### Seminar Title: Traditional and Vernacular Architecture in Erbil City

The typology of forms in the traditional vernacular architecture in Erbil city. A cultural and architectural study

- **Chair**: Mahmood KHAYAT  
  **University of Kurdistan-Hawler**  
  **Email**: mahmood.khayat@ukh.edu.krd

- **Speaker**: Binyad MARUF KHAZNADAR  
  **University of Salahaddin-Erbil**  
  **Email**: binyad.architect@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**: 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, which is the subject of this research. The typology of forms is studied through the typology of the vernacular architecture in the past and till now. The diversity of forms shows the richness of the vocabulary of forms in the buildings that are 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 way of life that impacts on the form determination in vernacular architecture, the most affecting set of factors are the socio-cultural factors. Binyad Maruf Khaznadar is a building consultant bureau in the college of engineering, and his current position is the vice dean of the College of Engineering (Engineering, Management and sustainability programme at University of Kurdistan- Hawler). His research focuses on Mesopotamian architecture and iconography during the Early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC). He is also the director of the excavations in Aymyan (Kurdistan Regional Government). He was awarded the title of Ifpo (Institut français du Proche-Orient) associate researcher.

### Seminar Title: Neglected Heritage

Neglected heritage. Traditional and Vernacular Architecture in Erbil City are not the Core Interest of Majority of Intellectuals Living in Erbil City

- **Chair**: Mahmood KHAYAT  
  **University of Kurdistan-Hawler**  
  **Email**: mahmood.khayat@ukh.edu.krd

- **Speaker**: Asst. Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ahmed Khayat  
  **University of Kurdistan-Hawler**  
  **Email**: mahmood.khayat@ukh.edu.krd

**ABSTRACT**: 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 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 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.

### Seminar Title: Opening Speech

Opening Speech

- **Chair**: Heja SINDI  
  **University of Kurdistan**  
  **Email**: heja_sindi@ukh.edu.krd

**SHORT BIOGRAPHY**: Dr. Heja Sindi is Vice president for Academic Affairs and Research at University of Kurdistan Hawler.
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

Session 3
JAN 14th 2021
Chair: Barbara COUTURAUD

Salahaddin YASIN BAPER
University of Salahaddin-Erbil
salahaddin.baper@su.edu.krd

The role of heritage buildings in constructing the continuity of architectural identity in Erbil city

Assistant Professor Dr. Salahaddin Yasin Baper is acting as head of architecture engineering department at the University of Salahaddin-Erbil. He obtained his BSc in Architecture from the University of Technology, Baghdad Iraq, with Honors. He continued his MSc in architectural technology at the University of Technology, Iraq. He earned his PhD in theory of architecture in School of Housing, Building and Planning-USM Malaysia. He works as a Consultant Architect and designed several important projects in Erbil city like supplementary buildings in Erbil International Airport and Sami Abdurrahman Park.

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 this 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.

John MACGINNIS
British Museum

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 Kurdistan 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.

This talk centres on the archaeology and ancient history of the Citadel of Erbil. We prepare the ground with an overview of our knowledge of Erbil as presented in cuneiform texts ranging from the third to the first millennium BC. This leads on to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the Citadel mound which in their turn formed the basis for the proposals for archaeological investigation formulated as part of the Master Plan for the Citadel. The results of the previous, limited investigations on the Citadel are then examined. This is the background for the presentation of the recent excavations carried out on the Citadel by the HCECR. The results of these operations are discussed, together with the implications for our understanding of the history of the city and the archaeology of the mound.

Dara TALAAT AL YAQUBI
Senior Consultant Architect and heritage Conservation Expert
dalyaqubi@yahoo.com

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 Kurdistan 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.

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Sangar MOHAMMED ABDULLAH

The Archaeology and Ancient History of the Citadel of Erbil

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.

This talk centres on the archaeology and ancient history of the Citadel of Erbil. We prepare the ground with an overview of our knowledge of Erbil as presented in cuneiform texts ranging from the third to the first millennium BC. This leads on to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the Citadel mound which in their turn formed the basis for the proposals for archaeological investigation formulated as part of the Master Plan for the Citadel. The results of the previous, limited investigations on the Citadel are then examined. This is the background for the presentation of the recent excavations carried out on the Citadel by the HCECR. The results of these operations are discussed, together with the implications for our understanding of the history of the city and the archaeology of the mound.

Arnulf HAUSLEITER
German Archaeological Institute
arnulf.hausleiter@dai.de

Archaeological survey in the city of Arbil

Arnulf 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 he has been directing the excavations in the oasis of Tayma (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 Ess (DAI).

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
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=MnVzTVNPUVB1S3JaGw43dUTVEp4d098Meeting ID: 995 6136 404 Passcode: 8ST6Ev

Session 4
JAN 28th 2021
Chair Barbara COUTURAUD

Maria Grazia MASETTI ROUAULT
École pratique des Hautes Etudes
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 Etudes 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 of the 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/Arbilu 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
Chair Barbara COUTURAUD

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 FrenchArchaeological 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 Qal’anji Agha 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 studies.
The Mesopotamian alluvial plain is poor in raw materials and yet this region has developed considerable architecture thanks to the almost exclusive use of earthen construction in ancient Mesopotamia and the Near East. The Erbil Plain has been at the heart of several political entities or confrontations between great kingdoms. The Erbil Plain 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.

### Session 6
#### FEB 25th 2021

**Chair**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dara TALAAT AL YAQUBI</td>
<td>The architectural heritage in Erbil. Current status, challenges, and solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lionel MARTI</td>
<td>Between political and geographical constraints. The question of communication roads in the Assyrian triangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin SAUVAGE</td>
<td>Building with earth in the ancient Near East</td>
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**Moderator**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ariane THOMAS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ariane.thomas@louvre.fr">ariane.thomas@louvre.fr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lionel MARTI</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lionel.marti@college-de-france.fr">lionel.marti@college-de-france.fr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin SAUVAGE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin.sauvage@cnrs.fr">martin.sauvage@cnrs.fr</a></td>
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**Programme**

**Zoom Link:** https://ukh.zoom.us/j/9956136404?pwd=MnVzTVNPUVB1S3JadGw4c3dUVEg4d09 Meeting ID: 995 6136 404 Passcode: 8ST6Ev

**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)**

The conference will focus, with the example of the oldest civilization, on showing the construction in ancient Mesopotamia and the Near East. 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.

The Mesopotamian alluvial plain is poor in raw materials and yet this region has developed considerable architecture thanks to the almost exclusive use of earthen construction 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 building construction: moulded bricks, fired bricks, specific layouts. The conference will focus, with the example of the oldest civilization, on showing the
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Narmen ALI MUHAMADAMEEN</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in the Department of Archeology/Faculty of Arts, Salahaddin University, PhD in Archaeology and History/France. Narmen ALI MUHAMADAMEEN 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 Amayn 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 - Mediterranea in Paris and associate member of the French Institute for the Near East in Erbil.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erbil region, The historical and archaeological reality in the Sasanian and Islamic period in the light of archaeological work</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Zoom Link: <a href="https://ukh.zoom.us/j/9956136404?pwd=MnVzTVNPUIVBZ3aGxw43dUVEp4d09">https://ukh.zoom.us/j/9956136404?pwd=MnVzTVNPUIVBZ3aGxw43dUVEp4d09</a> Meeting ID: 995 6136 404 Passcode: 8ST6Ev</td>
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<td>April 1st 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair Mahmood KHIYAT</td>
<td>Nader BABAKER MOHAMMED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erbil Directorate of Antiquities <a href="mailto:nader_babaker@yahoo.com">nader_babaker@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Kareez (aqueducts) irrigation system in the Erbil Governorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nader Babaker Mohammed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawar HIMDAD SECTANY</td>
<td>Health and cultural heritage. Tracing the perceptions of the role of architectural heritage in health and well-being (case study Erbil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Salahaddin-Erbil <a href="mailto:hawar.jamal@su.edu.krd">hawar.jamal@su.edu.krd</a></td>
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</table>
# Programme

**Session 9**

**April 15th 2021**

**Chair** Mahmood KHAYAT

**Soizik BECHETOILLE**  
Ministère de la Culture  
s.bechetoille@gmail.com

**Mudbrick architecture. Erbil old souk**

Dr. Bechetoille has a doctorate in History and the history of technology. She is a State Urban Planner Architect (AUE) at the Ministry of Culture in France, and a Conservation Architect with a postgraduate degree from the École de Chaillot (Paris). She is also a associate researcher at Ifpo.

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  
farah.alhashimi2010@my.ntu.ac.uk

**Arbail and the Historic Architecture and Urban Elements of Erbil**

Farah is an architectural designer and independent researcher. She holds a PhD in architecture and urban design from the UK. Prize winner: 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 working in architecture and/or urban design using an interdisciplinary approach combining architecture, history, archaeology and culture. Her focus is on the productivity of urban spaces, conservation, sustainability and restoration strategies.

Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq, is a historic city of great significance, which has faced enormous changes over centuries. The long history of the lower city is not immediately apparent due to successive periods of construction and demolition, which have left few traces of the past. This study set out to review and highlight the changes that have occurred to the historic urban elements of the city of Erbil with a particular focus on the Assyrian and Attabeg periods as well as the present day.
**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/99561364040?pwd=MnVzTVNPUVB1S3JadGw4c3dUUdEa09a Meeting ID: 995 6136 404 Passcode: 8ST6Ev

### Session 10

**April 29th 2021**

**Chair**

Sookeu ATROOSHI

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason UR</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>The history of settlement on the Erbil plain</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Nader BABAKER</td>
<td>Erbil Directorate of Antiquities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khalil BARZINJI</td>
<td>Erbil Directorate of Antiquities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed LASHKRI</td>
<td>General Directorate of Antiquities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karel NOVÁČEK</td>
<td>Palacký University</td>
<td>A large, long and wide city: Looking into urban morphology of medieval Arbil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luca PEYRONEL</td>
<td>University of Milan</td>
<td>From prehistoric villages to global empires. The long history of Helawa and Aliawa in the Erbil Plain</td>
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</table>

**Description:**

Since 2012, the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) has been identifying and mapping archaeological sites on the Erbil Plain (Daishit Hawler). The project is an international collaboration between Kurdish, European, and American archaeologists, led by Harvard University (Jason Ur) and the Directorate of Antiquities of Erbil Governorate (Nader Babakr). The presentation will describe the project’s goals, its methods, and its results after seven field seasons of research. For more information about the project, please see [https://scholar.harvard.edu/jasonur/pages/erbil](https://scholar.harvard.edu/jasonur/pages/erbil).

### Session 11

**May 20th 2021**

**Chair**

Mahmood KHAYAT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Karel Nováček</td>
<td>Palacký University</td>
<td>Archaeological research into urban form and post-Assyrian development of the important Assyrian royal city of Arbil with its more than five millennia-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.</td>
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<td>Luca Peyronel</td>
<td>University of Milan</td>
<td>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 mound 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 3rd millennium BC, Aliawa’s main occupation dates back to the Bronze Age, with 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</td>
</tr>
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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.