



*Archaeological Research
in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
and the adjacent areas*

Athens, November 1st – 3rd 2013

An International Conference organized by:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

Venue of conference:

01/11

**The auditorium “G. Kranidiotis”
of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1 Akadimias str., 10671 Athens**

02/11 and 03/11

**The Archaeological Society of Athens
22 Panepistimiou str., 10672 Athens**

Archaeological Research in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the adjacent areas

Athens, November 1st-3rd 2013

Friday, November 1st

08:00-08:45 Registration

08:45-09:00 Welcoming

Session I Surveys and regional projects

CHAIR: R. Kolinski, K. Kopanias

09:00-09:20 **Othman Zengin Abubakr (Malawaat)** An overview of archaeological research

09:20-09:40 **F. Biglari - S. Shidrang** New evidence for Paleolithic occupation of the Southern Hawraman Mountains, Central Western Zagros, Iran

09:40-10:00 **D. Morandi Bonacossi** The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: changing landscapes in the Eastern Upper Tigris Region and the Navkur Plain between the Third and the First Millennium BC

10:00-10:20 **M. Iamoni** The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: complexity and settlement pattern in Northern Mesopotamia during the 6th-4th millennia BC. New data from the Eastern Upper Tigris region

10:20-10:40 **R. Palermo** The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: trends in settlement patterns and material culture from the Post-Assyrian to the Sasanian period

10:40-11:00 **A. D'Agostino** The valley beyond the mountains: an overview of the archaeological evidence of the Upper Tigris region (SE Turkey) and its regional connections.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

CHAIR: D. Morandi Bonacossi, A. Erim Özdoğan

11:30-11:50 **T. Ökse - A. Görmüş** Continuity throughout the Bronze Ages in The Upper Tigris Region: a case study on Salat Tepe

11:50-12:10 **P. Pfälzner - Paola Sconzo** First results of the Eastern Ḥabur Archaeological Survey in the Dohuk Region of Iraqi-Kurdistan

12:10-12:30 **C. Glatz - E. Şerifoğlu - J. Casana** Between the plains and the mountains: The Sirwan (Upper Diyala) Regional Project – first results

12:30-12:50 **Dlshad A. Marf** Back to the land of Ardini/Muşaşir: New archaeological evidence

12:50-13:10 **C. Piller - M. Roaf** Looking for Ardini

13:10-13:30 **J. Ur** The Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey 2012-2013 (read by J. Giraud)

13:30-15:00 *Lunch Break*

CHAIR: C. Beuger, R. Matthews

15:00-15:20 **R. Kolinski** Insights into the settlement history of Iraqi Kurdistan from the Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance Project field seasons

15:20-15:40 **Dara Al-Yaqobi** The work of the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalisation

15:40-16:00 **M. Danti - A. Suleiman - R. Zettler** The Rowanduz Archaeological Program 2013

- 16:00-16:20 **M. Luciani - M. van Ess - K. Rasheed Raheem** Recent research on the site of Chemchemal and its surrounding region
- 16:20-16:40 **S. Mühl** The Shahrizor Plain – settlement patterns and material culture
- 16:40-17:00 **J. Giraud - Kamal Rasheed Raheem – C. Verdellet – S. Bonilauri** Suleimaniyah Governorate Survey (2012-2013): goals, methods and preliminary results
- 17:00-17:30 *Coffee Break*

Session II Excavation Projects

CHAIR: P. Pfälzner, O. Rouault

- 17:30-17:50 **R. Matthews - W. Matthews - Kemal Rasheed** Current investigations into Early Neolithic of the Central Zagros
- 17:50-18:10 **A. Erim Özdoğan** Transition from PPNB to Pre-proto Hassuna Period, Sumaki Höyük/Batman
- 18:10-18:30 **S. Sarialtun** A Halaf Village at Kerküsti Höyük in Northern Mesopotamia
- 18:30-18:50 **D. Stein** The “Tholoi” at Arpachiyah: reflections on their function and wider context

Saturday, November 2nd

Session II Excavation Projects (continued)

CHAIR: Othman Zengin Abubakr (Malawaat), G. Areshian, G. Schwartz

- 09:00-09:20 **K. Kopanias** The Tell Nader and Tell Baqrta Projects in Erbil Province
- 09:20-09:40 **T. Koizumi** Excavations of the Chalcolithic levels at Salat Tepe on the Upper Tigris, Southeastern Anatolia

- 09:40-10:00 **G. Stein** The LC1-2 periods in Northern Mesopotamia in relation to The Uruk Period of the South
- 10:00-10:20 **G. Pulhan** A new rescue project in the Ilisu Dam Reservoir in Turkey: Gre Amer, Batman on the Upper Tigris
- 10:20-10:40 **C. Kepinski - A. Tenu** Two seasons of excavations at Kunara (Upper Tanjaro): an Early and Middle Bronze Age city
- 10:40-11:00 **O. Rouault - I. Calini** Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2010): Kilik Mishik
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

CHAIR: J. MacGinnis, J. Curtis

- 11:30-11:50 **M.G. Masetti-Rouault - I. Calini** Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2011-2013): Qasr Shemamok
- 11:50-12:10 **G. Schwartz** Kurd Qaburstan, A Second Millennium BC Urban Site: first results of the Johns Hopkins project
- 12:10-12:30 **C. Pappi - L. Ristvet** The City of Idu: Between Assyria and a Mountain Place
- 12:30-12:50 **S. Renette - A. Tome - R. Cabral** Preliminary results from excavations at Kani Shaie in the southern Bazyan Valley, Suleimaniyah
- 12:50-13:10 **J. Eidem - M. Merlino** Back To Shemshara
- 13:10-13:30 **L. Marti - C. Nicolle** The Bash Tappa Excavation Project
- 13:30-15:00 *Lunch Break*

CHAIR: M. Danti, T. Ökse

- 15:00-15:20 **M. van Ess - A. Hausleiter - Haydar H. Hussein - Nader B. Mohammed** Settlement history and burial customs in the lower town of Arbil: Iraqi-Kurdish-German excavations 2009-2012
- 15:20-15:40 **K. Sauer** Bakr Awa in the Shahrizur Plain: an ancient city on the outskirts of Mesopotamia

- 15:40-16:00 **J. Curtis** The Achaemenid period occupation at Tell ed-Daim in Iraqi Kurdistan
- 16:00-16:20 **Narmin Ali Amin - V. Deroche - J. Gaborit** The French excavations at Bazyan, historical and archaeological investigations
- 16:20-16:50 *Coffee Break*

Session III Ceramic, Artifactual and Ecofactual Analysis

CHAIR: G. Kourtessi-Philippakis, M.G. Masetti-Rouault

- 16:50-17:10 **O. Nieuwenhuys** Revisiting the Halaf period of Northern Iraq
- 17:10-17:30 **C. Beuger** The pottery sequence of Tell Nader (Erbil) – reflections on pottery research of the Early Chalcolithic Iraqi Kurdistan
- 17:30-17:50 **V. Orsi** Interaction and exchange in the ceramic traditions of the northern Jezirah at the turn of the 3rd millennium BC
- 17:50-18:10 **D. Ławecka** Ninevite V - culture or regional pottery style?
- 18:10-18:30 **S. Blaylock** The Pottery repertoire of the Garzan Valley, Batman, South-East Turkey, in the Second and First Millennia B.C: Four seasons at Gre Amer Höyük
- 18:30-18:50 **K. Gavagnin** The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: continuity and change in the ceramic tradition from the 5th Millennium BC to the Neo-Assyrian period

Sunday, November 3rd

Session III Ceramic, Artefactual and Ecofactual Analysis (cont.)

CHAIR: L. Karali, O. Nieuwenhuys

- 09:00-09:20 **G. Kourtessi-Philippakis** Lithics in the Ubaid culture: an overview from Tell Nader (Erbil)

- 09:20-09:40 **S.C. Fox** The People from Tell Nader and their Burial Customs (read by K. Kopanias)
- 09:40-10:00 **A. Hadjikoumis** Animal husbandry and other human-animal interactions in prehistoric northern Iraq: the analysis of the faunal remains from Tell Nader, 2011 and 2012 excavation seasons
- 10:00-10:20 **T. Greenfield** The political economy of a Neo-Assyrian provincial city: a zooarchaeological perspective

Session III Written Sources

CHAIR: M. Fales, E. Mantzourani

- 10:20-10:40 **A. Stone** Beyond the Ur III "Core": transactions of control and power to the North and East
- 10:40-11:00 **J. MacGinnis** The city of Erbil in cuneiform sources
- 11:00-11:20 **Ch. Watanabe** Philological and scientific analysis of cuneiform tablets housed in Suleimaniyah Museum (read by T. Koizumi)
- 11:20-11:40 *Coffee Break*

CHAIR: P. Polychronakou-Sgouritsa, Zidan Bradosty

- 11:40-12:00 **M. Fales** Sennacherib's aqueduct at Jerwan: new results and perspectives from the monumental inscriptions
- 12:00-12:20 **K. Zouboulakis** The Gaugamela campaign: ancient sources, modern views and topographical problems
- 12:20-12:40 **E. Dandrow** Roman provincial coinage as evidence for the continuation of Mesopotamian religion: the cases of Carrhae and Edessa
- 12:40-13:00 **C. Cereti - L. Colliva - G. Terribili** Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in the Pāikūlī Area: Narseh's inscription and the archaeological map of the area

Session III Cultural Heritage Management

CHAIR: Abdullah Khorsheed, C. Kepinski

- 13:00-13:20 **J. Johnson - Abdullah Khorsheed - B. Lione** The Iraqi Institute: Education for Archaeological Research and Conservation
- 13:20-13:40 **C. Cereti - L. Colliva - A. Tilia - St. Tilia** Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in Iraqi Kurdistan: Erbil, Suleimaniyah and Dohuk
- 13:40-14:00 **M. Müller-Wiener - A. Mollenhauer** The bazaar of Erbil within the context of Islamic trade routes and trade buildings
- 14:00-14:20 **D. Kurapkat** Two Ottoman bazaar buildings (*qaisariya*) in the bazaar of Erbil
- 14:20-14:40 **K. Nováček** Putting Erbil in context: mediaeval urbanism in Adiabene
- 14:40-15:00 **Qasim, Hassan Ahmed** Excavation Projects in Dohuk Province
- 15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

CHAIR: Dara Al-Yaqoobi, M. Müller-Wiener

- 15:30-15:50 **Zidan Bradosty** The academic scientific activities and field excavations of the Archaeology Department of Salahaddin University, 2000-2013
- 15:50-16:10 **Ali Hozhabri** Hawsh-Kori and Char-Ghapi, why the Sassanids built two monuments in the west of Kermanshah and the south of Iraqi Kurdistan
- 16:10-16:30 **Noman Jumaah Ibrahim** The Results of Archaeological Excavations at "Kilik Mishik" Erbil: the Second and Third Season 2011-2012
- 16:30-16:50 **Babakr Mohammed, Nader** TBA
- 16:50-17:30 *Final Discussion*

All presentations will be 15 minutes. A five minutes discussion will follow each paper.

Organizers: Dr. Konstantinos Kopanias, University of Athens
Dr. John MacGinnis, University of Cambridge

Venue of Conference:

1/11: The Auditorium "G. Kranidiotis" of the Hellenic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1 Akadimias str., 106 71 Athens

2-3/11: The Archaeological Society of Athens
22 Panepistimiou str., 106 72 Athens

Date: November 1st – 3rd 2013

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List of Delegates

- 1. Abubakr, Othman Zengin (Malawaat)**
Directorate of Antiquities of Kurdistan
email: malaawat@yahoo.com
paper: An overview of archaeological research
- 2. Amin, Narmin Ali**
Salahaddin University
email: narminaliamin@yahoo.fr
paper: The French excavations at Bazyan, historical and archaeological investigations (with Vincent Deroche and Justine Gaborit)
- 3. Areshian, Gregory**
UCLA Institute of Archaeology
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- 4. Babakr Mohammed, Nader**
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- 5. Baccarin, Christina**
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- 6. Barker, Graeme**
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- 7. Beckman, Chris**
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- 8. Beuger, Claudia**
Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg
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paper: The pottery sequence of Tell Nader (Erbil) – reflections on pottery research of the Early Chalcolithic Iraqi Kurdistan

- 9. Biglari, Fereidoun**
National Museum of Iran/Bordeaux University
email: fbiglari@gmail.com
paper: New evidence for Paleolithic occupation of the Southern Hawraman Mountains, Central Western Zagros, Iran (with Sonia Shidrang)
- 10. Ali Binandeh**
Iranian Cultural and Tourism Organization
email: alibinandeh@gmail.com
- 11. Blaylock, Stuart**
Independent scholar
email: stuart.blaylock@btinternet.com
paper: The pottery repertoire of the Garzan Valley, Batman, South-East Turkey, in the Second and First Millennia B.C: Four seasons at Gre Amer Höyük
- 12. Bonilauri, Stéphanie**
CNRS
email: stephanie.bonilauri@gmail.com
paper: Suleimaniyah Governorate Survey (2012-2013): Goals, Methods and Preliminary Results (with Jessica Giraud, Kamal Rasheed Raheem & Cécile Verdellet)
- 13. Bradosty, Zidan**
Salahaddin University
email: bradosty82@gmail.com
paper: The academic scientific activities and field excavations of the Archaeology Department, since 2000-2013.
- 14. Cabral, Ricardo**
University of Coimbra
email: rdfcabral@gmail.com
paper: Preliminary results from excavations at Kani Shaie in the southern Bazyan Valley, Suleimaniyah (with Steve Renette and Andre Tome)

15. Calini, Ilaria

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papers: (1) Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2010): Kilik Mishik (with Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault; (2) Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2011-2013): Qasr Shemamok (with Olivier Masetti-Rouault)

16. Casana, Jesse

University of Arkansas

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paper: Between the plains and the mountains: the Sirwan (Upper Diyala) Regional Project - first results (with Claudia Glatz and Emre Serifoglu)

17. Cereti, Carlo

Sapienza University of Rome

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paper: (1) Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in Iraqi Kurdistan: Erbil, Suleimaniyah and Dohuk (with Gianfilippo Tilia, Luca Colliva, Alessandro Tilia, Stefano Tilia); (2) Activities of Sapienza University of Rome in the Pāikūli area: Narseh's inscription and the archaeological map of the area (with Luca Colliva and Gianfilippo Terribili)

18. Colliva, Luca

Sapienza University of Rome

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paper: (1) Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in Iraqi Kurdistan: Erbil, Suleimaniyah and Dohuk (with Carlo Cereti, Alessandro Tilia, Stefano Tilia). (2) Activities of Sapienza University of Rome in the Pāikūli area: Narseh's inscription and the archaeological map of the area (with Carlo Cereti, Gianfilippo Terribili)

19. Cuneo, Alison

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- 20. Curtis, John**
British Museum
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paper: The Achaemenid period occupation at Tell ed-Daim in Iraqi Kurdistan
- 21. D'Agostino, Anacleto**
University of Firenze
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paper: The valley beyond the mountains: an overview of the archaeological evidence of the Upper Tigris region (SE Turkey) and its regional connections
- 22. Dandrow, Edward**
University of Central Florida
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paper: Roman provincial coinage as evidence for the continuation of Mesopotamian religion: the cases of Carrhae and Edessa
- 23. Danti, Michael**
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paper: The Rowanduz Archaeological Program
- 24. Dara Al Yaqoobi**
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paper: The work of the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalisation
- 25. Davidovic, Tonia**
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- 26. Déroche, Vincent**
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paper: The French excavations at Bazyan, historical and archaeological investigations (with Narmin Ali Amin and Justine Gaborit)

27. Fales, Mario

University of Udine

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paper: Sennacherib's aqueduct at Jerwan: new results and perspectives from the monumental inscriptions

28. Fox, Sherry

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paper: The people from Tell Nader and their burial customs

29. Gavagnin, Katia

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paper: The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: continuity and change in the ceramic tradition from the 5th millennium BC to the Neo-Assyrian period

30. Gaborit, Justine

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paper: The French excavations at Bazyan, historical and archaeological investigations (with Narmin Ali Amin and Vincent Deroche)

31. Giraud, Jessica

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paper: Suleimaniyah Governorate Survey (2012-2013): goals, methods and preliminary results (with Kamal Rasheed Raheem, Cécile Verdellet & Stéphanie Bonilauri)

32. Glatz, Claudia

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paper: Between the plains and the mountains: the Sirwan (Upper Diyala) Regional Project - first results (with Emre Serifoglu and Jesse Casana)

- 33. Glissmann, Benjamin**
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- 34. Görmüş, Ahmet**
Mustafa Kemal University (Antakya)
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paper: Continuity through the Bronze Age in the Upper Tigris region: a case study on Salat Tepe (with Tuba Ökse)
- 35. Greenfield, Tina**
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paper: The political economy of a Neo-Assyrian provincial city: a zooarchaeological perspective.
- 36. Hausleiter, Arnulf**
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut
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paper: Settlement history and burial customs in the lower town of Arbil:
Iraqi-Kurdish-German excavations 2009-2012 (with Margarete van Ess, Haydar H. Hussein and Nader B. Mohammed)
- 37. Hadjikoumis, Angelos**
National Museum of Natural History, Paris
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paper: Animal husbandry and other human-animal interactions in prehistoric northern Iraq: the analysis of the faunal remains from Tell Nader, 2011 and 2012 excavation seasons
- 38. Hashim Hama Abdullah**
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- 39. Hodges, April**
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40. Ali Hozhabri

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paper: Hawsh-Kori and Char-Ghapi: why the Sassanids built two monuments in the west of Kermanshah and the south of Iraqi Kurdistan

41. Iamoni, Marco

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paper: The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: complexity and settlement pattern in N Mesopotamia during the 6th-4th millennia BC - new data from the Eastern Upper Tigris region

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43. Iversen, Ingrid

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44. Johnson, Jessie

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paper: Conservation of antiquities in Kurdistan (with Abdullah Khorsheed)

45. Kantrim, Emily

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46. Karali-Giannakopoulou Julia

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47. Kepinski, Christine

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paper: Two seasons of excavations at Kunara (Upper Tanjaro valley): an Early and Middle Bronze city (with Aline Tenu)

48. Khorsheed, Abdullah

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paper: Conservation of antiquities in Kurdistan (with Jessie Johnson)

49. Koizumi, Tatsundo

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paper: Excavations of the Chalcolithic occupations at Salat Tepe on the Upper Tigris, Southeastern Anatolia

50. Kolinski, Rafal

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paper: Insights into the settlement history of Iraqi Kurdistan from the Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance Project, 2012 and 2013 field seasons

51. Kopanias, Konstantinos

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paper: The Tell Nader and Tell Baqrta Projects in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

52. Kourtessi-Philippakis, Georgia

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53. Kurapkat, Dietmar

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paper: Two Ottoman bazaar buildings (*qaisariya*) in the bazaar of Erbil

- 54. Ławecka, Dorota**
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paper: Ninevite V - culture or regional pottery style?
- 55. Luciani, Marta**
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paper: Recent research on the site of Chemchemal and its surrounding region (with Margarete van Ess and Kemal Rashid Rahim)
- 56. MacGinnis, John**
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- 57. Marf, Dlshad Aziz**
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- 58. Mantzourani, Eleni**
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- 60. Masetti-Rouault, Maria Grazia**
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paper: Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2010): Kilik Mishik (with Ilaria Calini)

- 61. Matthews, Roger**
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- 62. Matthews, Wendy**
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paper: Current investigations into Early Neolithic of the Central Zagros (with Kemal Rasheed and Roger Matthews)
- 63. Merlino, Matteo**
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paper: Back to Shemshara
- 64. Giuseppe Minunno**
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- 65. Mollenhauer, Anne**
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paper: The bazaar of Erbil within the context of Islamic trade routes and trade buildings (with Martina Müller-Wiener)
- 66. Morandi Bonacossi, Daniele**
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paper: The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: changing landscapes in the Eastern Upper Tigris Region and the Navkur Plain between the Third and the First Millennium BC
- 67. Mühl, Simone**
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paper: The Shahrizor Plain - aspects of regionality and interculturality as seen from survey results

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- 69. Nicolle, Christophe**
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paper: The Bash Tappa Excavation Project (with Lionel Marti)
- 70. Nieuwenhuys, Olivier**
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- 71. Noman Jumaah Ibrahim**
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paper: The Results of archaeological excavations at "Kilik Mishik" ◌Erbil: the second and third Season 2011-2012
- 72. Novacek, Karel**
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paper: Putting Erbil in context: Mediaeval urbanism in Adiabene
- 73. Ökse, Tuba**
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paper: Continuity through the Bronze Age in the Upper Tigris region: A case study on Salat Tepe (with Ahmet Görmüş)
- 74. Orsi, Valentina**
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paper: Interaction and exchange in ceramic traditions of northern Jezirah at the turn of the 3rd millennium B

- 75. Özdoğan, Aslı**
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paper: Transition from PPNB to Pre-proto Hassuna Period,
Sumaki Höyük/Batman
- 76. Palermo, Rocco**
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paper: The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: trends in settlement
patterns and material culture from the Post-Assyrian to the
Sassanian period
- 77. Pappi, Cinzia**
University of Leipzig
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paper: The city of Idu: between Assyria and a mountain place
(with Lauren Ristvet)
- 78. Pfälzner, Peter**
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paper: First results of the Eastern Habur Archaeological Survey in
the Dohuk region of Iraqi-Kurdistan (with Paola Sconzo)
- 79. Piller, Christian**
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paper: Looking for Ardini (with Michael Roaf)
- 80. Polychronakou-Sgouritsa, Panagiota**
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- 81. Pulhan, Gul**
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paper: A new rescue project in the Ilisu Dam reservoir in Turkey:
Gre Amer, Batman on the Upper Tigris

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Abstracts

Othman Zendin Abubakr (Malawaat): An overview of the Archaeological Research

Mr. Malaawat will present an overview of the archaeological research which is currently being conducted in Kurdistan.

Claudia Beuger: *The pottery sequence of Tell Nader (Erbil) – reflections on pottery research of the Early Chalcolithic Iraqi Kurdistan*

The first excavations in 2011 and 2012 at Tell Nader (Erbil), directed by Dr. Konstantinos Kopanias (University of Athens), offer a sequence from the Late 7th (Hassuna) to the Late 2nd/Early 1st Millennium B.C. At present it is not clear whether this sequence covers the whole time span or whether there are gaps, for example from the Mid 4th to the Mid 3rd Millennium B.C. The Mittanian and Middle Assyrian periods and the Late Neolithic to the Early Chalcolithic are evidenced clearly at the site by large quantities of sherds. However the transition of the Late Ubaid to the Early Uruk period around 4000 B.C. should be one of our main interests since this era in particular lacks a suitable reference site. Some scholars have pointed out that the relevant levels of the sites traditionally cited such Tepe Gawra in the North or Eridu in the South present significant stratigraphical problems. The work at Tell Nader should offer a new reference sequence to assist in combining the recent results of pottery research in Syro-Anatolia with earlier investigations in Mesopotamia. Furthermore we are planning to provide new archaeometrical data for the study of prehistoric pottery.

Fereidoun Biglari and Sonia Shidrang: *New evidence for Paleolithic occupation of the Southern Hawraman Mountains, Central Western Zagros, Iran*

Here we present a summary report on the Paleolithic survey conducted in 2009-2010 in the Rawansar-Pawah regions of Hawraman, in northwest Kermanshah province, Iran. An intensive survey of the caves and rock shelters of Kermanshah Province was undertaken by the Kermanshah provincial office of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization during late 2000s. One of the regions surveyed in the course of these investigations was the southern and western slopes of the Shaho Mountain, in the south of the Hawraman region. In accordance with the research plan proposed by the

Kermanshah ICHO, surveys were limited to caves and rock shelters. We selected three large areas in the vicinity of Rawansar, Quri Qaleh and Paweh for intensive foot survey and these yielded the majority of the sites discovered. A small number of open-air sites that encountered during the course of survey were also recorded and sampled. During this survey, 87 caves, rock shelters, and open-air sites, between 1370 and 2100 meters above sea level, were recorded and sampled. Based on their technological characteristics the collected lithic assemblages from the majority of these sites can be attributed to the Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic and the Epipaleolithic periods. A number of recorded sites only produced small numbers of non-diagnostic lithic artifacts or later prehistoric or historic potsherds.

Stuart Blaylock: *The Pottery repertoire of the Garzan Valley, Batman, South-East Turkey, in the Second and First Millennia B.C.: four seasons at Gre Amer Höyük*

Gre Amer is proving prolific in whole pottery, with about 200 vessels recorded so far in four seasons, supported by rich collections of sherd material. There are significant groups from Level 4 (mid-late 2nd millennium); Level 3 (late 2nd-early 1st millennium); and Level 1 (Achaemenid period, perhaps 5th-4th centuries B.C.), plus a growing number from Level 2 (first half of the 1st millennium). The tradition of red-triangle painted wares occurs throughout the sequence; the well-known ribbed or grooved pottery belongs principally to Level 3. Significant groups include grooved pottery, finewares, painted vessels (with a growing number of Khabur- and Nuzi- related painted vessels), plus second-millennium figured bichrome ceramics with links to North-West Iran, and a small group of Achaemenid-period turquoise-glazed vessels; numerous wasters indicate a kiln at the site in the second millennium. The collection has the potential to set the study of second and first millennium ceramics for this area of the northern tributaries of the Tigris on a firm footing (previously *terra incognita* archaeologically speaking), as well as useful implications for greater North Mesopotamia.

Carlo Cereti, Luca Colliva and Gianfilippo Terribili: *Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in the Pāikūlī Area: Narseh's inscription and the archaeological map of the area*

The Italian Archaeological Mission in Iraqī Kurdistan of Sapienza, University of Rome, focuses its activities on the archaeological site of Pāikūlī and related environs. The Pāikūlī bilingual inscription celebrates the victory of the Sassanian Emperor Narseh (293 – 302\3 AD) in the dynastic war which followed the death of Wahrām II and the remains of the commemorative tower rise in a beautiful Zagros valley at the foot of the Pāikūlī pass. Despite its fragmentary state of preservation, Narseh's inscription is one of the most important surviving sources for the history of the Sassanian dynasty. From 2006 onwards an Italian team has been investigating the monument, leading extensive surveys in the valley and studying the materials now kept in the Suleimaniyah Museum. The 19 new inscribed blocks, recently identified, provide a wide range of linguistic and historical evidence, some of which will be dealt with in the present lecture. From 2012, moreover, the Italian Mission started the development of an archaeological map of the area between Chamchamal and Darbandikhan. The first results of this five-year project confirm the great archaeological importance and richness of this area of more than 800 km² thanks to the finding of numerous archaeological sites dated from protohistoric to the early Islamic period.

C. Cereti, L. Colliva, A. Tilia, St. Tilia: *Activities of Sapienza-University of Rome in Iraqī Kurdistan: Erbil, Suleimaniyah and Dohuk*

The activities carried out within the Italian Sapienza-MAE Cooperation Project “*Safeguard and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in Iraqī Kurdistan*” are devised as a response to real-world capacity building needs in the fields of cultural heritage management and promotion in the provinces of Erbil, Dohuk and Suleimaniyah. The activities are performed by teams comprising both Italian and Kurdish members, the latter of which belonging to the staff of each Museum and to the staff of the HCECR (High Commission for the Erbil Citadel Revitalization). A significant part of the project has been devoted to promoting Museum activities, which have involved three main institutions of the Kurdish Regional Government: the Suleimaniyah Museum, the Erbil Museum and the Dohuk Museum. Activities on cataloguing and training courses have been carried out according to need. Work has been focused on the still unpublished numismatic collections belonging to the three museums, involving

preliminary examination, data recording and conservation of these rich coin collections. A systematic effort to identify and isolate forgeries has been undertaken. Specialists have also been active in the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological and historical cultural heritage of the Suleimaniyah area through activities of data gathering and implementation. Training courses have constituted a fundamental component of the project. Classes have been organized in the Kurdish museums and at the Erbil Citadel. Lessons on numismatics and coins preservation, Iranian history and philology, topography and photogrammetry have been the main subjects arranged for the museums staff, while archaeological investigations through the use of geophysical sounding methodologies, architectural and structural restoration, topography, photogrammetry and GIS have been provided to the HCECR staff. This participatory approach has led to significant results both for the museums (exhibit panels and brochures) and the Erbil Citadel (new topographic map).

John Curtis: *The Achaemenid period occupation at Tell ed-Daim in Iraqi Kurdistan*

This paper will review the evidence for Achaemenid period occupation at Tell ed-Daim an important site to the north-east of Kirkuk on the Lesser Zab. Excavations here were conducted by Abdulqadir al-Tekriti and published in Arabic in Sumer vol. XVI for 1960. There seems to have been a small palace or fortified outpost perhaps for a local governor and the excavations produced pottery and artefacts of typical Achaemenid type. Amongst the latter are stone scoops, bronze wall-plaques, a horse bit and kohl tubes. This is clearly an important site of the Achaemenid period and deserves to be better known.

Anacleto D'Agostino: *The valley beyond the mountains: an overview of the archaeological evidence of the Upper Tigris region (SE Turkey) and its regional connections*

Surveys and excavations undertaken during the last years have significantly improved our understanding of the material culture and settlement patterns in the Upper Tigris river valley (SE Turkey), offering new evidence that deserves further investigation. Recent archaeological findings have raised new issues on the development of local cultures and the interaction between communities settled along the Upper Tigris river

and those settled in neighbouring regions. Although the new stratigraphic sequences brought to light in recent excavations have substantially enhanced the archaeological profile of some sites, a comprehensive and coherent picture of the nature and development of the settlements with their ceramic assemblages between the 3rd and 1st millennium BC is still lacking; this is mainly due to the very limited number of sites investigated and the small size of their exposure to date. Starting from a detailed analysis of the published data, in order to outline the main characteristics of the local cultural tradition throughout time, some of the key issues about ceramic sequences, regional links, chronology and settlement patterns will be treated. In particular, the analysis will focus on specific topics related to the EBA-MBA transitional period; the archaeological visibility of LBA sites; the settlement pattern at the time of the Assyrian conquest at the end of 2nd millennium; and the identification of local and Assyrian related sites during the Iron Age. This paper aims to provide a critical analysis of the latest results emphasizing the principal tenets of the cultural and chronological sequence and some of the open questions in reconstructing the archaeology of the Upper Tigris valley and its possible interaction with the adjacent southeastern areas.

Edward Dandrow: *Religious and iconographic continuity in Carrhae/Harran during the Roman imperial period: numismatic evidence*

The lack of any significant archaeological excavation of the cities of upper Mesopotamia has placed the burden on literary and numismatic evidence for examination of Mesopotamian religious continuity during the Roman period. Of the cities to issue coinage—Anthemusia, Carrhae/Harran, Edessa, Nesibis, Rhessaena, and Singara, local coinage issued from the reign to Marcus Aurelius to Gordian III (161-244 CE) from the city of Harran/Carrhae provides significant evidence that Mesopotamian religion, most notably but not exclusively the cult of Sin, flourished in the middle and late Roman Empire. Furthermore, this coinage utilizes in part Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian iconography that is valuable evidence for symbolic continuity with the past, while at the same time engaging in new ways of representing the old cults by utilizing Hellenic aesthetics and models. This imagery not only defines the civic identity of Harran/Carrhae, but also gives us insight into how communities in upper Mesopotamia represented and defined Roman imperial power and the emperors within their local frameworks of meaning.

Michael Danti, Abdulwahhab Suleiman and Richard Zettler: *The Rowanduz Archaeological Program 2013*

In June–July 2013, the Rowanduz Archaeological Program (RAP) conducted its first season of archaeological excavations and surveys in the areas of modern Rowanduz, Soran, and Sidekan in the Zagros Mountains of northeastern Kurdistan (Erbil Province). Excavations at Qalaat Lokan (Rowanduz area) and Gird-i Dasht (Soran area) coupled with archaeological surveys are being used to develop an archaeological chronology and to reconstruct long-term patterns in human occupation in this virtually unexplored region at the northeast outlets of the Rowanduz Gorge (Gali Ali Beg). The occupational sequence revealed thus far spans the Neolithic to the modern era. Emergency salvage excavations and survey in the Zagros Mountains along the Topzawa Çay at the cemetery of Ghabrestan-i Topzawa and the burned settlement of Gund-i Topzawa (Sidekan area) have revealed a strong early Iron Age presence in this region – likely part of the early Iron Age kingdom of Musasir/Ardini. Investigating relations between the Neo Assyrian Empire and the buffer states located to its northeast represents a major RAP objective.

Dara Al Yaqoobi: *The work of the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalisation*

The High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalisation (HCECR) is the organisation set up by the Regional Government of Kurdistan and supported by UNESCO in order to develop and implement the regeneration of the urban centre of Erbil Citadel. This has resulted in the evolution of the Master Plan for Erbil Citadel, a comprehensive strategy for regenerating the historic city through a co-ordinated approach comprising the documentation, preservation, presentation and utilisation of the architectural heritage. Necessarily, addressing the archaeological heritage has formed an important part of this plan. The citadel of Erbil is a key site. Its size, location and length of occupation mark it out as one of the most important sites in Mesopotamia: it has the potential to contribute fundamentally to the archaeological understanding of the area. Surface survey has already demonstrated that the mound has remains going back at least 6,000 years and the likelihood is that it will in fact be older than that, while recent work on the ancient cuneiform texts has highlighted the exceptional status of the city in the region's history. In short, the citadel mound contains an unparalleled sequence of occupational layers from early pre-history to the present accessible at no other site; it is expected that

archaeological investigations could lead to discoveries of fundamental importance. There is, moreover, a powerful argument that the time to conduct such investigations is now, while the revitalisation of the citadel is in progress and the access and opportunity are there. In recognition of this, in 2009 the HCECR set about formulating a strategy for the archaeological investigation of the citadel. An assessment of the archaeological potential of the mound was made and this led on to the setting up of the Archaeological Management Committee and the formulation of detailed proposals for investigations. The plan envisages a comprehensive approach to the archaeology of the citadel, embracing prospection by geophysical remote sensing in conjunction with excavations conducted in multiple carefully selected areas. The recovery of ecofactual information is considered an important aim and the recovery of archaeobotanic and archaeozoological datasets will be integrated into the fieldwork procedures; the requirements of conservation are also built into the plan. In all these activities an important place is given to staff training and development in co-operation with international partners.

Dlshad A. Marf: *Back to the land of Ardini/Muṣaṣir: new archaeological evidence*

New archaeological evidence comes from the northeastern corner of Iraqī-Kurdistan, in the triangle bordering with Turkey and Iran, which was the "Land of Ardini/Muṣaṣir". Since the last visit of the German scholar Rainer Boehmer to that area and the publication of new evidence in the late 1970s, this area remained virtually closed to archaeological activities for three decades due to military unrests. This paper, which stems from the doctoral research being carried out by the presenter at the department of Assyriology in Leiden, deals with the new archaeological evidence which includes a bronze statue bearing an inscription, 17 Urartian and 'Achaemenid' column bases, several funerary statues and numerous vessels found by the inhabitants of the region over the past few decades, evidence which casts light on the cultural and ethnic interactions in the land of Ardini/ Muṣaṣir during the Iron Age.

Jesper Eidem and Matteo Merlino: *Back to Shemshara*

Tell Shemshara was excavated by Danish and Iraqī archaeologist in 1957-59 as part of the Dokan Dam Salvage project. In 2012 the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) began new investigations at Tell

Shemshara and adjacent sites in the Suleimaniyah Governorate. The paper reports on results from the first seasons.

Frederick Mario Fales: *Sennacherib's aqueduct at Jerwan: new results and perspectives from the monumental inscriptions*

The aqueduct built of limestone blocks located at Jerwan in the Dohuk region of present-day Iraqi Kurdistan is one of the most imposing monuments erected by the Assyrian king Sennacherib (704-681 BC); it was subjected to an accurate archaeological survey, albeit of short duration, by Th. Jacobsen and S. Lloyd in 1933. Within the framework of the "Land of Nineveh Regional Project" of the University of Udine, in September 2012 the speaker re-examined the monument, with a interest in looking in detail at the cuneiform texts engraved on the blocks. There are new findings with regard to all four of the inscriptions (A-D) identified by Jacobsen. Individually these finds relate to the existence of extant duplicates (with the attendant problem of their localization), matters of content (opening up the possibility of links with other monuments of Sennacherib), and questions of overall function (leading to new hypotheses on their deposition, displacement, etc.). In sum, a still provisional, but increasingly context-related, analysis on the role of the Jerwan aqueduct within Sennacherib's northern Assyrian waterworks may be proposed.

Sherry Fox: *The people from Tell Nader and their burial customs*

The archaeological site of Tell Nader at the outskirts of Erbil was identified during a building project when a jar burial was discovered some years ago. The site was protected from further construction, and excavation at Tell Nader began in 2011 under the direction of Konstantinos Kopanias of the University of Athens. At the end of the study of the human skeletal remains from the jar burial containing a single adult male (study was conducted both at the Erbil Civilization Museum and the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage), bones originally thought to have been of zooarchaeological concern came to light in the field. The author was fortunate to have been at the site just after this finding, to identify the remains as human, and to be able to initiate the excavation of the burial. The context of this unique burial in a disused kiln will be described along with the prone body position of the adult female hastily interred within the kiln. There was a dearth of associated artifacts recovered with her body with the possible exception of three dog teeth found near her

head. Study of her remains took place at the Wiener Laboratory of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. In particular, the value of the painstaking reconstruction of her skull will be gained. For in this reconstruction, both head-shaping during infancy has been identified, and a healed depressed fracture on her cranium.

Katia Gavagnin: *The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: continuity and change in the ceramic tradition from the 5th Millennium BC to the Neo-Assyrian period*

This paper presents a preliminary overview of the surface pottery assemblages collected during the first two seasons of the LoNRP carried out by the University of Udine in the northern part of Iraqi Kurdistan. Diagnostic ceramic types for each period will be discussed to understand how pottery production changed in the region during the time span from the Late Chalcolithic to the Neo-Assyrian period. Morphological and regional features will also be discussed, in order to track the presence of the main pottery types and to identify discontinuities in the region on the basis of comparisons with nearby areas. The presentation will also attempt to outline distinctive features which define the pottery assemblages of the region in the different periods covered.

Jessica Giraud, Kamal Rasheed Raheem, Cécile Verdelle & Stéphanie Bonilauri: *Suleimaniyah Governorate Survey (2012-2013): goals, methods and preliminary results*

Abstract will be added later in the program.

Claudia Glatz, Emre Şerifoğlu and Jesse Casana: *Between the plains and the mountains: The Sirwan (Upper Diyala) Regional Project - first results*

The Sirwan Regional Project is an international survey project, which investigates the landscape and settlement history of the Sirwan (Upper Diyala) River valley of north-east Iraq/Kurdistan and explores the long-term cultural development and identity of this transitional region situated between the Mesopotamian plains and the Zagros mountains. An integrated programme of remote sensing, systematic extensive and intensive survey, geophysical prospection, and geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental approaches will be employed to provide insights into this - to-date - archaeologically little explored region. In this paper, we

present the results of two short survey seasons conducted in autumn 2012 and spring 2013 and our plans for future research in the coming years.

Tina Greenfield: *The political economy of a Neo-Assyrian provincial city: a zooarchaeological perspective*

Large-scale and long-term (13 seasons) excavations at the site of the Late Assyrian provincial capital of Ziyaret Tepe in southeastern Turkey have exposed a variety of buildings and depositional contexts across the site. These are considered representative of the social, economic and political structure of the Assyrian Empire (900-612 BCE). Differences in availability and access to resources between archaeologically different and behaviourally distinct areas of sites (e.g. low versus high status, public versus private, domestic versus industrial and administrative) allow investigation of the nature of the political economy in imperial settlements cities at a level of detail not previously investigated. Zooarchaeological data will be used to infer aspects of the economic and social behaviours at the site not traditionally considered. The results will enable a reconstruction of the extent of the political economy in an ancient Near Eastern empire.

Angelos Hadjikoumis: *Animal husbandry and other human-animal interactions in prehistoric northern Iraq: the analysis of the faunal remains from Tell Nader, 2011 and 2012 excavation seasons*

Animal husbandry and human-animal relationships more generally in northern Iraq are almost unknown to archaeology. This paper presents and discusses the faunal remains from the multi-period site of Tell Nader (late 7th – late 2nd millennia, but mainly 5th millennium BC). The material excavated during the first two seasons (2011 and 2012) is presented here and the results shed the first light on human-animal interactions at Tell Nader, and more broadly northern Iraq, at least for the 5th millennium BC. The importance of each animal species, husbandry practices, animal consumption and bone tool production are the main, but not sole, issues addressed in this paper.

Hassan Ahmed Qasim: *Excavation Projects in Dohuk Province*

Abstract will be added later in the program.

Ali Hozhabri: *Hawsh-Kori and Char-Ghapi, why the Sassanids built two monuments in the west of Kermanshah and the south of Iraqi Kurdistan*

Located on an important road connecting Mesopotamia to Zagros and its beyond, Ghasr-e Shirin was an important urban area during historic times. Archaeological remains such as a palace, a temple, fortress, siege and irrigation system, are clearly showing its importance during Late Antiquity. A number of scholars assign this archaeological complex to the Abbasid period. But recent radiometric dating indicates that Ghasr-e Shirin was founded and flourished throughout the Late Sassanid, particularly during the reign of Khosrow II. Another important Sassanid monument, Hawsh-Kori near Kalar in the south of Iraqi Kurdistan, not far from Ghasr-e Shirin, suggests that the region was strategic for the Sassanian rulers. According to many researchers, Hawsh-Kori was a fire temple. But the question is: why the Sassanians built two fire temples so close to each other? The author discuss the strong possibility that the so called fire temple of Char-Ghapi is in fact a church built during reign of Khosrow II for his Christian queen.

Marco Iamoni: *The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: complexity and settlement pattern in Northern Mesopotamia during the 6th-4th millennia BC. New data from the Eastern Upper Tigris region*

The Upper Tigris has long been neglected in the study of prehistoric and protohistorical periods. Much research has focused on the Euphrates Valley and the Syrian Jezirah, although earlier excavations such as Tepe Gawra demonstrated the importance of the Upper Tigris for understanding key phenomena within processes of increasing complexity. The resumption of archaeological projects in Iraqi Kurdistan is an opportunity for an improved and deeper understanding of such processes: this paper presents the latest results concerning the 6th-4th millennia BC of the "Land of Nineveh Regional Project" conducted by the Italian Mission of the University of Udine. The period is considered from multiple standpoints (settlement pattern and material culture in particular); the data are then integrated with other available archaeological information, in order to put forward a preliminary reassessment of the most important features in the occupation of the region during the Late Pottery Neolithic to Late Chalcolithic phases.

Jessica Johnson, Abdullah Khorsheed and Brian Lione: *The Iraqi Institute: Education for Archaeological Research and Conservation*

Beginning in 2009, the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage began educating Iraq heritage professionals in new ways to care for museum collections, historic architecture and most recently archaeological site preservation. Through collaboration with a number of different institutions, sponsored by governmental and private funding, the Iraqi institute is evolving into a centre of education that supports heritage education, and now archaeological research in the region. This paper will discuss recent educational programs and new collaborations that are expanding the knowledge and skills of Iraqi colleagues beyond simply improving technical skills. This in turn helps the redevelopment of Iraqi archaeology and supports the rapidly expanding research taking place throughout the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. With a five-year plan in development, the Iraqi Institute is poised to continue its core academic functions while supporting and facilitating much archaeological research for the foreseeable future.

Christine Kepinski and Aline Tenu: *Two seasons of excavations at Kunara (Upper Tanjaro): an Early and Middle Bronze Age city*

Kunara is located on the bank of the Tanjaro River, about 5 km south-west of the modern day city of Suleymaniah. It was chosen after a survey undertaken in 2011 during which 31 settlements were visited. Kunara is one of the largest sites in this area and shows, on the basis of the pottery collected on surface, a long sequence from the Neolithic to the Iron Age with a main occupation dated to the Bronze Age. In 2012 after a geomagnetic survey three areas were excavated. Apart from interesting small finds such as a finely carved cylinder seal and bronze pins, we discovered several buildings, linked to at least three different levels. Two of them belong to monumental structures, and show sophisticated building techniques. The results of this first campaign will be presented, as well as those of the next one which will take place next autumn, just before the conference.

Tatsundo Koizumi: *Excavations of the Chalcolithic levels at Salat Tepe on the Upper Tigris, Southeastern Anatolia*

Since the 2010 season I have been working with my colleagues Tuba Ökse and Ahmet Görmüş at the site of Salat Tepe in the upper Tigris valley,

southeastern Turkey as part of the Ilisu Baraji-Salat Tepe Kurtarma Kazisi Projesi, charged with the excavation of the southern step-trenches. We have excavated these trenches in order to establish a chronological sequence from the early Ubaid through to the Late Chalcolithic or the Uruk-related periods. In this brief presentation I report some of remarkable results of these excavations. In Room 84/M of Trench I12N we discovered sherds of a Coba Bowl and Gray Burnished Ware as well as burned clay blocks. The recovery of several pieces of reddish brown (10R5/4) pigments on Floor 81/T of Room 84/M suggests that the room could have functioned as a workshop handling the pigments for use in painting or in washing in pottery production. The slightly burned surface of Floor 65/T, which had Gawra Ware associated, also seems to have been used as some kind of workshop. In Trench I12S we uncovered Floor 65/T with several small pits and Kiln 66/F. We also excavated an infant burial accompanied by more than 2500 white and blue to blackish beads as funeral objects. The grave plan is the standard Ubaid type of subterranean structure with a mud brick wall and shaft behind. Excavation of the fills below this grave revealed a mud brick house of tripartite plan, with sherds of flint-scraped bowls as well as typical Late Ubaid painted pottery coming from both the fills and the house.

Rafał Kolinski: *Insights into the settlement history of Iraqi Kurdistan from the Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance Project field seasons 2012 and 2013*

The Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance is a survey project carried out by the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, aimed at the cataloguing and evaluation of archaeological sites and heritage monuments located in an area of approximately 3,000 square kilometres located on both banks of the Greater Zab, limited on the South by the Bastora Cay and the Zab itself and on the North by the mountain ranges of the Aqra Dagħ and the Harir Dagħ. The first season, carried out along the Bastora Cay in the autumn of 2012, revealed 37 archaeological sites ranging in date from the early Hassuna to the Late Islamic period. The fieldwork of 2013 is scheduled in the westernmost area of the work-permit, encompassing partly the Khosr plain. The different geographical setting of this area will allow for first comparisons between the settlement history of the eastern and of the western banks of the Greater Zab and should allow for better determinations of the extent of cultural provinces in the Kurdistan piedmont area and their diachronic changes.

Konstantinos Kopanias: *The Tell Nader and Tell Baqrta Projects in Erbil Province*

The University of Athens obtained permission by the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism of the Kurdistan Regional Government and also from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Iraq to conduct excavation in *Tell Nader*, which lies on the outskirts of the city of Erbil and was first discovered by Mr. Nader Muhammad, and also in Tell Baqrta, which is located 28 km S-SE of Erbil, near the village Minara, on the road to Makhmour. This paper will present the results from the excavation seasons 2011 and 2012 in Tell Nader, and also the ongoing research in Tell Baqrta.

Georgia Kourtessi-Philippakis: *Lithics in the Ubaid Culture: an overview From Tell Nader (Erbil)*

Recent excavations on Tell Nader (Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq conducted since 2011 by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens under the direction of the lecturer of Prehistoric Archaeology K. Kopanias revealed an important chipped stone industry assigned to the late Ubaid period (late 5th mill. B.C.). The aim of this contribution is to present the preliminary results of the study undertaken according the four axes of the current research: a. determining the lithic raw materials and their provenience through macro- and microscopic observation, b. reconstituting the reduction sequence (*chaîne opératoire*) and deciphering the techniques used by the prehistoric knappers at Tell Nader c. typologically classifying the tool assemblage and d. determining by chemical analyses the nature and origin of a black substance observed on the surface of a certain type of tools with gloss in order to understand the purpose of its use (adhesive used for the hafting of the tools?) and the use of these tools as well. These first results will be considered in the context of the Ubaid culture and be compared to those from previous chipped stone industries studies in Mesopotamian sites such as Tepe Gawra, Ras al-Amiyah, Ur and Sacke Gözü.

Dietmar Kurapkat: *Two Ottoman Trade Buildings (qaisariya) in the bazaar of Erbil*

The paper focuses in detail on two late Ottoman trade buildings (*qaisariya*) in the bazaar of Erbil. The two-storey brick structures cover an area of

approximately 1500 m² and 1100 m² respectively. Typologically they represent a distinct regional type of bazaar building that seems to be typical for Northern Iraq. The buildings have been planned and built as coherent entities incorporating hundreds of shops arranged parallel to long vaulted hallways that were originally closed by large wooden gates which could be locked. A special feature of both *qaisariya*-buildings is that they are provided with upper storeys that were accessible via wooden galleries projecting into the hallways. These trade buildings, which are part of the “buffer zone”, around the historical citadel of Erbil, are still in use despite the fact that they are in a state of acute disrepair. In 2012 an interdisciplinary team of art historians, architects, archaeologists, engineers, surveyors, and restorers of the Technical University Berlin and the German Archaeological Institute started a project funded by the “Cultural Heritage Preservation Programme” of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs that aims at the documentation and analysis of the buildings and their damages in order to develop a concept for their conservation, restoration and maintenance in compliance with their historic significance and heritage value.

Dorota Ławecka: *Ninevite 5 - culture or regional pottery style?*

The Ninevite 5 period spans nearly all of the 1st half of the 3rd millennium BC (ca. 3000-2600, ETG2-4 according to the ARCANE project periodization). Most distinctive, and relatively well known is the pottery, with its easily recognizable patterns of painted and incised decoration. Undoubtedly, the Ninevite 5 pottery assemblage is a local, northern development characteristic for the upper Tigris area. But what else do we really know about this period apart from pots? Are the remains of material culture sufficiently coherent and abundant to discern the clear and characteristic cultural patterns? And are our data sufficient and adequate to identify Ninevite 5 as “a culture”, according to the current archaeological definitions? In this brief overview I will try to point out those aspects of material remains in which we are relatively well informed (pottery), those instances in which it is possible to at least suggest a certain unique pattern (for example, domestic architecture) or stylistic peculiarities (for example, glyptics – Piedmont seals versus local style?), as well as the areas of our ignorance. The inevitable conclusion is that much field work (and publishing) has to be done before we will be able to gain a satisfactory recognition of this intriguing and still poorly known period.

Marta Luciani, Margarete van Ess and Kemal Rasheed Raheem: *Recent research on the site of Chemchemical and its surrounding region*

Notwithstanding the numerous and pioneering archaeological investigations taking place in Iraqi-Kurdistan at the present time, the northern and western part of the province of Suleimaniyah, i.e., the Transtigris area defined by the left bank of the Lesser Zab in the north, the Pira Magrun mountains of the Zagros chain in the east, and the Kirkuk-Suleimaniyah road in the south have remained hitherto unexplored. Since the year 2011 a joint Kurdish-Iraqi (Kemal Rasheed Raheem, Suleimaniyah Directorate,) German (Margarete van Ess, German Archaeological Institute) and Austrian (Marta Luciani, University of Vienna) project has explored the sites present in the districts of Surdash, Bazian-North and Aqjalar. The German and Austrian components have been financed by the Orient Department of the German Archaeological Institute. In 2012 first excavations on the reference site of Chemchemical (in the southwest of the Aqjalar district, bordering on the Kirkuk province) have been carried out during a short campaign. The most recent results of these investigations will be the object of my contribution.

John MacGinnis: *The city of Erbil in cuneiform sources*

The project of researching the history of Erbil as documented in the cuneiform sources came about in the context of the work carried out by the High Commission for Erbil City Revitalisation (HCECR), the authority constituted by the Kurdish Regional Government and supported by UNESCO in order to develop and implement the regeneration of the urban centre of Erbil. While the HCECR evolved a plan to address the archaeological potential of the citadel mound - the implementation of which is discussed in the paper of Dara Al Yaqoobi - the Ministry of Youth and Culture commissioned the work of collecting and assessing the information preserved in cuneiform sources pertaining to the city's oldest history. This research resulted in the identification of nearly 300 texts ranging from the later third millennium up to the mid first millennium BC. Increasing in both quantity and variety through the course of this timespan, these sources present a compact overview of the changing fortunes of the city as it alternated between periods of independence and incorporation with larger states, of the importance of the city to the kings of Assyria and of the attention they lavished on its famous temple of Ištar.

Lionel Marti and Christophe Nicolle: *The Bash Tappa Excavation Project*

With the aim of studying a regional centre of the Assyrian heartland, a new French archaeological mission (CNRS and College de France) decided to excavate the site of Bash Tappa. This tell of about 10 ha is located in the vast agricultural plain South-East of Erbil, irrigated by a river system of wadis flowing into the little Zab. This plain is a major corridor between Arrapha and Nineveh. With a particular interest in the periods of the second millennium and the first half of the first millennium, from the emergence of the Upper Mesopotamian kingdom to the fall of the Assyrian empire, the purpose of the mission is to identify the elements of the regional material culture with a particular focus on ceramics and architecture. Furthermore, the nature of the occupations will be assessed in order to identify the chrono-functional phasing of the different occupations on the tell. This will allow us to assess the degree of integration or remoteness of the site and its area and to evaluate its role in an international political level, especially during the Mitannian period and the emerging of the Assyrian Empire. In this paper we will present the results obtained during our first campaign on the site.

Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault and Ilaria Calini: *Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2011-2013): Qasr Shemamok*

Qasr Shemamok, identified since a long time as the Neo-Assyrian province capital Kilizi (previously read as Kakzu), southwest of Erbil, has produced a large amount of archaeological and epigraphic material from the Italian archaeological excavations carried out in 1932 by G. Furlani. A part of it, deposited in the Florence archaeological museum, has been recently published by S. Anastasio, offering important evidence for the study of this large urban site. However, in the absence of information about the archaeological contexts and the stratigraphic record attached to it, this material can be hardly used to follow up and understand the long occupation history of the city, and in particular, the effects of its integration into the Assyrian cultural, political and economic system from the time of at least the Late Bronze Age onwards. The French archaeological mission working in Qasr Shemamok since 2011 is now trying to reconstruct the evolution of this complex urban occupation, in its relation not only with the Assyrian state system, but also, and principally, within own natural and political landscape, changing in the course of time. This paper sums up the most important stratigraphic information collected in the three years of

excavation in the site, but it will be centered on the presentation of the ceramic material, which can be of primary importance to understanding the social and cultural evolution of the local society. At least in these preliminary stages of our researches, most of the recognizable forms are open shapes of common quality as, for example, a series of carinated cups found in the Middle-Assyrian levels, but also in the Neo-Assyrian ones, and well represented too among later Hellenistic, Parthian-Sassanian, and Early Islamic assemblages.

Roger Matthews, Wendy Matthews and Kemal Rasheed: *Current investigations into Early Neolithic of the Central Zagros*

A multi-disciplinary project, based at the University of Reading and Suleimaniyah Antiquities Directorate, is currently investigating the Early Neolithic of the Central Zagros, ca. 9000-7000 BC, through excavations at the sites of Bestansur on the Shahrizor Plain and Shimshara on the Rania Plain, as well as through survey in the region of Zarzi. In this paper we present the latest results from research into early sedentarisation and new modes of interaction between humans, animals and plants in the early millennia of the Holocene. The report will synthesise the results from three seasons of excavations at Bestansur and two seasons at Shimshara, emphasising the significance of local variability in the transition from hunter-forager to farmer-herder, one of the key episodes in the human narrative.

Daniele Morandi Bonacossi: *The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: changing landscapes in the Eastern Upper Tigris region and the Navkur plain between the Third and the First Millennium BC*

This presentation will discuss the first results of the 'Land of Nineveh Regional Project' (LoNRP), initiated in 2012 by the Italian Archaeological Mission to Assyria of the University of Udine. The LoNRP aims to reconstruct the formation and transformation of the cultural and natural landscapes of the piedmont region to the east of the Upper Iraqi Tigris Valley and to provide for their protection and management in innovative ways. The paper will focus on settlement trends and land use patterns in the 'Land behind Nineveh', the region included between the Upper Tigris Valley and the Navkur plain to the north and east of the Assyrian capital city, during the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Simone Mühl: *The Shahrizor Plain – settlement patterns and material culture*

The Shahrizor plain is a wide valley in the headwater region of the Diyala River on the border to Iran. Due to its modern day fertility the region is known as the bread basket of Kurdistan. However, 3rd to 1st millennium B.C. economic texts and royal inscriptions, which document wide-range trading activities as well as expeditions by Mesopotamian kings to this region, emphasize the high agricultural and economic significance of the Shahrizor plain in antiquity as well. Additionally, its geographic situation between the western Zagros and eastern Mesopotamia made it a hub for traffic between the highlands of Iran and Mesopotamia. The high number of multi-period tell sites suggests that the Shahrizor plain was densely populated throughout prehistoric and historic periods. Nevertheless an analysis of various sites that were only occupied over short periods of time helps us detect changes in settlement patterns. The distribution of these sites sheds light on differences regarding both the organization of rural communities in certain periods as well as the spatial organization of the regional centres and their hinterland. The paper aims on a presentation of the most recent results of the archaeological survey carried out by the Shahrizor Survey Project and will also address regional as well as trans-regional implications that these findings have on our understanding of settlement patterns and material culture of this area.

Martina Müller-Wiener and Anne Mollenhauer: *The bazaar of Erbil within the context of Islamic trade routes and trade buildings*

When the German archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld visited Erbil in 1916 he mentioned that the city was located on the post-route from Bagdad to Mosul. This strategic location of the city at the crossroads of routes leading North-South and East-West was crucial to its economic vitality and development. In addition to this, at least since the 13th century it informed the urban layout of the city and its large *suq* area at the foot of the citadel. Today two late Ottoman Qaisariya-buildings are the sole remnants that testify to the close relation between urban layout and economy. The buildings, which were erected around the end of the 19th century, give evidence of the economic revival of Erbil in the second half of the 19th century. Whereas the paper by Dietmar Kurapkat will focus on architectural details of the Qaisariya buildings and their building history, the present paper will widen the view and contextualize Erbil in the

network of Islamic trade routes and trade buildings in Northern Iraq and the Syrian Jazira.

Nader Babakr Mohammed: TBA.

Abstract will be added later in the program.

Narmin Ali Amin, Vincent Deroche and Justine Gaborit: *The French excavations at Bazyan, historical and archaeological investigations*

The purpose of the archaeological mission of Bazyan is to study the architecture and liturgy of a monastic complex, in the late antique district known as the Bet Garmaï, and to cast light upon the history of the Syrian-Eastern Church in Mesopotamia. The site of Bazyan was discovered in the 19th century and explored by an Iraqi team from 1987 until 1990. Unfortunately, the most important part of the documentation was lost during the subsequent war. Since 2011, new excavations have been able to clarify the plan and the chronology of the building, a fortified settlement with a church, from the Sassanian to the Abbassid period. These new results and the study of the material discovered in the church by the previous mission allow us to refine our understanding of the liturgical organisation of the church with such rarely preserved structures as a *bema* and *shqaquna*, in addition to a *beth sahde* (a funeral apse for deceased monastic saints) and the monastic nature of the community of Bazyan, which was probably Nestorian (East-Syrian). The survey around Bazyan began in 2012 with the aim of providing a significant contribution to the knowledge of the general historical geography of the Tigris region during the Hellenistic, Parthian and Sassanian periods. In the administrative system of the ancient world, this area belonged to Bet Garmaï. This administrative and ecclesiastical district occupied in the 5th century AD the eastern part of an area limited in the west by the Tigris valley, in the north and south by the Little Zab and the Diyala rivers, and in the east by the Zagros Mountains. While in geographical terms the components of Bet Garmaï have been clearly identified, its archaeological characteristics are still little known and dependent on field-work carried out in the 1960s. Our knowledge of the history of settlement from the 4th century BC to the 7th century AD is based essentially on critical analysis of ancient texts and in particular of those in Syriac. The body of Syriac literature has thus been used to draw up a theoretical topography of Christian communities and religious centres in

the region and has provided chronological markers that urgently need to be verified by field survey.

Olivier Nieuwenhuys: *Revisiting the Halaf period of northern Iraq*

Early research on the northern plains of Iraq has played a pivotal role in the emergence of our current framework for the Late Neolithic period in the ancient Near East, ca. 7000-5300 cal. BCE. This long period includes communities named after the Jarmo, Hassuna/Samarra and Halaf pottery styles. In spite of this important early work, however, these communities remain poorly understood. Over the past decades, work on the Late Neolithic conducted elsewhere on the Upper Mesopotamian plains has significantly transformed our perspective on this period. This recent work has improved our chronological control over the Late Neolithic, but it has also changed our understanding of Late Neolithic economies, social structures and ideologies. We may use these new insights to return to the Late Neolithic of northern Iraq. Synthesizing what is presently known about the Late Neolithic of this region, I shall offer some expectations as guidelines for new work and present new results from two survey projects on the plains of Erbil and Suleimaniyah.

Noman Jumaah Ibrahim: *The Results of archaeological excavations at "Kilik Mishik" Erbil: the second and third season 2011-2012*

Abstract will be added later in the program.

Karel Nováček: *Putting Erbil into context: medieval urbanism in Adiabene*

In this ongoing archaeological project, we pursue surveys and interpretation of the network of Late Sassanian – Late Islamic cities and towns in the area of Erbil, in northeastern Mesopotamia. About 20 urban sites from the 6th to 17th centuries AD, mostly deserted, have been identified in the historic province of Adiabene or Hazza, bounded by the Great Zab, Little Zab and Tigris rivers. The archaeological substance of the sites is mostly very well preserved in the relief of the arid steppe environment and can be excellently identified in satellite images of multiple types. The research into these settlements offers a rare opportunity for holistic study of medieval urban network dynamics, their resilience, degree of integration and the causes of diversity of individual sites. Some specific

features of Erbil's urban development from the 7th to 13th century seem to be more comprehensible in comparison with the preliminary results of remote sensing, analysis of textual evidence and field observation of the site in its wider background.

Tuba Ökse and Ahmet Görmüş: *Continuity throughout The Bronze Ages In The Upper Tigris Region: a case study on Salat Tepe*

The excavations at Salat Tepe brought out five periods defined by gaps and different structures. In Period I the site is occupied uninterruptedly from the Halaf-Ubaid transition to the end of the Late Chalcolithic period. After a long gap, the mound is reoccupied in the last two centuries of the 3rd Millennium BC; six levels provide insights into a continuous development. Period IIA is represented by levels 6-5, characterized by slope buildings constructed with multi-coloured mud bricks. Vessels and shards of the Plain Simple Ware, Red-Brown Burnished Ware, Dark Rimmed Orange Bowls and red Metallic Ware are frequently attested in these contexts, and Red-Brown Wash Ware and a few painted shards of local production also appear. Period IIB is represented by renewed and rebuilt structures (Level 4a) and new buildings (Level 4b) erected on mud fills deposited for enlarging the mound summit. This settlement was overlaid by heavily levelled structures, pebble roads, storage pits and a number of burials (Level 3). Vessels and shards belonging to the Plain Simple Ware, Dark Rimmed Orange Bowls and Red-Brown Wash Ware are revealed in both levels. Period IIC is represented by two building levels constructed on the levelled summit towards the end of the 18th century BC. A building complex composed by single- and double-storey buildings constructed with sun-dried standard mud bricks (Level 2) had been used during the 17th century BC. The pottery is composed by late variations of the Red-Brown Wash Ware, Khabur Painted Ware and the Buff-slipped Ware. Following an earthquake, Level 1 is erected on the debris of Level 2 with the same characteristics, demonstrating continuity into the Late Bronze Age I. In these contexts appear nipple-based beakers, carinated bowls and Nuzi Painted Ware from the 16th-15th centuries BC. The site was once more abandoned for *ca.* three centuries. Pit-houses and granary pits were dug into the summit of the mound during the Iron Age (Period III), and more granary pits as well as seasonal dwellings during the Hellenistic-Roman and Medieval Periods (Period IV). Period V is defined by graves buried all around the mound during the last three centuries.

Valentina Orsi: *Interaction and exchange in ceramic traditions of northern Jezirah at the turn of the 3rd millennium BC*

This paper examines chronological and cultural aspects of ceramic production in late 3rd and early 2nd millennium BC northern Jezirah, comparing and contrasting pottery assemblages from Upper Khabur and North-Western Iraqi sites. Long settlement sequences revealed in Syrian excavations allow us to follow a precise evolutionary trend in ceramic production, providing valuable sets of stratified materials. At the turn of the 3rd millennium BC Upper Mesopotamian pottery manufacturing depicts a radical transformation, represented by the transition from an unpainted tradition, characterized by the use of mostly purified tempers for common wares and low percentages of more technologically advanced fine and luxury wares (post-Akkadian metallic wares, Taya wares, fine burnished wares), towards a ceramic tradition that makes substantial use of decorative elements, and specifically painting (Khabur ware), but which conversely seems to be technologically less complex. Though limited for fine chronological distinctions, ceramic evidence from North-Western Iraq reveals specific morphological parallels, as well as more general similarities with contemporary ceramics from the Upper Khabur, indicating a strong link between the two regions. The paper will focus on the correlation between cultural changes and regional patterning in pottery manufacture, in order to enhance our understanding of the variety of cross-cultural interconnections.

Aslı Erim Özdoğan: *Transition from PPNB to the Pre-Proto Hassuna Period, Sumaki Höyük/Batman*

Sumaki Höyük is situated east of Batman province, in the Lower Garzan Basin, at an elevation of 700 – 710 meters. To date an area of 2000 m² of the site has been exposed. Except for a small Medieval occupation Sumaki was uninhabited after the Neolithic Period. Sumaki is a unique site in Upper Mesopotamia in that all the elements of reed and twig architecture are available for detailed documentation, a state of preservation resulting from the calcification of the organic material related to changes in climatic and environmental conditions from around 6700 BC. According to the preliminary results of four seasons, Sumaki has four main architectural phases that are separated by varying thicknesses of flood/torrent fills. The assemblage and settlement pattern of these are totally different. The upper two phases (first and second) are Early Pottery Neolithic while the others (third and fourth) are PPN. The site evinces both sedentary and semi-

nomadic or nomadic life styles depending on agriculture and/or husbandry. The general layout of the 3rd phase displays a sedentary life style that is similar to the late PPNB and/or PPN-PN transition sites of the SE Anatolian Taurus Mountain flank zone and Upper Mesopotamian sites such as Çayönü, Cafer, Mezraa-Teleliat, Akarçay Tepe, Tell Magzaliyah, and Tell Seker al-Aheimar. The dissimilarities in the pottery repertoire between the 2nd and the 1st phases (DFBW and mineral-tempered wares in contrast to plant tempered and plant+mineral tempered plain or thin red slipped wares) will be complementary to the discussions of “the earliest pottery production”, its origin and the life style of early pot makers. Significant differences in the assemblage and the settlement models of these phases suggest that the inhabitants were from different regions even though similarities in various objects are the evidence of close contacts between sites in the mountains and in the hilly flanks in the zone 1300-700 m above sea level.

Rocco Palermo: *The Land of Nineveh Regional Project: trends in settlement patterns and material culture from the Post-Assyrian to the Sassanian period*

The first two seasons LoNRP project have interested a large area of the Kurdistan region, which have yielded an impressive amount of pottery, from the prehistoric times up to the early modern periods. The goal of this paper is to present the framework of the region from the fall of the Assyrian empire to the early Sassanian occupation, through the analysis of both the material culture as well as the changes in landscape, distribution of the settlements and historical context. The material culture of the region, in these periods, shows indeed the influences of both eastern and western traditions, always maintaining a sort of continuity in ceramic shapes and types, especially during the transitional phases, as the period stretching from the fall of Nineveh and the battle of Gaugamela. Particularly significant is also the Hellenistic and Seleucid phase, which resulted to be the most attested period among the ones in the aftermath of the fall of the Assyrian empire. These centuries, indeed, coincided with a relative peaceful time characterised by a highly densely settled area with small to medium settlements. Even if less represented the Parthian and the Sassanian period also show some interesting data, which can be much more related to the regional distribution of settlements within our licensed area. The aim of this paper is therefore to show a reconstruction of the settlement

and material culture dynamics that went over in the region between the fall of the Assyrian empire and before the rise of Islam.

Cinzia Pappi and Lauren Ristvet: *The City of Idu: between Assyria and a mountain place*

The city of Idu on the northern bank of the Lower Zab has long been attested as a provincial capital in the Middle Assyrian period. Recent archaeological and epigraphic research at Tell Satu Qala has shown that Idu was ruled by an independent local dynasty for a period from the 11th to the beginning of the 9th centuries BC before being conquered again by Tukulti-Ninurta II and finally included in the territories directly controlled by the Assyrian administration under Assurnasirpal II. During this brief period of independence, Idu shows evidence of a wide variety of influences, both in the ethnolinguistic character of the local kings of Idu and in the material culture, which has several parallels in materials found in Level IVb at Hasanlu beyond the Zagros. This paper will focus on the character of the site, developed in the earliest phases of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, as a historical and cultural bridge between Assur and western Iran. Results of the next archaeological season, taking place in summer 2013 will be also included.

Peter Pfälzner, Paola Sconzo: *First results of the Eastern Habur Archaeological Survey in the Dohuk Region of Iraqi-Kurdistan*

The Eastern Habur survey project is a four-year reconnaissance programme undertaken by a team of the University of Tübingen in the northernmost province of Iraqi Kurdistan. This land, covering an area of about one hundred sq. km, extends from the eastern bank of Tigris to the west to the city of Amedi to the east, from the Turkish frontier to the north to an approximately east-west line across Zawita in the south. Geographically it is characterized by a heterogeneous landscape, which includes river valleys and wadis, hills and plains, and even mountainous rocky slopes and caves. Funded by the DFG in the frame of a *Sonderforschungsbereich* (collaborative research centre), the survey aims to investigate the landscape evolution and settlement patterns of this mostly unexplored region from the Neolithic to medieval and modern times, with special attention to the relations between the Mesopotamian territorial states (Akkadian and neo-Assyrian) and the almost inaccessible mountainous districts in the northernmost periphery during the 3rd and 1st millennia B.C. The study of the development of such

periphery as a settlement- and resource basin would doubtless give an important contribution to the culture history of northern Mesopotamia as a whole. This paper provides the fresh results of the first survey season, which took place in September 2013.

Christian Piller, Michael Roaf: *Looking for Ardini*

In September 2012 we visited the region of Sidekan in the District of Soran. Our aim was to examine the sites in the vicinity of the Topzawa stele erected by Rusa son of Sarduri after he had successfully re-established Urartian influence over the holy city of Ardini, where the most important temple dedicated to the worship of Haldi, the chief god of the Urartian royal family, was situated. The palace of its ruler Urzana and the Haldi Temple had previously been looted by Sargon II of Assyria in 714 BC, who called the city by its Assyrian name of Musasir. In this paper we will discuss and evaluate the previous proposals for the location of Ardini/Musasir in the light of the investigations made in recent years.

Gül Pulhan: *A new rescue project in the Ilisu Dam Reservoir in Turkey: Gre Amer, Batman on the Upper Tigris*

The controversial construction of the Ilisu Dam on the Tigris River in the South eastern corner of Turkey has given rise to a high number of rescue excavations in a previously unexplored part of Upper Mesopotamia. The four-hectare site of Gre Amer is situated between the modern day provinces of Batman and Siirt on the east bank of the Garzan River 26 km north of the Tigris confluence. Four seasons of excavations have unearthed four settlement levels beginning with a walled Middle-Late Bronze Age occupation, continuing with Early Iron-Iron Age levels and terminating with a Persian-period settlement and cemetery. The well-preserved stone and mud-brick architecture, rich ceramic repertoire with firm evidence of local production, yet with strong connections both with north-west Iran and northern Iraq and Syria, a substantial number of metal objects, and intriguing artifacts such as jar fragments with cylinder seal impressions present a great opportunity to understand the local components of the Upper Tigris culture and its associations with the cultural sphere of Mitanni, Assyria, Achaemenid Persia and other neighbouring areas in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Steve Renette, Andre Tome, Ricardo Cabral: *Preliminary results from excavations at Kai Shaie in the southern Bazyan Valley, Suleimaniyah*

The Kani Shaie archaeological project is a joint Portuguese-U.S. research program to be carried out in the Bazyan Basin, Suleimaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan, aimed at exploring the archaeological tell of Kani Shaie and the surrounding valley between the Bazyan Mountain Range and the Qara Dagh hills. During a short visit in March 2012 to Suleimaniyah, we visited this small 2ha site and found evidence for multi-period occupation from the Chalcolithic to the early Islamic period. During our first campaign of fieldwork at Kani Shaie, which is scheduled to take place during September 2013, we intend to document the extent and time span of this settlement in more detail. The small size of the site and the evidence for a long history of occupation offer the potential to establish a stratigraphic sequence of material culture quickly and efficiently. We hope that the results from our work at Kani Shaie will contribute significantly to the wider research program in the region of which the material culture is still poorly understood. Kani Shaie takes a distinct position in the small valley and is situated near the conjunction of the roads coming from the Bazyan and Basara passes and leading east to the Tanjaro and Shahrizor plains and ultimately to the Iranian highlands. The Kani Shaie project is aimed at studying the impact of these long-distance communication routes on what might be a small local administrative centre. In our paper we will present in more detail the general framework and aims of the project as well as the preliminary results from the first work on the terrain.

Olivier Rouault and Ilaria Calini: *Materials from French excavations in Erbil area (2010): Kilik Mishik*

The first campaigns carried out by the French team in the Erbil region, first in Kilik Mishik site (2010), then in Qasr Shemamok/Kilizi, have allowed us to better and to integrate our knowledge of the Assyrian landscape and culture, in its environmental and historical context, marked not only by their archaeological features, but also by its materials and material production. In this perspective, this paper sums up the results of our researches in the small tell of Kilik Mishik, now included in the southern urban area of Erbil, carried out in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology of the Erbil Salaheddin University, now carrying on successfully the excavations there. After a presentation of the stratigraphic sequence identified in Kilik Mishik in 2010, mainly through a long trench across the site, the paper will present the information collected about the

pottery discovered during that first campaign, focusing, as usual, on its formal and technical characteristics. While obviously very preliminary in its results, the analysis of this ceramic documentation can help not only to understand the function of the site itself in the environs of Erbil, but also to form a first image of the evolution of ceramic production in this region, marked since a long time by Assyrian cultural presence.

Savaş Sarıaltun: *A Halaf Village at Kerküşti Höyük in Northern Mesopotamia*

In the 100 years since the discovery of Halaf pottery many excavations and surveys have been carried out in the different countries of modern southwestern Asia such as the Kurdistan region of Iraq and adjacent regions and among these is the site of Kerküşti Höyük located south of the Mardin pass. Kerküşti Höyük, which was inhabited from the Early Halaf until almost the end of the Middle Halaf period, is geographically located at the centre of the “Halaf world”. The site was abandoned probably as the result of flooding and was not reoccupied until the Late Chalcolithic Age. The Halaf period of the site preliminarily yields two main phases. The general character of the architecture reflects short-term seasonal occupations with circular and rectangular structures of perishable materials supported by rows of stones on the ground. The existence of structures with high stone foundations and wattle-and-daub superstructures as well as structures with well plastered earthen floors which had been twice relaid indicates that the area might have been used both permanently and seasonally. Located in the contact zone of the mountains and the steppe zone, the area is available both for agriculture and for animal husbandry, and also for permanent and seasonal settlements. The pottery displays all of the features of the Halaf period.

Kristina Sauer: *Bakr Awa in the Shahrizur Plain: an ancient city on the outskirts of Mesopotamia*

The site of Bakr Awa, located by the city of Halabja close to the Iraq-Iran border, is the largest mound in the southern Shahrizur plain. With a citadel mound nearly 40 m high and a lower town in the order of c. 800 × 600 m, Bakr Awa is a leading candidate for the site of the fortified town of Dur-Aššur founded by Ashurnasirpal II in the 9th century BC. The excavation project of the University of Heidelberg is investigating the settlement of this city located at the eastern periphery of Mesopotamia. The results obtained

during the 2010, 2011 and 2013 seasons are of crucial importance in the context of settlement history in the Shahrizur Plain and neighbouring regions. Up until now this region has barely been the focus of major archaeological research, partly because the region is hardly mentioned in the historical records and also due to the disruptions and difficulties caused by the wars and other events of recent decades, The ongoing research at Bakr Awa allows for sketching the history of a site that has been settled for at least five millennia, from the late prehistoric (i.e. Uruk) period until the Abbasid and Ottoman periods, showing that it not only interacted with southern as well as northern Mesopotamia, but was also significantly influenced by the Iranian highlands. Being situated in the Zagros Piedmont - a focal point for communication and trade routes - the hinterland of Bakr Awa was a contact zone in which different cultural impulses were absorbed and transformed.

Glenn Schwartz: *Kurd Qaburstan, A Second Millennium BC urban site: first results of the Johns Hopkins project*

Excavation and geophysical survey were conducted June-July 2013 at Kurd Qaburstan, a 118 hectare site in the Shemamok district south of Erbil. The goals of this first field season included (1) sampling different components of the site to determine their character and history of occupation, in order to guide future excavation strategy, (2) testing the hypothesis that Kurd Qaburstan was a major city of the Old Babylonian period, and (3) conducting a geophysical survey to study the urban layout of the city. Results included the exposure of significant Mittani period occupation on the high mound, middle Islamic levels in the central low mound, and second millennium BC strata deposited against the city wall. Geophysical survey yielded evidence from the city wall showing that feature to have regularly spaced towers, while other parts of the site produced indications of architecture, pyrotechnic features, and streets.

Diana Stein: *The "Tholoi" at Arpachiyah: reflections on their function and wider context*

The site of Arpachiyah in northern Iraq was first excavated by Max Mallowan in 1933. His objective was to clarify the context and sequence of a distinctive type of painted pottery that had previously been encountered near the bottom of the deep sounding at Nineveh. The site soon became an archetype of the late Neolithic Halaf culture, and among the many

hallmarks of this period are the so-called tholoi, whose form and significance still remain a puzzle. At the time, Mallowan's frame of reference reached west across the northern plains of Syro-Mesopotamia to Bronze Age Greece, whence he borrowed the term "tholoi". Accumulated evidence now suggests that the Halaf culture has closer links with the surrounding highlands of the Taurus and Zagros mountains to the north and east of Arpachiyah. But the best source for finding comparative material and for understanding its purpose comes through adopting a more global perspective on Neolithic lifestyles. Drawing on studies relating to this wider data base, I propose a new interpretation of the tholoi at Arpachiyah; one that not only highlights an aspect of Halaf culture we may have overlooked, but that also by association carries implications about ancient Kurdistan, its ritual traditions and what kind of clues may be lurking in the archaeological evidence.

Gil Stein: *The LC1-2 periods in Northern Mesopotamia in relation to the Uruk Period of the South*

In the 5th and 4th millennia BC, complex societies developed in Eastern Anatolia, Northern Mesopotamia, and Southern Mesopotamia. This paper examines the available evidence for the emergence of complex societies in Upper Mesopotamia from the Ubaid through the LC4 periods at key sites in the Euphrates, Balikh, Khabur, and Tigris drainages. The development of complexity was a gradual process, beginning with economic ranking and incipient stratification in the Ubaid period, and reaching its culmination with the emergence of true urbanism and centralized leadership in the LC2 and LC3 periods. The development of complexity in Upper Mesopotamia took place in a time of minimal interaction with southern Mesopotamia, strongly suggesting that urbanism and centralized political leadership in Upper Mesopotamia developed independently and by pathways different from those in the south. Evidence from the 2013 excavations at Surezha in Erbil province is evaluated to assess the regional role of Kurdistan in the development of 5th and 4th century complexity.

Adam Stone: *Beyond the Ur III "Core": transactions of control and power to the North and East*

The apparently mundane and innumerable administrative records of the Ur III period are often mistaken as a source of derision – but they are the most incredible resource. Moreover, they can act as a foil to other, more

ideologically motivated sources that are commonly used for the history of Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia. The administrative sources can be particularly informative about the regions to the north and east of the Ur III state. In this short paper I hope to demonstrate both new material, and a new presentation of the relationship between the state and its so-called “periphery”. Often presented as relatively static over time and uniform over space, these “peripheral” regions and their relationships with Ur were actually far more complex, varied and nuanced. The administrative documents reveal how power and control were exerted and extended by the Ur III kings, and how relationships of authority were conceived and contested in this vitally important region at the end of the Third Millennium BCE.

Jason Ur (to be read by Jessica Giraud): *The Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey 2012-2013*

The Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) has completed two seasons of intensive field survey in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The project aims to reconstruct the full landscape of settlement and land use from the Neolithic to the 20th century AD. Of particular interest is the landscape of the early 1st millennium BC, when the Erbil Plain was part of the Assyrian core provinces of Kilizu and Arbail. EPAS is testing the hypothesis that the rural landscape was deliberately planned, including an elaborate irrigation network and systematic agricultural colonization by forced deportees from elsewhere in the empire. EPAS makes extensive use of remote sensing datasets, especially CORONA photographs, Ikonos and GeoEye satellite imagery, and digital elevation models (SRTM and LIDAR). This presentation will describe the project’s goals, methods, and initial results from the 2012 and 2013 field seasons.

Margarete van Ess, Arnulf Hausleiter, Haydar H. Hussein, Nader B. Mohammed: *Settlement history and burial customs in the lower town of Arbil: Iraqi-Kurdish-German excavations 2009-2012*

Following salvage operations by the Directorate of Antiquities of Erbil in 2008, centering on a vaulted tomb of Late Neo-Assyrian date, joint Iraqi-Kurdish-German excavations between 2009 and 2012 revealed a sequence reaching from the Neo-Assyrian to modern periods at a substantial ancient mound located approximately 500 m west of the Citadel of Arbil. Detailed archaeological and anthropological investigations as well as a study of the

building process of the tomb provided detailed information on burial customs at the end of the Neo-Assyrian period, for the first time in the Lower Town of Arbil. Whereas the transition from Neo-Assyrian to Post-Assyrian occupation is characterised by continuation in architecture and material culture, it was during the Achaemenid to Parthian periods when the area was transformed into a burial ground. Altogether 49 inhumation graves have been identified, six of them belonging to an earlier cemetery dating from the Hellenistic to Parthian periods, the remaining ones belonging to a cemetery of pre-Islamic and perhaps later date. In addition to these excavations, a systematic survey of the surroundings aims at a better understanding of the still poorly known settlement history of the Lower Town.

Chikako Watanabe: *Philological and scientific analyses of cuneiform tablets housed in the Suleimaniyah Museum*

The aim of our research is to examine an environmental history of Mesopotamia with a focus on the question of salinisation during the third and second millennia BC. A pioneering study by Jacobsen and Adams: "Salt and Silt in Ancient Mesopotamian Agriculture" published in 1958 had a great impact on academic fields, and since then several important studies have been presented, interpreting the decline of crop yields towards the end of the third millennium in various ways. Daniel Hillel, a renowned soil physicist, claims that Mesopotamian civilization collapsed due to salinisation, and this idea has been widespread ever since. However, there has been no objective and systematic study to assess the extent of soil salinity at the time of the decline. Our project applies a new interdisciplinary approach to this long-standing problem, using an innovative technique employing biological indicators to trace the quality of the water that was used for irrigation at the time. We focus on the analysis of cuneiform tablets not only for the text written on the surface but also by examining the clay that forms the tablets for the information it contains for tracing environmental changes. A preliminary examination was conducted against clay tablets in the Yale Babylonian Collection as well as those in the British Museum. This year we started collaboration with the Suleimaniyah Museum, in which more than six thousand cuneiform tablets are housed. This paper reports the results of the first investigations carried out in March 2013.

Zidan Bradosty: *The academic scientific activities and field excavations of the Department of Archaeology of Salahaddin University, 2000-2013*

The Department of Archaeology of Salahaddin University was established in March 2000 by Assistant Prof. Dr. Ahmed Mirza, who went on to serve as head of department until July 2013, when he was succeeded by Dr. Zidan Bradosty. At undergraduate level the first two years of coursework consist of general studies, while in the third and fourth years students choose between (1) Ancient Archaeology, covering the arts, architecture, ancient languages, ceramics and excavations of Kurdistan, ancient Mesopotamia and the ancient near east; and (2) Islamic Archaeology, with specialisations in arts, architecture, coins, museology, excavations and so on. The objectives of the Department of Archaeology are: to put archaeological employees at the service of the country; to encourage the development of cultural awareness among the populace and to protect the antiquities of the land; to analyse and explain the archaeological remains; to promote excellence in the scientific research program; to establish good working relations between the scientific and administrative authorities. Further objectives relating to the training of students include visiting museums and archaeological sites; facilitating the travel abroad of third year students; carrying out an annual campaign of excavation lasting 45 days for the purpose of training third and fourth year students in the techniques of archaeological fieldwork; preparing for and participating in conferences, workshops, seminars and other courses both inside and outside of Kurdistan; publicising this work through exhibitions of drawing, paintings and photographs; and participating in excavations with external partners (for example, with the work of the University of Leipzig and the University of Leiden at Tell Satu Qala (Koya district, Erbil) in 2009).

Kleanthis Zouboulakis: *Τὴν δόξαν τῆς μεγάλης μάχης ἀποφέρεισθαι. The Gaugamela campaign. Ancient sources, modern views and topographical problems.*

Alexander the Great managed thanks to his military and political skill to conquer the mighty Persian Empire, setting the scene for the birth of the Hellenistic world. Though we can appreciate the ingenuity of the young Macedonian king as a general on the basis of his victories, many aspects of his military actions are not always so clear and are a matter of historical debate. The same obscurity applies to his opponent, Darius III, the Great King of Persia. This has, of course, to do with the quality of the historical sources we have at our disposal, a well known problem regarding the entire

period. Alexander and Darius fought three major battles that sealed the fate of the Persian Empire: at Granicus, Issus and Gaugamela. Of the three, Gaugamela was the last, therefore the most decisive. Nevertheless, the reconstruction not only of the battle itself but also of the events leading up to it, remain obscure. One of the crucial points that our sources confuse is the exact location of the battle. Though at a first look it seems the least of the problems that our sources have, it is imperative, because it would allow us to comprehend the military options that the two commanders had during a campaign that sealed the fate of the Persian Empire. My paper will to readdress this old problem, one of the many regarding Alexandrian studies, by combining an overview of the relevant sources, both Greek and Latin, with the prevailing modern scholarly views and together with some preliminary observations from my visit in 2011 to the province of Erbil in northern Iraq, in the wider area of which the battle was conducted.

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