



Time and History in the Ancient Near East

Barcelona, 26th - 30th July 2010



Posters (Abstracts)

BATTINI, Laura - An ugallu and a man with a spear in Sennacherib's palace reliefs: a probable smiting god?

Two Sennacherib's reliefs let suppose the presence of a subject testified in five Assurbanipal's reliefs: the smiting god with an ugallu and a « man » (?) with a spear.

BATTINI, Laura - CAHM Project

A new project is born in Lyon, the Cahm Project. CAHM is the abbreviation for Corpus Architecturae Historicae Mesopotamiae. For the first time archaeologists, architects, textual specialists, images specialists and mathematicians will compare their points of view.

LAZARTE, Verónica - Complex relations. Urban, village and pastoral realms at Mari during the Old Babylonian period

This research project wish to contribute to the understanding of the relationships between people inhabiting the middle Euphrates of the eighteenth century BC, in the realm of the Mari kingdom. In spite of the fact that our project is based in a peripheral academic milieu, i.e. Argentina, with a short tradition in the field of Assyriology, we humbly want to contribute to the proposed investigation. Collaboration with other researchers, in particular from Mexico and Israel, is an attempt to take advantages of the experience in the field of linguistics and archaeology. Our methodological contributions are based mainly on the influence of ethno-history, and the research of experiences marked by cultural diversity both, fields in which Latinoamerican researchers have a long and fruitful experience.

These relations are characterized by their complexity, since this area have developed competing political entities, urban centers, villages and tribal groups, within the same ethno-linguistic group, i.e. the Amorites, interacting with the former inhabitants that hold a Sumer-Akkadian tradition, and were mainly Akkadian speakers.

This study requires the incorporation of the latest information from both textual and archaeological sources, as well as anthropological theoretical vistas that allow a more appropriate approach to this variety of situations: conceptualization and characterization of the particular states and political relations with tribal leaders and villagers; review of the concept of tribe, stripped of its nineteenth-century ethnographic constraints (e.g. the identification of the Amorites with the Bedouin shepherds modern); incorporation of ethnic studies, and in particular the concept of ethnic process, to understand the variability relationships between these populations; and, a study of the dynamics between urban and non-urban populations.

We intent to escape the still existing paradigm and unilinear vision of history and social processes. This research also necessitates to take in account the new trends in archeology, i.e., rural studies and perspectives applied to the development of societies, improving the understanding of the interrelations between cities, villages and pastoral groups, most of which has partially settled in villages, but also in cities.

Taking into consideration the diversity of situations, it is necessary to reach an understanding of the concepts of territory, and jurisdiction of the political powers upon territories and spaces with fluency borders, shared by sedentary people and nomadic pastoralists, as well. The complexity and socio-cultural diversity of society we want to study, will address the following specific objectives:

- The development of ethnic process marked by the presence of different Amorite partialities, under a Sumero-Akkadian precedent population.
- The different socio-political links between pastoralists, villagers and city dwellers, tribal organizations, and state-established kinships, including the role of women.
- The distinguishing characteristics of territoriality, state-society between urban, rural villages and tribal organizations as seen both in the textual and the archaeological records.
- Linkages and economic competition between them (exchange of goods, labor, taxation).
- Expression of this new reality in the symbolic world (development of new cemeteries, religious syncretism and / or maintenance of ancestral worship).

MOUTON, Alice - The ViGMA Project: Life and Death in Antiquity. Individual Rites of Passage in Ancient Near-East

The proposed poster will present the ViGMA project (“Vivre, Grandir et Mourir dans l’Antiquité”) directed by Alice Mouton, hittitologist, with the collaboration of Isabelle Sachet and Julie Patrier, both archaeologists of the Ancient Near East. The project is funded by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche for 4 years. Its international team is composed of 15 persons. The aim of this project is to study the life-crisis rituals (birth, puberty, death) as well as the social rites of passage (installation rites) in the Ancient Near East and Egypt. Though deeply anthropological in nature, ViGMA is nevertheless an interdisciplinary project, combining philology, archeology, and history of religions. This very interdisciplinarity provides the key to the project, for it is only through the confrontation of inherently different methodological approaches that the question of rites of passage in the Ancient Near East can be addressed effectively.

NILHAMN, Bonnie - Archaeometric research of white ware of Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria (8th-6th millennium BC).

White ware (vaiselle blanche or vaixella blanca) belongs, next to floor and wall plaster to the earliest plaster of the Near east. What makes white ware so special is that we are dealing with another kind of containers than the “normal clay pottery”. Thanks to its physical composition and characteristic features we are now able to attain more knowledge about the Late Neolithic. This poster wants to give the audience an introduction to the potential of studying plaster from an archaeometric point of view.

OLIVER, María Rosa - Complex relations. Urban, village and pastoral realms at Mari during the Old Babylonian period

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TAYLOR, Jonathan - The British Institute for the Study of Iraq

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq aims to advance research and public education relating to Iraq and neighbouring countries in anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, languages and related disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences from the earliest times until the present. This poster presents BISI's latest activities and publications.

TINNEY, Steve - LUUKKO, Mikko - RADNER, Karen - ZAMAZALOVÁ, Silvie - Mechanisms of Communication in an Ancient Empire

The correspondence between Sargon II, king of Assyria (721-705 BC), and his governors and magnates is the largest text corpus of this kind known from antiquity and provides insight into the mechanisms of communication between the top levels of authority in an empire that stretched from the Eastern Mediterranean to Western Iran and from the Arabian Peninsula to Anatolia. Our project presents fully searchable online translations and transliterations of the 1,200 letters together with resources and materials for their study and on their historical and cultural context. We are indebted to Simo Parpola's Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project (University of Helsinki) and all authors, editors and publishers who generously permitted us to make available online materials originally published in printed form.

Robson, Eleanor - Tinney, Steve - Besnier, Marie-Françoise - Cunningham, Graham - Van Buylaere, Greta - The Geography of Knowledge in Assyria and Babylonia: A Diachronic Analysis of Four Scholarly Libraries

Where is knowledge generated? How does it replicate and spread? Who owns knowledge, and who may access it? Under what circumstances, and in what places, does it flourish or die out? How are its transmission and reception influenced by social and political factors? These are central questions in the history and sociology of science today. However, they have never been asked of Assyria or Babylonia in the first millennium BCE.

This AHRC-funded project aims to answer some of these questions by a comparative study of four scholarly libraries for which adequate archaeological data exist. To that end the Corpus of Ancient Mesopotamian Scholarship (CAMS) was created, providing online transliterations and translations of the scholarly texts from Huzirina, the Nabû temple in Kalhu, the house of the āšipu and the Rēš temple in Uruk.

Websites: <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/gkab/> and <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/cams>.

VIDAL, Jordi – Some Remarks on Shalmanesser III's Military Camps depicted on the Imgur-Enlil Bronze Reliefs

The aim of this poster is to compile and analyse Assyrian military camps depicted in the reliefs of Imgur-Enlil. This study enables the reconstruction of the main architectural features of the camps, as well as to notice the evolution in their design and the existence of ties of dependence between some of them.