



The University of Glasgow is proud to host the 2024 BANEA annual meeting on the 3-5th January 2024.

Registration

Early Bird Registration, priced at £80 (£35 student/unwaged), will be available at banea24.org until Friday 1st September, at which point prices will increase to £95/45. A 3-course conference dinner will take place on the 3rd January, after the Keynote and a reception, and is priced at £55. Places are limited to 40 for the dinner on a first come first served basis.

If you are unsure whether you are currently a member of BANEA, please contact the BANEA membership secretary to enquire at y.heffron@ucl.ac.uk.

Grants for expenses are available for eligible applicants at <https://www.banea.org/conference-grants>

Themes

Organised around **Archaeological and heritage practice in Southwest Asia: towards equitable futures**, the conference will foreground archaeology's role and responsibilities in climate change discourse; the discipline's colonial inheritances and legacies, and strategies for addressing and mitigating them; and equitable and sustainable archaeological, cultural heritage, and community engagement practice. A keynote speech from **Rozhen Kamal Mohammed-Amin** will tackle issues related to these themes.

Paper submissions for the main sessions should be made to neil.erskine@glasgow.ac.uk by Friday 6th October and should indicate a preferred session topic. If paper acceptance is a requirement of your visa to travel to the UK and is needed urgently, please make this clear in your email and the committee will respond as soon as possible.

Paper submissions for workshops should be made directly to the relevant session chair.

Sessions and workshops

Main sessions

Archaeological fairness. E.g., decolonising practice; cultural heritage practice, archaeological labour relations; community engagement, equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Landscape. E.g., theoretical and methodological approaches to landscape; socio-ecological dynamics, the use of archaeological science in climate change discourse.

Digital archaeologies. E.g., Digital recording and representation of archaeology; big data; web and technology-based public engagement.

Field reports. E.g., Ongoing and recently completed fieldwork results.

Foodways. E.g., Subsistence practices, food webs, and cultural identities; commensal equipment, *chaîne opératoires*, and vibrant materialities; bioarchaeology and isotope studies

Social worlds. E.g., Social interaction and interpretative approaches to it; inequality; art and literature, including modern reception and representations.

The committee encourage authors to interpret the above session topics and suggestions broadly and inventively. We particularly welcome submissions that seek to address the main conference themes by, for instance, presenting original archaeological perspectives on climate change, either in the past or present; engaging with, challenging, and developing mitigating strategies for West Asian archaeology's colonial structures and legacies; or presenting ongoing fieldwork that utilises new or emerging approaches designed with equitable field practice in mind.

Workshops (full abstracts below)

Achaemenid Environments: Agenda-setting economic, landscape, environmental and bioarchaeological approaches to Achaemenid Impact

Organiser: Catherine M. Draycott, catherine.draycott@durham.ac.uk, Benjamin Irvine, and Max D. Price

The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region

Organisers: Claudia Glatz, Claudia.Glatz@glasgow.ac.uk, and Daniel Calderbank

Big Dig Energy: Gendered practices and internalised patriarchy in archaeological fieldwork in West Asia

Organiser: Yağmur Heffron, y.heffron@ucl.ac.uk

Dialogues Across Landscapes: New Challenges to Practicing Landscape Archaeology in Western Asia

Organisers: Dan Lawrence, dan.lawrence@durham.ac.uk, Claudia Glatz, Jennie Bradbury, and Ömür Harmanşah

When is Urban, Really? Looking Back, Moving Forward – Exploring temporalities of Late Chalcolithic Mesopotamia in the present: A workshop celebrating historic innovations in early urban archaeology, and tackling current challenges to the field

Organiser: Ailbhe Nic Thoirealaigh, a.turley.1@research.gla.ac.uk

Whose Heritage Is it? A Discussion on Community Engagement and Local Counter-narratives in Archaeology of Southwest Asia

Organiser: Yasaman Nabati, y.nabati-mazloumi.1@research.gla.ac.uk

Workshop abstracts

Achaemenid Environments: Agenda-setting economic, landscape, environmental and bioarchaeological approaches to Achaemenid Impact

Organiser: Catherine M. Draycott, catherine.draycott@durham.ac.uk, Benjamin Irvine, and Max D. Price

The impact of the Achaemenid Empire on its territories, and the nature of that empire, has and continues to be investigated primarily through the lenses of politico-financial administration and culture. Scholars have wavered on the strength of impact in both of these spheres, seeing strong impacts on taxation, finances and land organisation, and subtle, yet sometimes profound impacts on certain spheres of behaviour and the accoutrements that accompany these, especially commensality, travel, dress and to some extent, what we call religion.

Despite the robust scholarship on the Achaemenid Empire that has developed over the past four to five decades since the Achaemenid History Workshops, however, investigations of impacts on local economies and settlement patterns has remained somewhat limited and dispersed. Studies of agriculture, traditionally based on textual sources, are notable and on the increase, but landscape and scientific archaeologies are still in many ways in their infancy as key parts of the investigative toolkit.

In part, this is a result of a 'light' cultural imprint of the Achaemenid Empire. The above-mentioned accoutrements are relatively rare. The best caches of Achaemenid-period materials tend to be found in the burial sphere, which is the most visible sphere of monumentality in the Achaemenid territories. Pottery forms recognisable as Achaemenid period are not often found in surface finds recovered during survey, leading to what could be false negatives for site occupation periods. Achaemenid levels have been hard to recognise at sites, even at the western Empire's ostensible headquarters of Sardis in Western Türkiye.

There are, however, examples of survey and the application of scientific methods that have picked up or promise to pick up data that can redefine the way we understand the impact of empire. Analysis of bioarchaeological assemblages from some sites is underway. And there are a number of skeletal remains from burials, which can help to answer questions about mobility and human life.

This workshop aims to gather scholars who are working on relevant samples and datasets, asking relevant questions and/or who can provide models through work done for other periods and empires, to collaboratively set a new agenda within Achaemenid studies, reframing the concept of 'impact' and the ways in which questions about it can be answered.

The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region

Organisers: Claudia Glatz, Claudia.Glatz@glasgow.ac.uk, and Daniel Calderbank

This workshop invites contributions highlighting research on the archaeology and cultural heritage of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, including ongoing fieldwork reports.

Big Dig Energy: Gendered practices and internalised patriarchy in archaeological fieldwork in West Asia

Organiser: Yağmur Heffron, y.heffron@ucl.ac.uk

This workshop is intended to promote critical and constructive discussions around how gendered practices in (and around) archaeological fieldwork shape scholarly cultures of research and learning, and what measures we could be taking towards more equitable futures in the archaeology of West Asia.

The range of themes include but are not limited to the role of gender in:

- divisions of scholarly labour and implicit assumptions around the relative importance of different types of evidence and specialisations (e.g. 'big data' (male) vs 'minutiae' (female); 'hard science' (male) vs 'soft subjects' (female))
- expectations of invisible labour around project management, dig-house-keeping, pastoral care
- mentorship, training, and succession
- access to material, resources, opportunities, and networks
- rights of and visibility in publication
- reconciling fieldwork with caring responsibilities
- adapting (or not) to fieldwork cultures of performative (hyper-)masculinities
- exposure to microaggressions, implicit misogyny, bullying, harassment

Speakers are invited to take up short, 10-minute slots which can be used variously to present data, respond to/review relevant literature, outline questions, or share personal histories with a view to articulating gendered practices both as a point of problematisation in terms of archaeological ethics, as well as a methodological and epistemological concern surrounding the production and consumption of knowledge.

NB This workshop is not a "girls only" event – perspectives of those who identify/are perceived as male and consequently occupy positions of relative privilege and power in gendered fieldwork dynamics are essential for a truly productive discussion. If you are just as sick of being asked to move heavy crates and fix machinery as much as your 'lady archaeologist' colleagues hate being expected to sew buttons and write shopping lists, please join the conversation.

Dialogues Across Landscapes: New Challenges to Practicing Landscape Archaeology in Western Asia

Organisers: Dan Lawrence, dan.lawrence@durham.ac.uk, Claudia Glatz, Jennie Bradbury, and Ömür Harmanşah

Landscape archaeology represents a rich assemblage of field practices that document and analyse traces of the past, and reconstruct human-environment relationships in diachronic perspective. From pedestrian surveys to remote sensing, geomorphology to climate and vegetation change, landscape archaeologists address research questions on a regional scale with a fine grained understanding of deep time and deep history. This richness of tools and perspectives allowed archaeologists to forge unique collaborations with other disciplinary fields such as the environmental sciences and anthropology. Decolonial shifts in the discipline bring to focus the incorporation of public and collaborative archaeologies and engaged/activist scholarship. What is the current state of landscape archaeology in the contemporary world of climate change, ecological challenges, the pandemic, immigration and displacement of communities and endangered cultural heritage? We invite landscape archaeologists of Western Asia to discuss the state of the discipline, and to reflect on what makes Western Asian landscape archaeology unique in the broader field of landscape research. What are the specific challenges landscape archaeologists face in carrying out their research in the field? Our goal is to give voice to some of the creative and resilient research carried out by landscape

archaeologists in contemporary Western Asia. In 2023, we focus on imperial, colonial, resistant, and decolonial landscapes, linking colonial and imperial histories of landscape archaeology to contemporary attempts to decolonize the discipline, and on landscape histories from non-state and non-imperial perspectives. We also welcome contributions addressing infrastructure, whether as organizational networks, material flows or contested sites of ecological politics.

When is Urban, Really? Looking Back, Moving Forward – Exploring temporalities of Late Chalcolithic Mesopotamia in the present: A workshop celebrating historic innovations in early urban archaeology, and tackling current challenges to the field

Organiser: Ailbhe Nic Thoirealaigh, a.turley.1@research.gla.ac.uk

Early Mesopotamian scholarship posited that urbanism and social complexity had its origins in the alluvial south, dubbed by Robert McCormick Adams the ‘heartland of cities’ in his groundbreaking 1981 publication. Early theories considered Uruk a cultural ‘core’ and hypothesized that the phenomenon of social complexity spread out from this ‘central’ area to neighbouring regions via a series of core – periphery colonialist interactions and relationships based on resource acquisition.

As a result of both exciting modern field results, and advancing theories around the nature of early urbanism, the ‘Uruk Expansion’ theory has been significantly revised since Adams’ day. Numerous sites across Greater Mesopotamia have provided evidence of idiosyncratic narratives of urban development, existing outside of and in some cases significantly earlier than the original ‘Uruk Expansion’ phenomenon.

Various methods have been offered over the years to better understand the networks of emerging social worlds in the Late Chalcolithic, with a more ‘joined-up’ approach. Perhaps the most notable was the 2001 Santa Fe ‘Uruk Mesopotamia & Its Neighbours’, which introduced the ‘LC’ chronological framework into the field.

However, despite these advances, the temporality of Late Chalcolithic urbanism still presents conceptual and material challenges. Regional terminologies, enduring metanarratives, discrepancies in periodisation and the difficulties of synchronising vast banks of excavated evidence across sites of varying scales remains a challenge for those working in the field of early urbanism today.

A need remains for an agreed upon conceptual framework that can grapple with idiosyncratic temporal trajectories, local developments and regional networks whilst still incorporating the undeniable fact that from the LC2-3 period onwards, cultural and material markers that connect to the urban centre of Uruk began to appear across Greater Mesopotamia to varying degrees.

Twenty years on from the Santa Fe conference, this 2023 BANEA workshop invites veteran Mesopotamian scholars and ECRs alike to come together to reflect on historic innovations in urban archaeology, and assess the current state of the field. What were the challenges then, and what are they now?

Straddling conference themes both of constructing social worlds and decolonising metanarratives, we return to the enduring ‘urban’ question, to consider: when is urban, really?

Whose Heritage Is it? A Discussion on Community Engagement and Local Counter-narratives in Archaeology of Southwest Asia

Organiser: Yasaman Nabati, y.nabati-mazloumi.1@research.gla.ac.uk

Community engagement is a relatively recent addition to the archaeology of southwest Asia that has attracted a growing body of literature and is being practiced in a variety of ways. Archaeologists strive to promote the social relevance of the discipline by interacting with local communities. However considering colonial legacies and practices, the reality of collaborations in the archaeology of southwest Asia still faces a number of challenges.

This workshop aims to illuminate practices and case studies in archaeology and heritage management in southwest Asia that encourage and advocate for the creation of counter-narratives, social justice, power balance, and community-driven research addressing existing colonial and bringing forth strategies to mitigate them.

We welcome any paper -in particular proposals from early career scholars- presenting data-driven or self-reflective accounts from community-based projects, educational programs, initiatives, and other outreach activities that critically discuss opportunities, limits, and ethical challenges of the abovementioned practices.