

The International Association for Archaeological Research in Western and Central Asia
(ARWA) Online Lecture Series – Philology & History Liaison Group

From Text to History: Philological Approaches to the Ancient Near East

When: every Friday at 6:00 pm CET (UTC+01:00) from April 1st to June 24th, 2022

Where: on Zoom

Organizers and hosts: [Armando Bramanti](#) (CCHS – CSIC, Madrid) and [Alexander Johannes Edmonds](#) (IHAC - NENU, Changchun)

How to join

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87529973386?pwd=ZWlNWk90Q1dhOGJtOWNvdXVlb3RYQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 2997 3386

Passcode: 331453

When discussing approaches to the vast field of Ancient Near Eastern (or Western Asian) studies, Assyriology is often fragmented into philology and history—the study of the texts, and their contextualisation into broader models and theories respectively. However, such a clear distinction is artificial. In fact, these two approaches constantly mutually influence and complement one another. Just as philological research provides new information for historical reconstructions, so too can historical models provide new contexts in which to understand these texts.

This series of lectures seeks to explore the relationship between philological research and the reconstruction of Ancient Near Eastern history and cultures. By showcasing the methodologies of a wide and diverse range of scholars researching different cultures, geographical regions, and periods within Western Asia, these lectures trace the different routes by which researchers move from text to history. A transparent discussion of this process and of its many approaches is also necessary in communicating effectively with archaeologists and researchers from other fields, especially to foster vital future interdisciplinarity.

In keeping with ARWA's emphasis upon a global scholarly community, these online lectures also aim to create an inclusive space for dialogue among individuals who might not otherwise easily meet, and to provide a bridge between philologists, historians, and archaeologists of the Ancient Near East, and scholars and enthusiasts from the broader humanities. To encourage the active participation of a broader audience from every region of the world, lectures will be held in English and be made freely accessible afterwards on [ARWA's YouTube account](#). Lectures will be held on Zoom and last approximately an hour followed by a discussion round.

Program

April 1st

Alexander Johannes Edmonds (IHAC - NENU, Changchun)

From Asimānum to Gaugamela: New Findings in the Historical Geography of Northern Iraq from Narām-Sin to Alexander

April 8th

Annakrisztina Pintér (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

Stylistics, Word Choice, and Their Implications in Sumerian Mythic Narratives. An Examination with a Special Focus on Satire, Irony, and Social Class

April 22nd

Sergio Alivernini (Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

Landscape Philology: Natural and Anthropogenic Environment in the Ur III Texts

April 29th

Gabriella Spada (Sapienza – University of Rome)

Behind the Scenes of Mesopotamian Administration: How to Become a Bureaucrat in 2nd millennium Babylonia

May 6th

Annunziata Rositani (University of Messina)

King Rīm-Anum of Uruk: A Reconstruction of an Old Babylonian Rebel Kingdom

May 13th

Carlos Gonçalves (University of São Paulo)

Cuneiform Mathematics: A Non-Exact History of an Exact Science

May 20th

Beatrice Baragli (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The Sun of Nippur: From Rhetorical Devices to History of Sumerian Literature

May 27th

Daniel Justel (University of Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares)

Children in Second Millennium Mesopotamia and Syria from Cuneiform Sources

June 3rd

Federico Luciani (National University of Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina)

From the Land of Mari: Interactions between Tribes and States in 2nd Millennium Mesopotamia

June 10th

Camille Lecompte (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)

TBA

June 17th

Gina Konstantopoulos (University of California Los Angeles)

Defining and Describing Distance in the Ancient Near East

June 24th

Johannes Hackl (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena)

TBA