

# ARWA XPress

an archaeological Bulletin



2023/2



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## CALLS

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- Société Asiatique symposium - April 4 and 5, 2024

The Société Asiatique announces its annual symposium about “Water management in Asian civilizations” to be held in Paris on April 4 and 5, 2024. The call for papers, in French, is as follows:

“La gestion des ressources en eau, hier comme aujourd’hui, est une préoccupation constante et majeure de l’humanité. A travers elle, s’expriment l’originalité et l’inventivité de chaque civilisation soumise à ses propres contraintes géographiques et climatiques et aux évolutions de ces dernières. Cette dimension civilisationnelle de l’eau et de sa gestion sera au centre du colloque 2024 de la Société Asiatique. Il s’agira ainsi de présenter les caractéristiques propres de chaque civilisation de l’Asie en matière de gestion de l’eau, mais aussi de montrer, au gré des évolutions politiques, des conquêtes et surtout des transferts des techniques, l’évolution de ces modes de gestion de l’eau ainsi que ses emprunts aux civilisations voisines.

Trois axes principaux, qui ne constituent en rien une liste exhaustive, orienteront ces deux journées :

- Les ressources hydriques utilisées par les hommes (eaux souterraines, fleuves et rivières, lacs, eaux de pluie) et leur mode de gestion. Ce facteur déterminant pour l’installation humaine sera abordé selon les milieux, tant en contexte urbain que rural, et pourra être étudié comme marqueur d’une civilisation en lien avec la culture et la religion,
- Les ouvrages servant à capter, canaliser et stocker les ressources en eau. Ces ouvrages sont multiples allant du barrage, aux canalisations et aux citernes en passant par les machines hydrauliques. La dimension archéologique de la question sera prioritairement abordée, ainsi que la question de la diffusion des techniques,
- Les hommes chargés de la gestion de l’eau : une attention particulière sera portée aux décideurs, ingénieurs, aux bâtisseurs des ouvrages d’art et à ceux chargés de leur entretien, mais aussi au personnel chargé de la répartition et de la distribution de l’eau ainsi que les agents du fisc affectés à l’évaluation et de la perception et à l’emploi des taxes liées à l’eau.”

Proposals for papers must be submitted by February 15, 2024.

## CONFERENCES

### France

- « Mari en Syrie : 90 ans de recherches sur les bords de l'Euphrate », organised by Laurent Colonna d'Istria (University of Liège), Pascal Butterlin (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Sophie Cluzan (Musée du Louvre) at Auditorium of the Royal Museum of Mariemont – Mariemont Avenue, 100 – 7140 Morlanwelz, Belgique; December, 14-15 2023).

Alongside the exhibition "Mari in Syria: Renaissance of a City in the 3rd Millennium," the Royal Museum of Mariemont hosted the conference "Mari in Syria: 90 Years of Research on the Banks of the Euphrates" on December 14 and 15, 2023. This scientific event revolved around five sessions: "The Sacred and the Religious World," "Mari and Upper Mesopotamia," "Art, Architecture, and Craftsmanship," "Management and Administration in Mari," and "Archives of the Mission and Heritage." It celebrated the 90th anniversary of the first excavation at the tell Hariri. The conference also aimed to bring together individuals who have contributed and continue to contribute to the site's renown.

- The inter-university association "Routes of the Orient" organized an international symposium in partnership with the Arab World Institute and the company Archaios titled "On the Roads of Arabia: Land and Maritime Routes", which took place at the Arab World Institute on December 12, 13, and 14, 2024.

The symposium aimed to explore the routes of the Arabian Peninsula, both land and maritime, and the exchanges they facilitated through archaeology, historical, philological, and religious sciences, as well as life sciences. This approach covered a broad historical span, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic period. The objective of the symposium was also to study exchange networks with neighboring regions such as the Indian subcontinent, the Horn of Africa, Egypt, as well as the ancient Near Eastern empires and the Greek and Roman empires.

The thematic areas included:

Structures inherent to land and maritime routes.

Actors involved in circulations in the Arabian Peninsula and its periphery.

Pilgrimage routes.

Coastal navigation and high-sea navigation.

Circulation of goods, materials, and techniques.



Leaving one's mark, quantifying goods, or making a dedication.

The link to the symposium program:

[\[https://reseauchevalshs.wordpress.com/2023/12/08/aac-colloque-sur-les-routes-darabie-itineraires-terrestres-et-maritimes-paris-17-mai-2024/\]](https://reseauchevalshs.wordpress.com/2023/12/08/aac-colloque-sur-les-routes-darabie-itineraires-terrestres-et-maritimes-paris-17-mai-2024/).

## Iran

- "The 6th National Conference on Iranian Archaeology" will be organized by the University of Birjand, Faculty of Arts in November 2024. This conference aims to create a useful and dynamic context by looking at the past and considering the future outlook of the science of archaeology. The conference seeks to address the necessity of growth and development in the interdisciplinary field, especially in acquiring and adapting new knowledge and technologies and using them optimally. It aspires to facilitate scholarly interactions and give special attention to the intellectual, educational, and research exchanges among archaeologists and scholars in related sciences. It should be explicitly stated that, with the efforts of pioneers, scholars, and authorities in the field, archaeology has earned its prominent position among other specialized sciences. Thus, the organization of the "6th National Conference on Iranian Archaeology" serves as an effective means of updating knowledge and facilitating the exchange of experiences among graduates, researchers, and scholars in this field, along with students and graduates in related sciences.

<https://conf.birjand.ac.ir/confdesc.aspx?id=154>

## Lebanon

- Women & Gender in the Phoenician Homeland and Diaspora- Dec 2023- May 2024: Organized by the Archeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley. The conference will be held online and can be accessed on the link below, the recorded lectures will then be available on this channel.

Previous and Next sessions (the rest of the schedule is available in the description accessed on the link below):

December 7 2023 – Dr. Wissam Khalil and Karim Fadlallah – “The cult of Astarte within the coastal grottoes of Adloun and Kharayeb in southern Lebanon”.

January 25 2024 – 9:30 am California Time – Dr. Becky Martin – “Gender representation on anthropoid coffins”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEpERheTBtY&ab\\_channel=ArchaeologicalResearchFacility%2CUCBerkeley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEpERheTBtY&ab_channel=ArchaeologicalResearchFacility%2CUCBerkeley)

- Actualités des méthodes et terrains au Proche-Orient Ancien – 2024: Organized by the Archéorient laboratory in Lyon. The annual conference will be held in Hybrid. The program will soon be available on the link below.

<https://www.archeorient.mom.fr/formations/seminaires>

- Honor Frost Foundation 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture - December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 – delivered by Dr. Claude Doumet-Serhal. The video of the lecture is available on the link below.

<https://honorfrostfoundation.org/2023/12/13/honor-frost-foundation-12th-annual-lecture-video/>

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- Archaeological Treasures of Uzbekistan from Alexander the Great to the Kushan Empire. Berlin, Berlin's James-Simon-Galerie and Neues Museum, from 04.05.2023 to 14.01.2024  
“Long before Uzbekistan became known through the Silk Road, important centers of culture and power were formed here in ancient times. The large-scale exhibition in Berlin's James-Simon-Galerie and Neues Museum presents numerous cultural treasures, some of which are on display outside Uzbekistan for the first time. In addition to archaeological evidence of the Macedonian presence, the unique art of the Kushans and the portraits of the Aristocratic rulers in southern Uzbekistan, it is above all the early Buddhist art that fascinates most. In addition,

specially produced videos and computer animations of selected archaeological sites give visitors an insight into the lively cultural landscape of Uzbekistan from the 4th century BC to the 4th century AD.

The exhibition is taking place in two venues. In the Neues Museum the focus lies on the military campaign of Alexander the Great, starting from Macedonia, ending with the latest archaeological finds from military bases in southeastern Uzbekistan. In the centre of the exhibition part in the James-Simon-Galerie are the amazing artworks from Kushan Empire.”

<https://www.smb.museum/en/exhibitions/detail/archaeological-treasures-of-uzbekistan/>

## Denmark

- Moesgaard Museum, Højbjerg (Denmark): ‘Ancient Egypt – Obsessed with life’ New special exhibition 13 October 2023 - 18 August 2024

<https://www.moesgaardmuseum.dk/en/exhibitions/ancient-egypt-obsessed-with-life/>

## Iran

- The Shahr-i-Sokhta Exhibition, opened on december 6, 1402, with the presence of cultural authorities from Iran and Italy after the inauguration ceremony.

Gabriel Nokandeh, the Director-General of the National Museum of Iran, in his opening speech stated: "The Burnt City is one of the most important and key archaeological sites in Iran, and its excavated artifacts tell the tale of the flourishing culture and civilization of this land".

The Director-General of the National Museum of Iran also referred to the international archaeological research project in the Shahr-i-Sokhta led by an Iranian archaeologist in collaboration with Italian archaeologists, calling it a successful international achievement and a symbol of friendship between the two nations of Iran and Italy, which has a successful record in interdisciplinary studies and research.

He also mentioned that alongside the posters and photographs of this exhibition, 50 artifacts from the National Museum of Iran resulting from the excavations of the Burnt City are also on display for interested individuals.

## Lebanon

- « Mégalithes d'ici, mégalithes d'ailleurs », Vorgium (France), 16/09/2023 until 22/09/2024 : The exhibition focuses on three different regions: Bassin Genevois, Western France and Akkar in Lebanon.

<https://finistere-morbihan.kidiklik.fr/sorties-moment/388295-megalithes-dici-megalithes-dailleurs-lexpo-temporaire-2023-2024-vorgium.html>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- The Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund  
“The Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund was established according to the terms of the will of Sir Aurel Stein FBA, to commemorate his friendship with Sir Thomas Arnold FBA, for 'the encouragement of research on the antiquities or historical geography or early history or arts of those parts of Asia which come within the sphere of the ancient civilisations of India, China, and Iran, including Central Asia'. Research should be 'so far as possible by means of exploratory work', and applicants must be British or Hungarian. Applicants should be of postdoctoral status or have comparable experience. Applications are not accepted from postgraduate students.”

Scheme opens date: 15 Nov 2023

Deadline date: 10 Jan 2024 - 17:00 GMT

Duration of award: 24 months.

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/stein-arnold-exploration-fund/>

## Lebanon

- Honor Frost Foundation: Annual scholarships given to support education at Master, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral levels – deadline for application on May 14<sup>th</sup> (annually).

<https://honorfrostfoundation.org/grants-offered/scholarships/>



## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- CEAS Postdoctoral Associate in Central Asian Studies

“The Yale University Council on East Asian Studies seeks applications for a Postdoctoral Associate in Central Asian Studies for an appointment period from July 1st, 2024 – June 30th, 2025.

We seek scholars specializing in any aspect of Central Asian Studies working from any disciplinary perspective, including but not limited to anthropology, art history, history, literature, philosophy, political science, religious studies, or sociology. Priority is given to scholars focusing on Xinjiang.

Housed in the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, the Council on East Asian Studies provides an important interdisciplinary forum at Yale for academic exploration and support for the study of East Asia, bringing together scholars who specialize in, across, and beyond China, Japan, and Korea.

Application Instructions: to apply, please submit cover letter, CV, dissertation abstract (250 words), course proposal, statement regarding intended research project (no more than 2500 words), writing sample (no more than 30 pages), and 3 letters of recommendation by Friday, January 5, 2024. The writing sample can be a dissertation chapter, journal article, or other such academic paper. Letters of recommendation must be uploaded via a dossier service or from the recommenders directly. Please be sure that your recommenders address your teaching abilities in their letters. Names of references will not be accepted in lieu of confidential letters of recommendation. No late applications will be accepted.

[https://ceas.yale.edu/news/ceas-postdoctoral-associate-central-asian-studies-0?fbclid=IwAR1nYkCvf9Hd4snmPnN8x11WX8RV9VJ9Hzu6ypJ0t4\\_CvNVfWQBjGByXdSg](https://ceas.yale.edu/news/ceas-postdoctoral-associate-central-asian-studies-0?fbclid=IwAR1nYkCvf9Hd4snmPnN8x11WX8RV9VJ9Hzu6ypJ0t4_CvNVfWQBjGByXdSg)

## LECTURES

### France

- Animals in Eastern worlds: A seminar series on the History and Archaeology of Eastern Worlds (SHAMO) 2024, focusing on the theme of Animals in Eastern worlds, is organized by UMR 7041 ArScAn (Archaeologies and Sciences of Antiquity). The seminar will take place every Thursday from January to April 2024, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Council Room, 4th floor of the Maison René-Ginouvès, at the following address: 21 allée de l'Université (RER A - Nanterre Université).

If you wish to attend the seminar remotely, you can contact Cecile Michel at the beginning of 2024 to request the Zoom link: [cecile.michel@cnrs.fr](mailto:cecile.michel@cnrs.fr).

The link of SHAMO 2024 seminar program is as follows:

<http://www.arscan.fr/haroc/shamo-2024-les-animaux-dans-les-mondes-orientaux/>

- Overview of Current Research in the Eastern Mediterranean during the 2nd and 1st-Millennium BC : a seminar series on the archaeological research in the Eastern Mediterranean during the 2nd and 1st millennia is organised in partnership with Ifea, Efa and IFAO.  
<https://www.ifporient.org/eastern-mediterranean-2nd-1st-millennia-bc/>

- Prehistories: East, West, Mediterranean 2023-2024: "Archaeology - Sciences for Archaeology": a series of teaching and research seminar on the Prehistories of East, West, Mediterranean is organized by Éric Thirault (University of Lyon 2, ArAr), Wael Abu Azizeh (University of Lyon 2, Archéorient), Frédéric Abbès (CNRS, Archéorient) at the University of Lyon 2. The theme of this seminar is Adornments/Walls.

Dressing the World: perhaps this is a common point among all tangible manifestations of transformations in the "real" lives of oral tradition populations. Whether it concerns adorning the body, both impermanent (paintings, cosmetics, adornment objects) or permanent (tattoos, piercings), or expressions known as graphics on the walls of houses, on rock surfaces, or any other transient support, what do humans want when they alter their bodies and environments in this way? The Lyon 2 Prehistory seminar will explore different modes of visual expression attested in recent prehistory, from the Atlantic to the Euphrates. These interventions will be a

space for questioning appearances: both those of our documentation and those of our prehistoric ancestors.

This seminar is open to master's students in the Archaeology-Sciences for Archaeology master's program and constitutes the main course for the master 2, tracks West & Mediterranean and East & Mediterranean. It is also available as an option for master's students in archaeology and other master's programs, as well as for doctoral students, researchers, and colleagues from all backgrounds.

<https://www.archeorient.mom.fr/formations/seminaires/prehistoires-orient-occident-mediterranee-2023-2024>

## Germany

- Archäologie zwischen Trümmern: Neue Forschungen in der spätassyrischen Hauptstadt Ninive [Archaeology among the Rubble: New Research in the Late Assyrian Capital Nineveh] by Prof. Dr. Peter Miglus (Universität Heidelberg).  
January 1st 2024 h. 18 in F2 (Fürstenberghaus), Münster  
<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Altoriental/aktuelles/nachrichten/2012/20240115.html>
- “Als die Götter Menschen waren...” Gottesvorstellungen im Alten Orient [“When the gods were men...” Concepts of God in the Ancient Near East] by Prof. Dr. Stefan Maul (Universität Heidelberg).  
January 11th 2024 h. 18 in Neue Universität, Heidelberg  
<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/veranstaltungen/als-die-goetter-menschen-waren-gottesvorstellungen-im-alten-orient-2024-01-11>
- Introduction to the history of the Ancient Near East  
Das Neubabylonische Reich bis zum Ende der Assyrerherrschaft (11. bis 7. Jhd. v. Chr.) [The Neo-Babylonian Empire until the end of Assyrian rule (11th to 7th centuries BC)] by Prof. Dr. Betina Faist (Universität Heidelberg).  
January 16th 2024 h. 14.15 in Neue Universität, Heidelberg  
<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/veranstaltungen/das-neubabylonische-reich-bis-zum-ende-der-assyrerherrschaft-11-bis-7-jhd-v-chr-2024-01-16>

- Basics of Islam: Personalities

Basics of Islam: Ibn Sīnā - the Islamic world's leading philosopher by Prof. Peter Adamson (LMU Munich).

January 16th 2024 h. 18.15 in M 114 / Main building, München

<https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/calendar-of-events/event/the-everyday-life-of-egyptian-farmers-4.html>

## **Netherlands**

- Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg-lezing: A Queen, her Son, and her Chamberlain. Seal Imagery and Socio-Administrative Hierarchies at Persepolis.

February 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 h.19.30 in National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden

<https://www.nino-leiden.nl/event/sancisi-weerdenburg-lezing-a-queen-her-son-and-her-chamberlain>

- Leiden Yemeni Studies

The Leiden Yemeni Studies Lecture Series brings together experts on various aspects of Yemen's history, art and archaeology, politics, economics, and sociology, anthropology and literature, creating an interdisciplinary dialogue about the region.

January 22nd 2024 h. 16, online via Zoom

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/events/2024/01/leiden-yemeni-studies-lecture-series-1-title-tba>

## **MEETING**

### **Netherlands**

- 5th NINO Annual Meeting: Invention & Ingenuity

January 25th 2024 h. 9 in Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Organization: Shiyanthi Thavapalan ([s.thavapalan@vu.nl](mailto:s.thavapalan@vu.nl)), Shana Zaia ([s.s.zaia@vu.nl](mailto:s.s.zaia@vu.nl)), Bas ter Haar Romeny ([bas.ter.haarromeny@vu.nl](mailto:bas.ter.haarromeny@vu.nl)).

<https://www.nino-leiden.nl/event/5th-nino-annual-meeting-invention-ingenuity>



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- Excavations at Tunkat, Akhangaran district, Uzbekistan

The National Center for Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan has recently published a press release (on its website) reporting on new excavations at Tunkat:

“A group of archaeologists (B. Isabekov, I. Dzhurakulov, U. Ismailov) under the leadership of academician Akhmadali Askarov has been excavating the Tunkat monument, located 12 km northeast of the city of Almalyk, in the Akhangaran district of the Tashkent region, since the summer of this year.

The archaeological study began with the excavation of a relatively high hill in the northern part of the Tunkat site. Initially, excavations were carried out on an area of 12x12. Later, the space of the open structure was expanded to match the walls.

During the research, more than 10 medieval rooms, more than 200 fragments of glazed and unglazed pottery, about 20 coins, about 10 lanterns, many fragments of glass vessels, metal objects and the remains of molten metal slag (slag) were discovered. Scientists date such vessels and other material objects to the 9th-11th centuries. During this period, the territory of Tunkata was ruled by the Samanid and Karakhanid dynasties”.

<https://archaeology.uz/en/news/unique-finds-from-the-samanid-and-karakhanid-periods-were-found-in-akhangaran>

- Excavations at Ainabulak-Temirsu Necropolis, Kazakhstan

International archaeological excavations in Kazakhstan have led to the discovery of a necropolis. An exceptional Bronze Age female burial site was recently excavated. The discovery is reported in *The Astana Times*.

<https://astanatimes.com/2023/08/recent-discoveries-in-east-kazakhstan-unveil-mysteries-of-past/>

- Discovery at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan

Archaeologists unearthed a Kushan cache of copper coins at Mohenjo Daro. Listed by UNESCO, the site had not been excavated for several decades, and this discovery is a reminder that there is still a great deal of information to be found there. The announcement of the discovery was relayed by the Pakistani newspaper *The Dawn*.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1790004>

## Iran

- Jiroft mission: New archaeological excavations have commenced in the Jiroft region's archaeological site within the Konar Sandal area, led by Seyyed Mansour Seyyedsajjadi, a distinguished Iranian archaeologist, and his team, following a 17-year hiatus.

These ongoing activities are structured in two phases: initially, the preservation and study of previously unearthed artifacts, followed by a subsequent phase involving continued research and archaeological excavations at the historical and archaeological sites within the region. Establishing the boundaries of the Konar Sandal mounds and the historical and archaeological areas of Jiroft, which carry significant national and international importance, is also among the objectives of this archaeological mission.

- Tall-I Ozbaki mission: a new phase of excavation at this site was undertaken to produce more comprehensive scientific and research documentation. These endeavors can contribute to long-term objectives, including the global registration of this archaeological site. The establishment of an archaeological research center or a national cultural heritage base at the Ozbeki site, as well as the creation of an Ozbeki museum site, are among the other crucial goals of this project. These excavations were conducted under the supervision of Mehrdad Malekzadeh, a member of the Iran Center for Archaeological Research.

During this season, the uppermost level of the Medes Fortress was excavated, revealing a robust architectural structure. This structure, besides being a significant mud-brick construction from the historical period, seems to be part of an architectural complex from the Achaemenid and post-Medes periods. Until now, no signs of remains from the post-Medes period have been evident in the Ozbeki settlement sequence.

Mehrdad Malekzadeh stressed the importance of thorough research on the architectural style and a detailed examination of the discovered relics of this structure. He expressed hope that

the final results of the research on this architecture would indicate an administrative building from the Achaemenid period.

Furthermore, according to him, interdisciplinary research was conducted during this season of excavation at the Ozbeki archaeological site. Specialists in archaeogeophysics and archaeomagnetism were invited to explore sections of the Doshan Tepe and Takhcha using ancient magnetometry methods. Additionally, remote sensing, site mapping, and detailed mapping of the neighboring hill were precisely executed. Aerial photography, especially with drones, was also employed for 3D reconstructions and photogrammetry.

- Discovery of the Eastern Wall of Parsa Gate at Persepolis

During the thirteenth season of excavations at the Tel Ajori archaeological site in Marvdasht, Fars Province, Iranian and Italian archaeologists successfully uncovered the eastern wall of the Parse Gate at Persepolis.

The ongoing thirteenth season of archaeological excavations, titled "Parse Pardis Gate of Persepolis", is a collaborative effort led by Alireza Askari Chavardi from the University of Shiraz and Pier Francesco Callieri from the University of Bologna, Italy. The collaboration includes the participation of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Department of Fars Province, the World Heritage Site of Persepolis, the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and the Deputy of Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism. Alireza Askari Chavardi, the head of the archaeological team, revealed the most significant achievement of this excavation season: the complete discovery of the eastern wall of the Parse Gate at Persepolis and the identification of the entire structure's plan.

He described the eastern wall as 40 meters long and 10 meters wide, constructed entirely of bricks and clay. The core of the wall is five meters thick, made of raw bricks, with internal and external facades, each 2.5 meters wide, built with bricks.

The archaeologist highlighted the intriguing use of bitumen mortar in constructing the large walls of the Parse Gate, stating, "The mortar used between the brick layers across the width of this wall is a type of bitumen mortar extensively employed during the Achaemenid period and appears to have been primarily used as a construction mortar for the building."

Another noteworthy discovery mentioned by the head of the Tel Ajori archaeological team is the exposure of the entire eastern wall adorned with glazed colored bricks.

This historical structure once provided access to a royal garden (Pardis), including a grand palace. Currently, the remains of this memorial gate lie in ruins in the Firuzeh 5 area of the site.

Abandoned during the Achaemenid period, it later succumbed to significant earthquakes, and its walls were looted in subsequent periods.

Parse, the most splendid city of ancient Iran, boasted a magnificent gate comparable to the Babylonian Ishtar Gate. Located in the oldest part of the city, three kilometers west of the palaces of Persepolis, this gate represents an exquisite construction in terms of artistic quality, volume, technical dimensions, and building methods, akin to the Ishtar Gate in Babylon. The construction of this gate, part of the ancient city's path of palaces and royal structures, dates back to the early Achaemenid era.

## **Lebanon**

- U.S Repatriates Artifacts to Lebanon (September 2023)  
<https://www.archaeology.org/news/11735-230911-lebanon-artifacts-repatriation>  
<https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1348731/stolen-lebanese-antiquities-make-way-home-from-new-york.html>

## **PHD DISCUSSION**

### **Netherlands**

- Urban Systems in the Roman Near East by P. Kloeg  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. L. de Ligt and Prof. Dr. J.L. Bintliff  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 h.11.15 in Academy Building, Leiden  
<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/events/2024/02/urban-systems-in-the-roman-near-east>

## **PROJECTS**

### **Lebanon**

- Mission archéologique franco-libanaise de la BeKaa cenrtale – Dir. Dr. Jwana Chahoud.



[https://archeorient.hypotheses.org/26499?fbclid=IwAR35DCVUYyUc3Qjr2-t8vHfmyNMw\\_mAvJyhBhOXeNV09bRKwneFWIKzwt84](https://archeorient.hypotheses.org/26499?fbclid=IwAR35DCVUYyUc3Qjr2-t8vHfmyNMw_mAvJyhBhOXeNV09bRKwneFWIKzwt84)

- Beirut Mummy Project (ongoing since 2016)

<https://www.eurac.edu/en/institutes-centers/institute-for-mummy-studies/projects/beirut-mummy-project>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan)**

- Jacobson-Tepfer Esther. *Monumental Archaeology in the Mongolian Altai: Intention Memory Myth*. Brill. Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 8 Uralic & Central Asian Studies, Volume 30. Leiden. 2023. ISBN: 9789004535213. €137.15.

“The stone monuments of Mongolia’s Altai Mountains trace the web of ancient cultures across that remote land. This study breaks new ground by seeking their cultural significance from within their physical locations and viewsheds.

It is the first study to join the mute stone monuments to the vivid petroglyphic rock art of that region. In that and in the examination of a monument’s individualizing details, I seek to recover the impulse of original intention, the way in which monument and location fix cultural memory, and the way in which memory finally gives way to the cultural development of myth.”

<https://brill.com/display/title/64005>

- Miller Bryan Kristopher. *Xiongnu: The World's First Nomadic Empire*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. 2024. ISBN: 9780190083694. \$85.

“This book raises the case of the world's first nomadic empire, the Xiongnu, as a prime example of the sophisticated developments and powerful influence of nomadic regimes. Launching from a reconceptualization of the social and economic institutions of mobile pastoralists, the collective chapters trace the course of the Xiongnu Empire from before its initial rise, traversing the wars that challenged it and the reformations that made it stronger, to the legacy left after its eventual fall.

*Xiongnu* expounds the economic practices and social conventions of steppe herders as fertile foundations for institutions and infrastructure of empire, and renders a model of "empires of

mobilities," which engaged the control less of towns and territories and more of the movements of communities and capital to fuel their regimes. By weaving together archaeological examinations with historical investigations, Bryan K. Miller presents a more complex and nuanced narrative of how an empire based firmly in the steppe over two thousand years ago managed to formulate a robust political economy and a complex political matrix that capitalized on mobilities and alternative forms of political participation, and allowed the Xiongnu to dominate vast realms of central Eurasia and leave lasting geopolitical effects on the many worlds around them”.

<https://mitpressbookstore.mit.edu/book/9780190083694>

## France

- *L’empreinte des empires au Proche-Orient ancien : Volume d’hommage offert à Francis Joannès*, Edited by Philippe Clancier, Julien Monerie;  
Études Mésopotamiennes – Mesopotamian Studies N°3 – 2023  
Paperback, 404 pp.  
ISBN 9781803274331

<http://www.arscan.fr/haroc/shamo-2024-les-animaux-dans-les-mondes-orientaux/>

Through *L’empreinte des empires au Proche-Orient ancien*, the colleagues, students and friends of Francis Joannès wanted to show the great respect and attachment they have for him. This volume brings together articles on a wide-ranging theme that was one of the main threads running through the work of Francis Joannès, who worked, and still works, on the Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian and Greco-Macedonian empires. In particular, he was a pioneer in the study of the Achaemenid and Greco-Macedonian empires through cuneiform sources. He was one of the first to consider that the end of Babylonia's independence in no way marked the end of its economic, cultural and political history, a history that he devoted his career to reviving. However, the wealth of his work is far from being confined to this theme or period, and the variety of articles in this volume bears witness to this.

*L’empreinte des empires au Proche-Orient ancien* is therefore intended to reflect the exceptional career of Francis Joannès and to symbolise the fact that the future will not be without his scientific and personal imprint.

- *Judicial Decisions in the Ancient Near East*, Edited by Sophie Démare-Lafont, Daniel E. Fleming.

<https://cart.sbl-site.org/books/061559P>

This volume presents the first broadly inclusive collection, with accessible text and English translation, of documents related to judicial decisions in the ancient Near East, the oldest setting for such writing in the world. The texts in this volume belong to various genres, especially legal records and letters, and span almost two thousand years. With such varied material, the work depends on the expertise of specialists in each setting, from the Sumerian of early Ur to the late Akkadian of Babylonia under the Persians. The collection brings together not only 183 transliterated texts and new translations but also introductions and commentary that place these legal documents in their historical and social contexts. A glossary of legal terms, a concordance of texts included, and an index of legal terms makes this an invaluable tool for students and scholars across disciplines. The contributors are Dominique Charpin, Sophie Démare-Lafont, Daniel E. Fleming, Francis Joannès, Bertrand Lafont, Brigitte Lion, Ignacio Márquez Rowe, Cécile Michel, and Pierre Villard.

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Sophie Démare-Lafont is professor of history of law at the university Paris Panthéon-Assas and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, PSL (Paris Sciences et Lettres). She specializes in ancient Near Eastern legal sources, including the Bible. She has published more than one hundred articles and one book, *Femmes, droit et justice dans l'antiquité orientale: Contribution à l'étude du droit pénal au Proche-Orient ancien* (1999). [...]

Daniel E. Fleming is professor of ancient Near Eastern history, with disciplinary specialties in Assyriology and Hebrew Bible, in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. Along with numerous articles and other books, he is the author of *Time at Emar: The Cultic Calendar and the Rituals from the Diviner's Archive* (2000), [...]

- *Late Chalcolithic Northern Mesopotamia in Context: papers from a Workshop held at the 11th ICAANE in Munich, April 5th 2018*, Edited by Baldi, J. S., Iamoni, M., Peyronel, L., Sconzo, P., 2022,

Subartu volume 48. Brepols, Turnhout. 260 p. ISBN 978-2-503-59604-4

Many of the debates that have until recently driven research into Mesopotamia's proto-urban phase (5th- 4th millennia bce) have now been reassessed thanks to new fieldwork in Iraqi Kurdistan and new data into the relationships between the north and south of the Alluvium from hitherto poorly-documented regions. These debates were re-examined in the light of this new material during a workshop held at the ICAANE in 2018 in Munich, leading to unprecedented perspectives on the patterns of early urbanization, social mobility, and the organization of Late Chalcolithic communities. Drawing on research first presented at

ICAANE, and building on the most recent data from surveys and excavations, this volume engages with one key question from different angles: namely, how can we reconcile detailed analysis of the multifaceted local variations of proto-urbanism with the supra-regional, intricate, and more widespread nature of this same phenomenon across Mesopotamia?

- *Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia and Adjacent Areas XIII: Proceedings of the Thirteenth International Symposium, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus, June 7-10, 2017*, Edited by D., Julie, A. Hadjikoumis, R. Berthon, J. Chahoud, V. Kassianidou, and J.-D. Vigne, 2022, 312 p. ISBN 978-1-948488-98-3 / 978-1-957454-00-9

Southwest Asia is at the epicenter of zooarchaeological research on pivotal changes in human history such as animal domestication and the emergence of social complexity. This volume continues the long tradition of the ASWA conference series in publishing new research results in the zooarchaeology of southwest Asia and adjacent areas. The book is organized in three thematic areas. The first presents new methodological tools and approaches in the study of animal remains exemplified through studies on domestication, butchery practices, microdebris, intrasite contextual comparisons and age-at-death recording. Besides offering interesting insights into our past, these methodological developments enable higher resolution for future research. The second section focuses on the subsistence economies of prehistoric and early complex societies and provides new insights into how animal management developed in southwest Asia. The third section includes intriguing new research results on the roles of animals in the symbolic world of ancient societies, such as the meaning of insect figures at Göbekli Tepe, animal cults in Egypt, feasting in Iron Age Oman, and the ornithological interpretation of Byzantine mosaics.

## Lebanon

- Crassard R, Abu-Azizeh W, Barge O, Brochier JÉ, Preusser F, Seba H, et al. (2023) The oldest plansto scale of humanmade mega-structures. PLoS ONE 18(5): e0277927.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0277927>

Abstract: Data on how Stone Age communities conceived domestic and utilitarian structures are limited to a few examples of schematic and non-accurate representations of various-sized built spaces. Here, we report the exceptional discovery of the up-to-now oldest realistic plans that have been engraved on stones.



These engravings from Jordan and Saudi Arabia depict ‘desert kites’, humanmade archaeological mega-traps that are dated to at least 9,000 years ago for the oldest. The extreme precision of these engravings is remarkable, representing gigantic neighboring Neolithic stone structures, the whole design of which is impossible to grasp without seeing it from the air or without being their architect (or user, or builder). They reveal a widely underestimated mental mastery of space perception, hitherto never observed at this level of accuracy in such an early context. These representations shed new light on the evolution of human discernment of space, communication, and communal activities in ancient times.

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