# Erbil History, Archaeology, Arts and Architecture

**UKH & Ifpo Online Bi-Monthly Seminars A/Y 2020-2021**  
**Thursdays 2:00 – 4:00 PM (Erbil Time, UTC +3)**

**Programme**

Zoom Link: https://ukh.zoom.us/j/9956136404?pwd=MvZTVNPUVB1S3JaGow43dUVEg4d090Meeting ID: 995 6136 404  Passcode: 8ST6Ev

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<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Dr. Mahmood KHAYAT</td>
<td>Short review</td>
<td>Mahmoud Ahmed Khayat is Chair for architectural Engineering and sustainability programme at University of Kurdistan Hawler, he holds the title of Ifpo associate researcher.</td>
<td>In the period from 1970 to 2003, Kurdistan Region-Iraq passed through conflicts and wars led to social, economic and cultural changes, some of them can be regarded as positive cultural developments, but architecture as a sub-culture especially vernacular and traditional part of Erbil city reached to a status that can be regarded as a critical one on physical and cultural levels, a status that needs serious reforms. The paper objective is to detect the rate of deterioration of perception of the symbolic value of traditional architecture elements as part of the cultural identity of intellectuals living in Erbil city. The goal of the research is to detect the factors that led to the status of the vernacular and traditional architecture in Erbil city to the status of neglected ness by the concerned intellectuals living in Erbil city. The research covers the traditional and vernacular houses in the old sectors of Erbil city including the Citadel and the surrounding three traditional zones. The methodology of the research uses perception survey using semantic differential scale on a group of concerned intellectuals represented by architecture department teaching staff and professional architects living in Erbil City.</td>
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<td>University of Kurdistan-Hawler</td>
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<td>Chair Soorkeu ATROOSHI</td>
<td>Opening speech</td>
<td>Heja Sindi Is Vice president for Academic Affairs and Research at University of Kurdistan Hawler</td>
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<td>Dr. Heja SINDI</td>
<td>UKH brief</td>
<td>Soorkeu Atrooshi is the Dean of School of Science and Engineering at the University of Kurdistan Hawler (UKH). He is an assistant professor with ongoing teaching and research activities. His field of research includes renewable energy and thermal cycles.</td>
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<td>Co-Chair Mahmood KHAYAT</td>
<td>Ifpo brief</td>
<td>Barbara Couturaud is an archaeologist, researcher at Ifpo (Institut français du Proche-Orient) and head of the Erbil Ifpo branch. Her research focuses on Mesopotamian archeology and iconography during the Early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC). She is also the director of the excavations in Amyan (Kurdistan Regional Government).</td>
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<td>Dr. Barbara COUTURAUD</td>
<td>Neglected heritage</td>
<td>Asst. Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ahmed Khayat is Chair for architectural Engineering and sustainability programme at University of Kurdistan Hawler. He acted as head of the Department of Architecture (2013-2018), cofounder of architecture postgraduate programs, and cofounder of Erbil forum for sustainable development at Salahaddin University-Erbil. He was awarded the title of Ifpo associate researcher in 2019 by French institute for the Near East for his collaborative research efforts for preservation of cultural and built heritage in a sustainable manner.</td>
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<td>Institut français du Proche-Orient</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Binyad MARUF KHAZNADAR</td>
<td>The typology of forms in the traditional vernacular architecture in Erbil city. A cultural and architectural study</td>
<td>Binyad Maruf Khaznadar is born in Baghdad in 1975. He got his BSc and MSc degrees in the Architectural department-college of engineering-Salahaddin University-Erbil. He established his own office since 1998. He is a teaching staff in the architecture department, Salahadin University, since 2010, and he got many positions as the head of quality assurance unit in the college of engineering, the manager of engineering consultant bureau in the college of engineering, and his current position is the vice dean of the college of engineering. He is currently a PhD student. He has two published books and five published papers written individually and as a co-author.</td>
<td>Erbil city has a deep root in the history of mankind as the oldest continuous settlement on our planet. The culture and the way of life in Erbil city have a great impact on the typology of forms of the vernacular architecture in the past and till now. The diversity of forms and the architectural elements shows the richness of the vocabulary of forms in the buildings that is built by people themselves using traditional building materials and technologies. These buildings reflect the desires and the way of life of their inhabitants. There is a set of cultural factors for certain cultural groups that share the same way of life that impacts on the form determination in vernacular architecture, the most affective set of factors are the socio-cultural factors. This study aims to focus on those factors and their impact on the vernacular and traditional architecture in Erbil city.</td>
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<td>Binyad MARUF KHAZNADAR</td>
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Session 3
JAN 14th 2021
Chair Barbara COUTURAUD

John MACGINNIS
British Museum

Dar Talesat Al Yaqui
Senior Consultant Architect and heritage Conservation Expert
dayaqubi@yahoo.com

Sangar MOHAMMED ABDULLAH

The Archaeology and Ancient History of the Citadel of Erbil

John MacGinnis is based in the Middle East Department at the British Museum, where he is Senior Curator and Lead Archaeologist in the Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme. He has worked in Kurdistan from 2009, including for many years in the position of Archaeological Advisor on the Citadel in Erbil. He also worked on a project for the Ministry of Youth and Culture of the Kurdish Regional Government researching the most ancient history of the city, published in the volume Erbil in the Cuneiform Sources. He has also worked in southern Iraq and in Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan, India, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

Senior Consultant Architect and heritage Conservation Expert, Dara Talesat Al Yaqui has a PhD in Architectural Heritage, MSc in Architecture, and BSc in Business Administration. Lecturer in the Department of Architecture/University of Baghdad from 1980 to 1998, and Salahaddin University 2015 to 2020, he was also Governing Board member of Kurdistan University 2008 to 2010. UN-Habitat and UNDP program officer, Team Leader, and Consultant from 1998 to 2007, he was also Senior Advisor for the Council of Ministers of KRG and Head of the High Commission of Revitalization of Erbil Citadel (HCECR) from 2009 to 2019. He is Ifpo Associate Researcher since 2019 and founder and head of ARBELA Center for Heritage and Architecture 2020.

Arnuil HAUSLEITER
German Archaeological Institute arnuil.hausleiter@dai.de

Archaeological survey in the city of Arbil

Arnuil Hausleiter, DAI Orient Department, Berlin, has been participating in archaeological research projects in the Assyrian heartland and beyond for many years. He published a comprehensive monograph on Iron Age ceramics in Assyria (2010) centering on the site of Ashur. Since 2004 has been directing the excavations in the oasis of Taima (Northwestern Arabia) focusing on the cultural interconnections of the ancient oasis from the beginnings until present-day. He has been working in Arbil since 2009 jointly with Margarete van Es (DAI).

Karwan A. A. AMIN
Erbil Directorate of Antiquities

Pbtiiwan A. IBRAHIM
Erbil Directorate of Antiquities

This paper is an empirical study for the concept of continuity in architectural identity. The aim of this paper is to measure the degree of continuity in commercial buildings design, in terms of architectural identity. Furthermore, the study will illustrate the influence of heritage buildings in constructing the continuity of architectural identity in Erbil city. The construction of the theoretical framework will rely on a procedure of two directions, the first direction will establish a comprehensive theoretical framework (multi-dimensional model) for the concept of continuity in architecture, while the second part will analyze the role of heritage buildings in constructing architectural identity in commercial buildings in Erbil City. The finding of the study indicates that the heritage buildings visual elements and its architectural cues playing a tangible role in constructing architectural identity in buffer zones of the city but this effect is gradually decreasing in other sectors due to adopting the hybrid approach by melting modern technology within architectural features of the city.

Since 2015 a team of the Erbil Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) has been systematically investigating the city area of Arbil by means of surface survey. The project aims at contributing to the reconstruction of settlement history, distribution patterns and space use of the area surrounding the Citadel which may have been the ancient lower town. Surface material is mainly characterized by ceramics among which Iron Age and early to middle Islamic shapes and fabrics dominate. This general evidence has been confirmed by various salvage excavations by local teams and by the 2009-2012 excavations of DAI and DoA in Arab Kon. Until now, the area within the 30 m-Road has been fully investigated, indicating remains of ancient mounds at several locations. These features need to be analyzed in
| Session 4 | JAN 28th 2021 | Maria Grazia MASETTI ROUAULT  
École pratique des Hautes Études  
masetti.rouault@ephe.psl.eu  | Erbil and its region in Late Bronze and Iron Age. A view from its western border  
Since 2005, Maria Grazia Masetti Rouault is professor teaching religions of the Syro-Mesopotamian world at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. Since 2005, she is member of the French National Centre for Scientific Research. Since 2011, she is co-director of the French archaeological mission at Qasr Shemamok (Erbil region, Kurdistan, Iraq).  
The lecture will present some recent discoveries made by the French archaeological team at Qasr Shemamok, 25 km South-West of Erbil, explained in the perspective of better understanding the history and the shared culture and religion of this part of region since the Bronze Age, and until the end of the Assyrian Empire. While excavations continue to be carried out in the Erbil Citadel, the presence and the value of monumental structures of the Ottoman period, now restored or still under restoration, obviously limit the possibility to study more ancient levels of the city, one of the most important urban centers in Northern Mesopotamia since Early Bronze Age. In a close by position, so probably well connected with the regional capital social evolution, research carried out at Qasr Shemamok urban site offers the possibility to integrate our knowledge of Erbil/Urbil/Arbâlu culture with other data, obtained by the international and interdisciplinary team working there. While the work is still in progress, some new information can be shared. If we have some elements showing the development of a settled occupation of the Qasr Shemamok area since Uruk period, and now also, on the site itself, the presence of a Nineveh 5 habitat, my lecture will focus on the Late Bronze Period/Iron I transition, when we can document the presence of a Hurrian city and state, sharing a large part of its culture with the Middle Assyrian empire, before merging and being integrated into it. |  |
| Session 5 | FEB 11th 2021 | Chamsia SADOZAI  
CRAterre-École nationale supérieure d’architecture de Grenoble  
ch.sadozai@gmail.com  | Conservation of earthen architecture in archaeological contexts  
Chamsia Sadozai is an archaeologist, specialized in earthen architecture preservation, after completing her post master degree at the National School of Architecture in Grenoble, France. She is a researcher in the AE&CC research Unit and a freelance consultant since 2012, on World heritage sites such as Qalhat (Sultanate of Oman), Hili in Al Ain (United Arab Emirates), Sarazm in Tajikistan or Khiva in Uzbekistan. She is also working on more confidential sites in the Middle East (Armenia, Bangladesh, India, Kurdistan, Turkmenistan) with French Archaeological Missions and CRAterre, despite its important fired bricks heritage, Erbil Governorate has a noticeable number of places made of raw earth bricks, archaeological sites such as Qalîn Ağa or vernacular architecture in the buffer zone of the Citadel. This architecture is suffering from several threats, natural but also human after excavations. The purpose of this presentation is to sensitize Heritage actors such as archaeologists, architects, decision makers and future generation of practitioners to preventive conservation approaches adapted to this material. Diversity of earthen architecture will be presented with its terminology, then a focus on technical solutions that are easy to implement will be proposed, as well as the general methodology for a conservation project, with case |  |
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<th>FEB 25th 2021</th>
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| **Lionel MARTI**  
French National Centre for Scientific Research  
lionel.marti@college-de-france.fr | **Between political and geographical constraints. The question of communication roads in the Assyrian triangle.** | Lionel Marti is a researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (UMR 7192). Paris. He has been trained in Assyriology at EPHRE IVe section and in archaeology at University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. He is part of the management with Ch. Nicolle and K. Shawaly of the archaeological mission of Bash Tapa. His research focus is primarily on the history of northern Mesopotamia and Syria, from the Old Babylonian to the Neo-Assyrian period, with a particular focus on the development and functioning of the Assyrian world. | The Erbil Plain has been at the heart of several political entities or confrontations between great kingdoms. The issue of territorial structuring and interregional communications is therefore central to historical studies on the Erbil Plain. It is only with the beginning of recent archaeological explorations that this research has been able to undergo a new development thanks to the knowledge of the concrete reality of the terrain. Through the study of a few examples, this presentation proposes to illustrate how a better knowledge of the communication routes allows new understanding of well-known historical phenomena. Particular attention will have to be paid both to the impact of political entities on these roads and their structuring and to the impact of environmental constraints. |

| **Dara TALAAT AL YAQUBI**  
Senior Consultant Architect and heritage Conservation Expert  
dalyaqub@yahoo.com | **The architectural heritage in Erbil. Current status, challenges, and solutions.** | Senior Consultant Architect and heritage Conservation Expert, Dara Talaat Al Yaqubi has a PhD in Architectural Heritage, MSc in Architecture, and BSc in Business Administration. Lecturer in the Department of Architecture/University of Baghdad from 1980 to 1998, and Salahaddin University 2015 to 2020, he was also Governing Board member of Kurdistan University 2008 to 2010. UN-Habitat and UNDP program officer, Team Leader, and Consultant from 1998 to 2007, he was also Senior Advisor for the Council of Ministers of KRG and Head of the High Commission of Revitalization of Erbil Citadel (HCECR) from 2009 to 2019. He is Ifpo Associate Researcher since 2019 and founder and head of ARBELA Center for Heritage and Architecture 2020. | The existing historic parts of Erbil city represent a distinct urban entity and a rare surviving example of traditional urban form and architectural heritage. Its fabric and expressed brick architecture, goes back to several hundred years of vernacular architecture and urban heritage. It is the legacy of how the previous generations interacted with their environment and developed their way of life based on their cultural values. The vast modern urban development in the city center led to the loss of parts of the architectural heritage and the rest’s threat. The main reason was the lack of specialized entities, lack of management, and also uncontrolled construction. This paper aims to explore the significance and characteristics of the city’s heritage architecture, its current status, risks, and challenges facing its preservation and, in the end, concluding a vision and a roadmap to overcome the difficulties and to save this national heritage in accordance with international standards, rules, and regulations. |

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<th>Session 7</th>
<th>MARCH 11th 2021</th>
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<th>Barbara COUTURAUD</th>
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| **Martin SAUVAGE**  
French National Centre for Scientific Research  
martin.sauvage@cnrs.fr | **Building with earth in the ancient Near East.** | Martin Sauvage is a research engineer in archaeology at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, UMR 7041 Archéologie et sciences de l’Antiquité, Nanterre). He is a specialist in building materials and techniques in the ancient Near East. He has participated in some thirty archaeological campaigns in this region mostly in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. | The Mesopotamian alluvial plain is poor in raw materials and yet this region has developed considerable architecture thanks to the almost exclusive use of earth as building material. The conference will focus on retracing the major stages in the development of construction in ancient Mesopotamia and the Near East. We will describe the emergence of earthen construction (wattle, brick, daub) with the first dwellings in the Near East, around 9000 BC, then the diversification of building techniques and materials during the Neolithic. The gradual emergence of the first Sumerian cities (around 3000 BC) was also accompanied by innovations in the field of earthen construction: moulded bricks, fired bricks, specific layouts. The conference will focus, with the example of the oldest civilization, on showing the |
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<th>Mahmoud KHAYAT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nader BABAKER MOHAMMED</td>
<td>Erbil Directorate of Antiquities</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nader_ahbaker@yahoo.com">nader_ahbaker@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Kareez (aqueducts) irrigation system in the Erbil Governorate</strong></td>
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<td>MA of Archaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 2016 and BA of Archaeology, Tebran University, 1994, Nader Babaker Mohammed is manager of Erbil Antiquities Directorate from 2013 to present. He was also manager of Archaeological Affairs Department in General Directorate of Antiquities between 2008 and 2010.</td>
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<td>As an archaeologist, I was eager to survey and research about the ancient sites of Kurdistan Region, where I am going to explain the ‘Kareez Irrigation System’ which was a technological innovation of the past, thus have been utilized by the ancient authority to provide fresh water for the needs of an ever increasing population. Water needed to be transported from distant sources to the irrigation of the fields around the urban center of Erbil. This system goes back to the historical age of Assyrian, Median, Achaemenid, Hellenistic and Islamic period. The field research that I have conducted in the Erbil region during the last years has led to the discovery of many Kareez and now we are in a position to conclude that there was not one single Kareez supply line, but many. But unfortunately, due to modern construction, the Kareez are now being destroyed.</td>
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| Narmin ALI MUHAMADAMEEN  | University of Salahaddin Erbil  | narmen.ameen@su.edu.krd  |
| **Erbil region. The historical and archaeological reality in the Sasanian and Islamic period in the light of archaeological work**  |  |
| Assistant Professor in the Department of Archeology/Faculty of Arts, Salahaddin University, PhD in Archaeology and History/France, Narmin Ali Muhammadameen is the first woman specialized in Archaeology of Christianity in Kurdistan. Member of the administrative board of the first French archaeological mission in Kalak Meshik in Erbil and second director of the French archaeological mission in Bazian in Sulaymaniyah in 2011-2016, she was also member of the French archaeological mission in Shemamok in Erbil (2011-2019), second director of the Czech Archaeology Mission in Erbil (2013-2015), member of the French archaeological mission in Amyan in 2019 and member of the archaeological mission of Harvard University for the Archaeological Survey of the Erbil Region Project in 2018. She is currently associate member of the Orient Research Center - Mediterranean in Paris and associate member of the French Institute for the Near East in Erbil.  |  
| Erbil and Kurdistan region were neglected for a long period of studies of archaeological works. With the beginning of the first French archaeological mission in Erbil region in 2010, European and international missions began arriving in Kurdistan. Archaeological data and the results of excavations and archaeological surveys revealed new, unknown sites. The history of Erbil region contains missing links and not sufficiently studied by researchers, especially for the Sasanian and pre-Islamic period, and the archaeological work can reveal aspects of the region’s history and civilization.  |  |

| Hawar HIMDAD SECTANY  | University of Salahaddin Erbil  | hawar.jamal@su.edu.krd  |
| **Health and cultural heritage. Tracing the perceptions of the role of architectural heritage in health and well-being (case study Erbil)**  |  |
| Holding an MSc degree in Architecture, Mrs. Hawar Himdad Jamal is a teaching staff member at the Department of Architecture at Salahaddin University-Erbil and also a Split-Site PhD Candidate at Eindhoven University of Technology with specific research interests in cultural and built heritage and in specific the human factor as determinant factors which shape the built environment and are consequently shaped by it.  |  
| The interdisciplinary character of cultural heritage fosters interdisciplinary studies. In cultural heritage studies, the individual and societal perceptions of the environment and the self, are starting to grow in importance. The relationship between health and environment is today mostly investigated in terms of measurable environmental factors, according to the biological definition of human health. This seminar explores the new emerging concept of relationship between health and cultural heritage towards inductive assumptions about what these relations will be with regard to perception. The main objective is to develop a theoretical framework that can be used for further research in the field of cultural heritage preservation, namely on architectural and urban level with emphases on promoting policies and education of healthy development of the built environment. The perception of the role of cultural heritage in health and well-being is traced throughout relevant literature concerned with the architectural environment, as well as, the psychological and philosophical literature revealing the essence of culture and architecture in health and its adaptability in case of Erbil City.  |  |
| Session 9 | April 15th 2021 | Soizik BECHETOILLE  
Ministère de la Culture  
s.bechetoille@gmail.com | Mudbrick architecture, Erbil old souk | This presentation will introduce a documentation work carried out in 2017 on heritage at risk: Erbil Old Souk housing. The old souk’s remaining dwellings are mostly abandoned, threatened with destruction, or reused as a reserve for new stores. From the point of view of heritage and uses, photographic documentation of this old center allows us to read the urban form and the possible ways of inhabiting it that have developed over time, from the end of the 19th century to contemporary reuse. Documenting built heritage makes it possible to apprehend the urban memory and the local social, economic, and cultural history. The vivacity of the souk contrasts with the disappearance of the built heritage linked to it. One of the main factors of the abandonment of traditional buildings is the lack of maintenance led by the disappearance of traditional building materials (e.g., raw earth-based) combined with the lack of awareness of these same materials (wrongly associated with poverty). As a result, there is no more transmission of teaching of the techniques related to it. Today’s climatic challenges are leading to frugality in the way we approach the built environment. Rather than deconstructing to rebuild a new building, rehabilitation offers the double advantage of preserving the heritage and conserving bio-sourced materials’ thermal qualities. Through examples from the region from around the world, this presentation will show the advantages of reuse. |
| Farah AL HASHIMI  
Independent Researcher  
architect.farah@yahoo.co.uk | The public square of Erbil’s historic centre: past, present and future | Farah Al Hashimi is an independent researcher with fifteen years of experience in practice and teaching architecture. She holds a PhD in architecture and urban design from the UK. She is winner of the prize Young Women Architects - Rising Star Award in the category of Women in Architecture and Construction. She was the founder and managing partner of her architecture bureau ‘Horizon’ in Duhok city, Iraqi Kurdistan. She has an interest in the productivity of urban spaces, conservation, sustainability and restoration strategies. | Erbil’s historic centre – standing at the bottom of the south side of the city’s citadel hill – has experienced many changes over the centuries. This paper focuses on the public square of this historic centre and the importance of reactivating it by celebrating Newroz, the annual and ancient Kurdish festival, as well as other events in this area. A qualitative interdisciplinary approach involving history, architecture and socio-culture, has been chosen. The findings show that celebrating annual events, such as Newroz would strengthen the connection of that area to its past and increase the attachment of the local people to their city. |

Chair  
Mahmood KHAYAT
| Session 10 | Chair Soorkeu ATROOSHI | The history of settlement on the Erbil plain | Jason Ur is Stephen Phillips Professor of Archaeology and Ethnology in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. He specializes in early urbanism, landscape archaeology, and remote sensing, particularly the use of declassified US intelligence imagery. He has directed field surveys in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and Iran. He is the author of Urbanism and Cultural Landscapes in Northeastern Syria: The Tell Hamoukar Survey, 1999-2001 (2010). Since 2012, he has directed the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey, an archaeological survey in the Kurdistan Region of northern Iraq. He is also preparing a history of Mesopotamian cities.

MA of Archaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology, Near Eastern Studies, University of Milan, 2016 and BA of Archaeology, Tehran University, 1994. Nader Babaker Mohammed is the head of museums at the KRG Directorate of Antiquities and manager of Erbil Antiquities Directorate from 2013 to present. He was also manager of Archaeological Affairs Department in General Directory of Antiquities between 2010 and 2013 and manager of Museum Department in General Directorates between 2008 and 2010. Khalil Barzinji is staff at the Erbil Governorate Directorate of Antiquities and EPAS drone pilot.

Mohammed Lashkry is head of museums at the KRG Directorate of Antiquities, and EPAS geospatial specialist.

Kareš NOVÁČEK
Palacký University
karel.novacek@upol.cz

A large, long and wide city: Looking into urban morphology of medieval Arbil

Kareš Nováček is Associate Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the Palacký University at Olomouc. He obtained his Ph.D. in the History of Architecture and Art at Czech Technical University, Prague. Since 2006, he has pursued research projects in North Iraq and Kurdistan and is the principal author of two monographs: Medieval Urban Landscape in Northeastern Mesopotamia (Archaeopress, Oxford, 2016) and Mosal after Islamic State: The Quest for Lost Architectural Heritage (Palgrave, 2021).

Archaeological research into urban form and post-Assyrian development of the important Assyrian royal city of Arbil with its more than five–millenia-long settlement continuity poses a challenge given the current densely built-up environment of the modern city. As the Islamic period archaeological levels in the city centre have proved to be hardly accessible for excavation, remote–sensing approach and „archaeological reading“ of textual sources have to be employed instead to reach a first insight into the matter. The resulting picture of medieval Arbil is, by no means, reliable but consists of set of hypotheses that show the direction, which further inquiry should follow.

| Session 11 | Chair Mahmood KHAYAT | From prehistoric villages to global empires. The long history of Helawa and Aliawa in the Erbil Plain | Ms. Peyronel is professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Art History at University of Milan and is the director of the Italian Archaeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain. Her main interests include cultural interactions, global networks and trade in the ancient Near East, and material culture of Mesopotamia, Anatolia and the Levant during the Bronze Age.

The Italian Archeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain (MAIPE) of the University of Milan is carrying out excavations at Helawa and Aliawa, in the south-western Erbil Plain, through an integrated approach of intensive surveys and targeted excavations. The two mounded sites show alternate periods of occupation, dating from the Early Chalcolithic up to the Iron I–II periods. The resulting picture of prehistoric Arbil is, by no means, reliable but consists of set of hypotheses that show the direction, which further inquiry should follow.

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The Italian Archeological Expedition in the Erbil Plain (MAIPE) of the University of Milan is carrying out excavations at Helawa and Aliawa, in the south-western Erbil Plain, through an integrated approach of intensive surveys and targeted excavations. The two mounded sites show alternate periods of occupation. Helawa appears to have been a substantial prehistoric site that was abandoned in the course of the Late Chalcolithic 3 and resettled during the 2nd millennium BC. Aliawa’s main occupation dates back to the Bronze Age, the center reaching more than 20 ha in extension at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE, whereas during the Iron Age and Hellenistic-Roman period it probably became a small fortified settlement. The results of the archaeological investigations are allowing the reconstruction of the local trajectories of human occupation in this part of the Erbil plain, contributing to a better understanding of the long settlement history of Kurdistan region of Iraq, from the early
| Richard WILDING  
Creative Director, Gulan  
richard@richardwilding.com | Exploring Erbil and its citadel through historical and contemporary photography | Richard Wilding is a London based photographer, filmmaker, writer and exhibition curator. He specializes in the documentation of archaeology, cultural identity and costume in the Middle East and is working on projects in Iraqi Kurdistan, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Since 2012, he has been Creative Director of Gulan, a UK registered charity which promotes Kurdish culture. In October 2013, Richard was awarded an outreach grant by The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) towards his photography of the Erbil citadel. His photographs of Kurdistan’s heritage and archaeology have been exhibited at the Houses of Parliament, Courtauld Institute of Art and University of Exeter in the UK and in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. | Richard Wilding explores the heritage, archaeology, religion and ethnic diversity of Kurdistan through historical and contemporary photography. In this presentation, Richard contrasts his contemporary photographs of Erbil, its citadel and lower city with photographs taken by Anthony Kersting in 1944-46. He also uses descriptions and illustrations by earlier travellers, writers and artists. Anthony Kersting (1916 - 2008), was the most prolific and widely travelled architectural photographer of his generation. He visited Northern Iraq and Kurdistan in 1944 and again in 1946. His photographs form an important record of historical architecture and archaeological sites that have since been damaged or destroyed, as well as tumultuous changes to the ethnic, religious, social and economic fabric of the region. | villages of farmers and herders to the large town of the first global empires of the humankind. |