other land surfaces, and together with a pixel analysis of Landsat and Sentinel-2 images it can provide a mean for highlighting whether an archaeological site is submerged or not. The results from this analysis will then be evaluated using high-resolution images for specific years and locations, as indicated by remote sensing. Understanding emersion “patterns” of known archaeological sites can provide a useful tool for targeted rescue
excavation, possibly expanding the knowledge on the archaeological record of the regions under study.

Tumolo, Valentina, Kamal Badreshany, Katleen Deckers, Simone Riehl, Hermann Genz, Graham Philip, Dan Lawrence: *Olive and oil production in the EB II-III Central and Southern Levant: new insights through a multidisciplinary approach*

Although olive cultivation is known in the southern Levant from the Chalcolithic period, recent palynological studies demonstrate that the Early Bronze Age saw a significant intensification of olive arboriculture. This is also evident from the large amount of archaeobotanical finds – both olive stones and charcoal – recovered, including at sites located outside the natural distribution of olive trees. At the same time, we see the emergence of pottery traditions associated with the storage and transport of liquid goods such as olive oil. This paper will present an ongoing project that aims at integrating diverse artefact, settlement, environmental and archaeobotanical datasets to gain insights into large-scale olive agriculture and its role in the development of complexity in the region during the EB II-III. A multidisciplinary approach combining archaeobotany, isotope geochemistry, ceramic petrography, and organic residue analysis is employed to provide a more holistic understanding of the olive economy and its role in the EB Levant by investigating its core components – production, distribution, and consumption. This study focuses on the sites of Khirbet ez-Zeraqon (northern Jordan), Tell Fadous-Kfarabida and Tell Koubba (both northern Lebanon), which represent two distinct climatic regions, to better understand how strategies might vary across the Levant. By revaluating the socio-economic dynamics of olives and olive oil in the central and the southern Levant, we can build new frameworks within which to understand the relationship between specialized productions and the pathways to social complexity that developed during this period.

Uhlar, Joseph: *Deleuze and Guattari in the ancient Near East*

Deleuze and Guattari have been influential on a range of academic disciplines since the publication of A Thousand Plateaus in the 1980s. Concepts such as ‘smooth and striated space’, ‘rhizome’, ‘Body without Organs’, and so on, proved invaluable tools at the time for philosophers, political scientists, and anthropologists among others, to think about the challenging possibilities faced in a globalising post-war, post-modern world. As well as being useful for thinking about our future, archaeologists should find some of these concepts useful for thinking about our past. I attempt to illustrate this utility through the domestication of the dromedary camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) and the effects of this in the ancient Near-/Middle-East. Deleuze and Guattari can help us to understand the dynamic relationships between humans, camels, deserts, and emerging states in a uniquely coherent framework that aspires to interpret the past in a way which is congruous with, and significant to, how we interpret these changing features in the present day.

Weide, Alexander: *Understanding plant domestication within a framework of socio-economic relationships: moving beyond the agro-technological paradigm*

This paper discusses the emergence and development of plant cultivation and domestication in the Levant from a socio-economic perspective. The current model for agricultural origins is characterized by a pre-domestication cultivation phase during the Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN) A and a protracted appearance of phenotypic domestication traits since the early PPNB. Most researchers focus on agro-technological and environmental factors for explaining these patterns, while arguing within a paradigm of unconscious selection. In assessing which social factors are highly entangled with subsistence developments in anthropological theory and the archaeological record, I suggest changes in storage practices and their relation to different notions of ownership on the way to independent households as the major features, which need to be considered in current explanatory frameworks for the protracted emergence of phenotypic domestication traits. I propose that the slow pace in Near Eastern plant domestication was rooted in a socio-economic environment that only slowly established
the conditions for selection, both automatic and conscious. This highlights that we need a more nuanced argumentative basis for rejecting conscious selection in the initial domestication phase and that we cannot understand patterns in plant domestication from an agro-technological perspective alone.

Welton, Lynn: *Reconstructing Animal Management and Landscape Exploitation via Isotopic Analysis: Early Complex Societies in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Jordan Valley*

Despite the sustained scholarly attention that the dynamics of relationships between mobile and sedentary communities in the ancient Near East has received, isotopic studies in this region have not traditionally focused on changes in animal management strategies that occurred in core settlement areas with the development of towns and urban centers in the Levantine world. This presentation will discuss preliminary data from sequential isotope analysis ($\delta^{18}O$, $\delta^{13}C$) of dental enamel from ovicaprines dating to the Chalcolithic-Early Bronze Ages from the sites of Tell esh-Shuna and Pella, located in the Jordan Valley. Discussions will focus on the patterns of animal movement that can be reconstructed from isotopic analysis of their skeletal remains, and on inferring the scale of this movement. The multi-period sample provided by the sites of Shuna and Pella permits an examination of long-term changes in animal management practices, which will be interpreted in light of how these might be related to concomitant changes in socio-political organization and land use strategies. Ultimately, these questions can provide vital new perspectives on the organization of ancient agro-pastoral economies and the ways in which pastoralism contributed to the development of early social complexity.

Woodbridge, Kevin: *Long-term changes to gravity-based irrigation of semi-arid plains and the role of river avulsions – examples from the Khuzestan Plains of Iran.*

Gravity-based irrigation is a widely used method for farming of plains in arid and semi-arid regions, where precipitation is insufficient for rain-fed agriculture. Over the course of history, gravity-based irrigation systems have expanded and contracted across extensive plains, with expansion into new areas and abandonment of others. These developments have been related to social, technological, and environmental changes, particularly natural and human impacted river course migrations. Examples from the semi-arid Khuzestan Plains of south-west Iran demonstrate the important role of river avulsions in changes to gravity-based irrigation systems, and how careful management, both historically and in the future, can be used to optimise their efficiency and long-term sustainability. Of 8 major avulsions, there were 4 avulsions by annexation into or via a canal, 1 avulsion by annexation into an existing channel aided by dam and canal construction, 2 avulsions by progradation across plains aided by canal construction or widening of levee breaks, and 1 avulsion between two large, canal-influenced, alluvial fans. One major avulsion was partially reversed in the late 1960’s by construction of a bypass canal to restore and expand irrigation in the Hawiza area. There is potential to restore and expand irrigation in two other areas of Khuzestan.
Eating in Oxford

**Cafes and Sandwich Bars**
- Greens Café, *St. Giles’ Road*
- Bill’s, *Woodstock Road*
- Jericho Café, *Walton Street*
- Turl Street Kitchen, *Turl Street*
- Taylors, *Little Clarendon Street*
- Gail’s, *Little Clarendon*
- G&D’s, *Little Clarendon*
- Grand Café, *High Street*

**Restaurants**
- The White Rabbit, *Friar’s Entry*
- Pierre Victoire, *Little Clarendon*
- The Nosebag, *St. Michael’s St. Al-Shami, Walton Crescent*
- Bangkok House, *Hythe Bridge Street*
- Brown’s, *Woodstock Road*

**Pubs/Bars**
- Turf Tavern, *Bath Place*
- The Rickety Press, *Cranham St.*
- Oxford Wine Café, *Little Clarendon*
- Kings Arms, *Hollywell Street*
- Lamb and Flag (cash only) *St. Giles’*
- The Eagle and Child, *St. Giles’*
Eating in Oxford

By Car - To avoid the City Centre, approach via the A40 Northern Ring Road and take the A4165 (Banbury Road) south for about 2 miles to St Giles.

Parking - See map for location of car parks. Park and Ride sites are located around the city.

By Train - St Cross is a 15 minute walk from Oxford Station, via Hythe Bridge Street, Walton Street, Beaumont Street and St Giles.

By Bus - The main bus station is at Gloucester Green, off George Street. St Cross is a 10 minute walk from the coach station, via Beaumont Street and St Giles.