

Department of Ancient Studies

Department of Religious Studies



Recent events:



CPAVO: Strategy-setting Conference of the Archaeologists of the Near East

Iraq and Syria. Archaeological Heritage Between Risks and Perspectives.

Florence (Italy), Palagio dei Capitani di Parte Guelfa 16-17 December 2016



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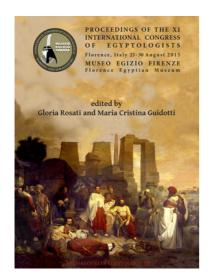
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Exhibition 'Reflections of a Society'

The Telephus Mirror and other Grave Goods from the Etruscan Necropoles of Macchia della Riserva in Tuscania (VT)

May 16 – June 29 2017

Recently published:



Proceedings of the XI International Congress of Egyptologists, Florence, Italy 23-30 August 2015

Edited by Gloria Rosati and Maria Cristina Guidotti

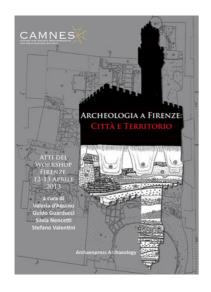
Archaeopress Archaeology (Oxford), 2017



Settlement Patterns and Political Landscapes in the Upper Tigris Valley

Rodolfo Brancato

Arbor Sapientae (Roma), 2017



Archeologia a Firenze: Città e Territorio. Atti del Workshop. Firenze, 12-13 Aprile 2013

Edited by Valeria d'Aquino, Guido Guarducci, Silvia Nencetti, Stefano Valentini

Archaeopress Archaeology (Oxford), 2015



Lorenzo de' Medici - CAMNES Partnership

The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (CAMNES) coordinates and supervises the new Ancient Studies Department of the Italian International Institute Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM). CAMNES and LdM are creating a new approach for education and scientific research in the field of the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East.

CAMNES explores the etymological and cultural meaning of archaeology. This is the study of *arkaios* "ancient" and *arké* "beginning" of civilizations: their roots, their correlations and their heritage. These paramount elements generated the cultural aspects of our modern civilizations.

The main objective of this collaboration is to create an educational and research environment where students and scholars discover and learn about the ancient past. Through a strong network of institutions and universities

CAMNES promotes an archaeological research program that includes courses, events, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, publications, and actively involves students, researchers, professionals and the broad public. Most importantly, CAMNES and LdM take part in a variety of archaeological projects in different countries. CAMNES is proud to combine technical and theoretical expertise with an informed approach to the "clash" between modern Western and Eastern cultures.

Excavation and learning experiences are accomplished through an innovative and dynamic itinerant approach. The students experience the environment of world renowned cities of Italy: Florence, Rome and Tuscania. Furthermore, they have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of archaeological projects including Italy (Etruscan, Roman and prehistoric cultures), Azerbaijan (Ganja region) and Jordan (Madaba).

A New Wave in Religious Studies at LdM-CAMNES



CAMNES School of Religious Studies (SoRS)

Starting this year CAMNES created SoRS, the School of Religious Studies directed by prof. Nicola Laneri. SoRS is a research institute and academic structure dedicated to the investigation of religion in ancient and modern communities, with a particular interest in the Mediterranean region.

The School's primary objective is to create a bridge between religious beliefs and the practices associated with them. The research approach is to undertake a detailed study of the role played by material culture in connecting with the divine by the members of the involved communities.

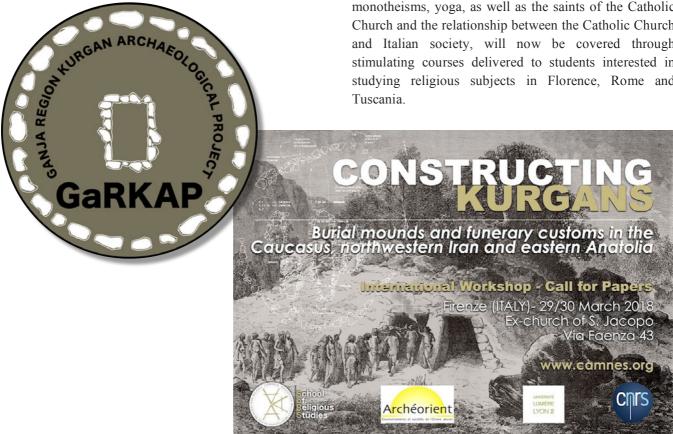
In terms of research programs, SoRS, in collaboration with LdM, has recently activated a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and the Institute of Archaeology and

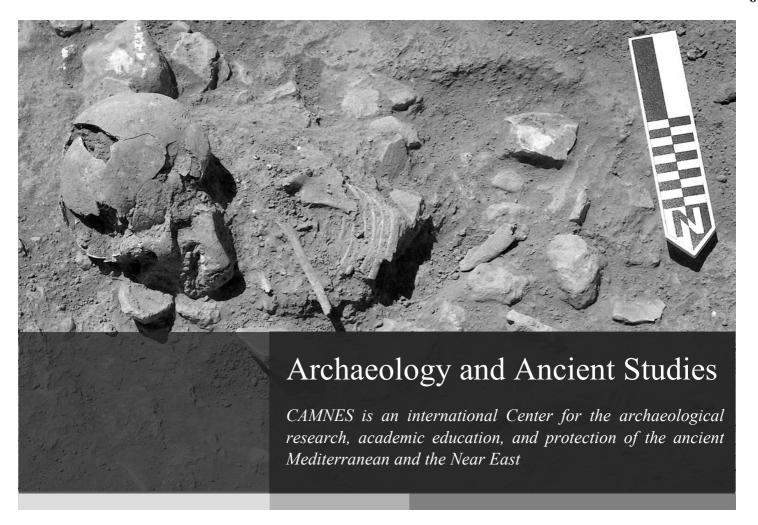
Ethnography for a joint project (GaRKAP) focused on the archaeological investigations of the IV-I millennium BCE funerary mounds (kurgan) present in the Ganja region in Azerbaijan. In this direction SoRS, together with CNRS and the University of Lyon 2, is organizing an international workshop dedicated to the kurgans and the funerary practices in eastern Anatolia, the Caucasus and Northwestern Iran.

Aiming at increasing scientific collaborations with US academic institutions, CAMNES has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the department of NELC at UCLA. This agreement will allow scholars from both institutions (i.e., CAMNES and NELC) to create research opportunities, joint projects as well as courses and teaching programs to be implemented either in Italy, in the US or elsewhere in the world.

Newborn Department of Religious Studies at LdM

Starting from Fall 2018 the already existing courses at the LdM Institute (World Religions, Holocaust and the Christian Perspective, Women in Religion) will be reinforced by a series of new courses for undergraduate students. Important sectors, such as the study of the Old Testament, Ancient Religions, the History of Christianity, Islam, the connection between Abrahamic monotheisms, yoga, as well as the saints of the Catholic Church and the relationship between the Catholic Church and Italian society, will now be covered through stimulating courses delivered to students interested in studying religious subjects in Florence, Rome and Tuscania





The Philosophy and Our Mission

For more than a century, archaeology has had a strong division between scholars from both the Mediterranean area and the Ancient Near East. In recent years, the development of research techniques and analytical models of archaeological evidence have identified similar historical paths in both areas of the ancient world. Therefore, a new concept of archaeology of the Mediterranean and the Near East has created a collaboration between these two diverse cultures.

A broader geographical and intercultural perspective now gives the possibility to reconstruct social and ideological dynamics and distinguish between elements produced by local civilizations and influenced by other cultures. This archaeological approach concerning the "East and West" issue is essential to unite different cultures that share similar roots and descended from one another.

CAMNES aims to achieve an international project of scientific distinction. This includes overcoming traditional

traditional geographic boundaries by creating a network of public and private institutions and universities involved in education and scientific research both in Italy and in the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions.

The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies also works towards public archaeology. This is an approach inspired by the Anglo-Saxon school focused on the communication and the enhancement of the archaeological heritage.

In accordance to this, CAMNES is developing new study programs and a School of Archaeological Heritage Management with international partners from public and private institutions in the UK, Czech Republic, Turkey and Italy. This is a key feature for developing new archaeological projects that will involve and benefit the public. Also this will provide interest from governments in this area and will successfully build investments for our archaeological and cultural patrimony.

Tuscania Archaeology Field School

The Etruscan necropolis at Tuscania is part of an excavation project coordinated by CAMNES through an official grant of the Italian Ministry of Heritage and Cultural activities.



LdM - CAMNES Academic Offering

Archaeology Field School at Tuscania (Italy, 4 Weeks)

The archaeological area of Tuscania is composed of necropolises distributed around the modern town, which is believed to be an ancient settlement. LdM started to investigate two newly discovered "cities of the dead", Pian delle Rusciare and Podere Pratino in 2005, with the recent support of CAMNES. Both necropolises are from the 3rd-2nd century BC and have ipogeum tombs. In these underground environments, Etruscans buried their dead and deposited their belongings when celebrating funerary rituals. Many tombs had been violated over the years; however several have been left intact revealing an incredible number of ancient artifacts. One tomb held 47 graves with a total of 450 objects that LdM students and CAMNES are currently restoring in the 'Archaeology Workshop' course in Florence.

CAMNES and LdM practice a new approach in studying and understanding ancient cultures by offering archaeological field schools in Italy and within the Mediterranean and Near Eastern areas. Participants in the field schools gain knowledge through a unique experience.

Under the guidance of professional archaeologists, students learn modern research methodologies and techniques through lectures, on-site digging and data recording.

Through lessons and site/museum visits, students learn the cultural aspects (archaeology, art, history, religion, etc.) of the ancient societies. They also discover how these civilizations produced the architecture and thousand year old artifacts that are unearthed during the students' excavation process.

Meeting with local students and visiting different places of historic and cultural relevance, students are exposed to the contemporary cultural trends and become familiar with the lifestyle aspects of the host country.

The archaeology field schools are a full immersion in a professional environment, including lessons inherent to the ancient cultures and delivering hands-on experience. The number of participants is limited, to ensure the high standard of these programs.

New courses offered within the Ancient Studies Department

Exciting new courses are being offered within the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies at LdM.

'The Legacy of Latin: The Roots of Western Languages', delivers a unique opportunity for students to learn about the impact of Latin on modern society and on contemporary languages, with a special attention on its influence on English. 'Classical World Civilization' will enable students willing to learn more about Italy's and Europe's ancient past, to understand the history and art of the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans within their context. 'Animals in Antiquity' focuses on the life, the symbolic aspects, the art and the interaction of animals and humans during our ancient past. A detailed perspective on Italy's most ancient civilization is offered by 'The "Mysterious People of Ancient Italy: In Search of the Etruscans'.

Search of the Etruscans'.

New publication within the 'Studies on the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean' (SANEM) series

The first issue of the new SANEM series published by Arbor Sapientiae and curated by CAMNES is dedicated to the archaeological excavations that LdM has conducted since 2005 (with CAMNES since 2010) at the Etruscan necropolises of 'Pian delle Rusciare' near Tuscania (Italy). The Etruscan graves, which were excavated by the LdM Archaeology Field School students in July, have returned a wealth of bronze, and ceramic objects, which are now finally published in this comprehensive volume after ten years of research.

The second issue of the new SANEM series published by Arbor Sapientiae and curated by CAMNES is dedicated to the archaeological landscape of the Upper Tigris valley in Anatolia (Turkey)



Lorenzo de' Medici - CAMNES

Department of Ancient Studies (ANC)

LOCATION
Florence
Florence, Rome
Rome
Tuscania (Summer 2 - July)
Tuscania
Florence
Rome
Florence
Florence
Florence
Tuscania
Florence
Rome
Florence

Further Details on CAMNES

The Logo

The CAMNES logo shows the evolution of the ancient symbol/letter "Aleph", that represents the common roots of the Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds.



The origin of the aleph is the early pictograph version that symbolized a bull or an ox (top part of logo), in ancient Egypt. The Aleph then evolved in the Canaanite alphabet that was used in Phoenician and Old Hebrew (right part of logo). Presently, the letter "A" has remained the same as its last stage in ancient Greek, Roman, and Etruscan alphabets (bottom part of logo). The Aleph fully embodies our philosophy, as one of the bridging aspects of Western and Eastern cultures, belonging to Hebrew, Etruscan, Arabic, Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Canaanite, Phoenician and many other ancient and modern languages.

The Network

CAMNES and its scientific committee are connecting an international network of professionals and institutions to develop communication and synergy in joint archaeological projects.

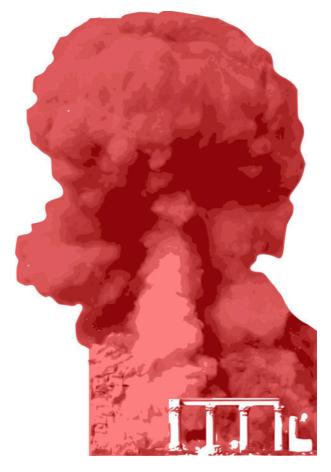
Several countries, including Jordan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Italy, and United States, are helping and actively participating in this growing vision of the ancient and contemporary Mediterranean and Near East.

Students, researchers and teachers gain access to international experiences, through the exchange of technical skills, scientific research and knowledge of ancient roots and opportunities for the future. The key for future development is the empowerment of people having access and understanding the past and its material culture. For this reason, CAMNES promotes public archaeology and archaeological management.

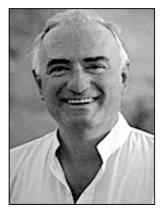
The Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies is actively collaborating with the University of Florence, whose members are part of the CAMNES Scientific Committee.

Starting in 2010, CAMNES has been the official partner of the excavation project of the University of Florence at Erimi-Laonin Tou Porakou (Cyprus) and in 2013 at Petra (Jordan). In March 2012 CAMNES and the University of Florence organized the 16th SOMA (Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology) in Florence with more than 350 participants. The proceedings have been published in 2013 with Archaeopress (Oxford). In February 2012, together with researchers from the University of Siena, CAMNES organized the 1st Roundtable on the Middle Paleolithic of Italy. In 2015 CAMNES organized together with the Egyptian Museum and the University of Florence the 11th International Congress of Egyptologists. A new archaeological project in Turkey with the University of Bologna will be activated in 2017.

In 2017, together with the LdM students of the MA in Museum Studies, CAMNES-LdM-Marist organized the exhibition 'Reflections of a Society' putting on display the Etruscan artifacts discovered during the archaeology field school at Tuscania.



The CAMNES Scientific Committee is formed by outstanding scholars who provide a comprehensive coverage of the various areas of interest of the Mediterranean and Near Eastern ancient past.



Prof. Giorgio Buccellati

Is Professor Emeritus of Ancient Near East and History of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the Department of History (NELC). He is actually the director of the Urkesh-Tell Mozan Excavation Project in Syria. His current areas of research are connected to Archaeological field work in the Khabur region; Computer analysis of Mesopotamian materials; Linguistic analysis of Akkadian and Eblaite; Stratigraphic analysis; Environmental conditions of historical development. He is also Director of the Mesopotamian Lab at Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, and at the IIMAS and IIMAS-Italia. He has published innumerable articles and monographs inherent to Amorites of the Ur III Period, the Cities and Nations of Ancient Syria, Terqa Excavation Reports, Structural Grammar of Babylonian and Mozan Excavation Reports.



Prof. Aaron A. Burke

Aaron A. Burke is Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and member of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he also serves as editor-in-chief of the Cotsen Press. From 2011 to 2014, as director of the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project, he conducted excavations of the New Kingdom Egyptian fortress in Jaffa, Israel. His research interests include warfare and society, Amorite cultures, Egyptian New Kingdom imperialism, environmental change, and the archaeology of ancient Israel. In 2017, he inaugurated, Turning Points, a multi-disciplinary research program aimed at exploring the transition between the Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age (ca. 1200–1000 B.C.) in the southern Levant.



Prof. Giovanni Alberto Cecconi

Is Associate Professor at the University of Florence in the Department of Antiquity Sciences where he teaches Ancient Roman History and Latin Epigraphy. He worked on imperial history and Late Antiquity, with particular emphasis on administrative history, religion, ideology and issues of power. He has published in Italian and other languages over fifty contributions including monographs, essays, articles, reviews and educational and informative articles. He has taught as Directeur d'Etudes at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Section V, Paris (2002). From 2005-2007, he served as secretary of the Consulting University of Greek and Roman historians.



Prof. Mario Liverani

Professor Emeritus, former professor of History of the Ancient Near East at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" from 1973 to 2011, he was Director of the Institute of Near Eastern Studies (1976-79) of the Department of Antiquity Sciences (1998-2000) and the Interuniversity Research Centre for the civilization and the environment of the ancient Sahara (1997-2006). Doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Copenhagen and the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, he is also an honorary member of the American Oriental Society, member of the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and of the Academia Europea. He has organized numerous international scientific meetings and was a member of several archaeological missions: Ebla, Syria (1964-1970), Terqa, Syria (1980-1983), Kurban Hüyük, Turkey (1981), Malatya, Turkey (1982-1995, 2008 -09), Tell Mozan, Syria (1986-1990), Baraqish, Yemen (1990), Acacus, Libya (1997-2004).









Prof. Massimo Cultraro

Is Archaeologist and Senior Researcher at the National Research Council (CNR), Istituto per i Beni Archaeologici e Monumentali, Catania (IBAM). Adjunct professor of Aegean Prehistory at the University of Palermo (Italy), he has been *Visiting Professor* at the Brown University, Rhode Island (USA) and is member of the Archaeological Institute of America and member of the Archaeological Society of Athens. His main research field is the archaeology of Minoan Crete, where he worked in Crete in the palatial sites at Haghia Triada and Festos; since 1992 he conducts research in the Bronze Age settlement at Poliochni, in the island of Lemnos (Greece).

Prof. Salima Ikram

Dr. Salima Ikram is Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, and has worked in Egypt since 1986. She has lived in Pakistan, the US, UK and Egypt. After double majoring in History as well as Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College (USA), she received her M. Phil. (in Museology and Egyptian Archaeology) and Ph.D. (in Egyptian archaeology) from Cambridge University. She has directed the Animal Mummy Project, co-directed the Predynastic Gallery project, and is Co-director of the North Kharga Oasis Survey. Dr. Ikram has worked on several excavations in Egypt as well as in the Sudan, Greece, and Turkey. Her research interests include death, daily life, archaeozoology, ethnoarchaeology, rock art, experimental archaeology, and the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. She has lectured on these and other subjects all over the world. Dr. Ikram has written several books (for adults and children) and articles, with subject matters ranging from mummification to the eating habits of the ancient Egyptians. She has also appeared on television.

Prof. Alessandro Naso

Former Full Professor für Ur- und Frühgeschichte at the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Alessandro Naso is Full Professor of Etruscology and Italic Antiquities at the University of Naples Federico II in Italy and director of the Institute of Studies on the Ancient Mediterranean of the National Research Council (CNR -ISMA). He is a scholar of the Etruscans and other pre-Roman cultures of Italy. He was a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, a consultant at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (Mainz) and Visiting Professor at the École Normale Superieure (Paris); Honorary Research Associate at McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Member of institutes and scientific committees of periodicals, he has organized study conferences and directed research projects, recently on the Valle del Marecchia and on the amber carvings found in the sanctuary of Artemis at Ephesus. He curated the edition of 'Etruscology' (Berlin, Boston 2017). He is currently working on the Etruscan and Italic finds of the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Prof. Stefania Mazzoni

Is Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Phoenician and Punic Archaeology at the University of Florence (Italy). She is Director of the Tell Afis joint project (Universities of Pisa, Bologna and Roma-La Sapienza), member of the Tell Mardikh/Ebla archaeological mission, and has been previously doing fieldwork at other Syrian sites (Tell Frey, Tell Tuqan). She is Director of the Cooperation Programme between the Universities of Damascus and Pisa, and has been organizing international conferences and courses. Her main research field is the archaeology of Syria during the Bronze and Iron Ages. She is the author of 110 scientific contributions, most relevant among which are the monograph: S.M. Cecchini, S. Mazzoni (Edd.), Tell Afis (Siria). Scavi sull'acropoli 1988-1992. The 1998-1992 Excavations on the Acropolis (Ricerche di Archeologia del Vicino Oriente 1), Pisa 1998, and a number of articles about the ceramic and glyptic production of Syro-Palestine in the third millennium BC.

Dr. Vincenzo Palleschi

Is a Senior Researcher of the Italian National Research Council and Qualified Full Professor of "Experimental Physics of Matter". He is the Head of the Applied and Laser Spectroscopy Laboratory, where new technologies and instrumentation are developed for applications in Industry, Environment, Forensic Science, Bio-medicine, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. He is Chief Editor of the Journal of Applied and Laser Spectroscopy (JALS), member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of the international journals Spectrochimica Acta B and Reviews in Analytical Chemistry; has published more than 150 scientific papers that have received over 3300 citations (H-index 32) and the book 'Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy, Principle and Applications', Eds. Andrzej Miziolek, Vincenzo Palleschi and Israel Schechter, Cambridge University Press (2006). He gives the courses of 'Archeometry' and 'Analytical Chemistry IV' at the University of Pisa, 'Chemical-Physical Methods for the Analysis of Materials' at Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, 'Physical Methods for Restoration / Multispectral Techiques' at the University of Turin. He is the coordinator of several national and international projects funded by governmental agencies and industry.



Dr. Gaetano Palumbo

Is Research Associate and Honorary Senior Lecturer at UCL-Qatar. He was Program Director - North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia - at the World Monuments Fund. He is member of UK/ICOMOS and Honorary Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His main qualifications are: Integrated management of archaeological sites and cultural resources, Documentation and conservation of archaeological and historic heritage, and Cultural Resources Management. He collaborated with the Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, California, USA (1994-2000), the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan (1990-1994) and the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma (1982-1984). He was Co-director of 3 major archaeological survey projects in Jordan (1987-2000) and coordinator of rescue excavations in Jordan (1990-1994). As consultant, coordinator and supervisor he was involved in several projects of conservation and management with the UNESCO, the University College London, the World Monuments Fund in Jordan (Petra), Morocco, Turkmenistan, Lebanon (Baalbek and Tyre), Iraq, Ethiopia, and Abu Dhabi. He presented more than 50 papers in conferences and symposia in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. He is the author of approximately 100 contributions on scientific journals and popular press printed in Europe, America, and the Near East, among which are the monographs: The Early

Bronze Age IV in the Southern Levant. Settlement patterns, Economy, and Material Culture of a 'Dark Age'. CMAO III, Roma: Università di Roma 1991, and Management Planning for Archaeological Sites (editor) Los



Prof. Annamaria Ronchitelli

Angeles: Getty 2002.

Is Associate Professor of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences at the University of Siena. She has been teaching for many years in the field of human paleontology and anthropology. She has participated in numerous conferences, national and international, working in some cases in their organization. Also, she has organized several museum exhibitions. She is the author of over eighty books and publications in national and international journals. She has participated at about a hundred excavations, since 1976, with directive responsibility, especially in southern Italy, on Middle and Upper Paleolithic sites. Some of them are known abroad (Grotta di Castelcivita, Grotta della Cala e Riparo del Molare – prov. di Salerno). She is currently head of research at Grotta Paglicci (Foggia), one of the most important paleolithic sites in the Mediterranean, on which is found the only known evidence of Palaeolithic parietal paintings in Italy.



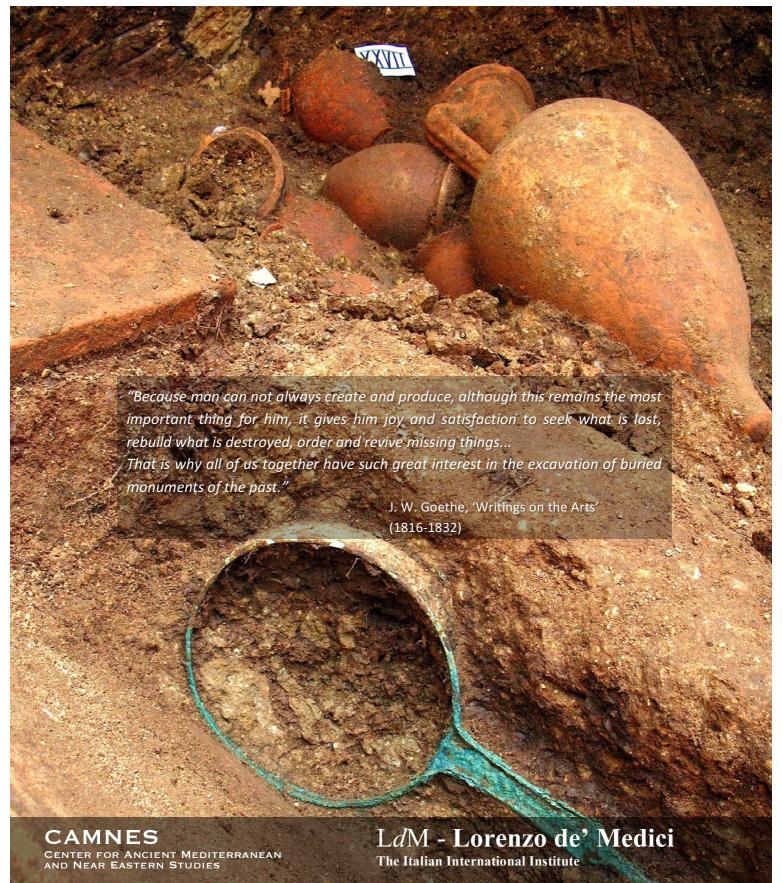
Prof. Adam T. Smith

Prof. Adam T. Smith is Goldwin Smith Professor of Anthropology at Cornell University. He is also cofounder of Project ArAGATS, a joint Armenian-American archaeological research program, and co-director
of the Aragats Foundation, a charitable organization focused on leveraging heritage resources to enhance
communities in central Armenia. Prof. Smith's research examines how the material world—everyday objects,
representational media, natural and built landscapes—has shaped human politics, religion, and society from
the Bronze Age to the present. The primary geographic focus of his research is the Bronze Age of the
Armenia and the wider South Caucasus, where he has worked since 1992. He is the author of numerous
books and articles including The Political Landscape: Constellations of Authority in Early Complex Polities
(California 2003) and The Political Machine: Assembling Sovereignty in the Bronze Age
Caucasus (Princeton 2015). A former Guggenheim Fellow, Prof. Smith's research has been supported by a
range of organizations from the National Science Foundation (USA) to National Geographic.



Prof. Jason Alik Ur

Is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. Professor Ur conducts research in ancient settlement patterns, land use, nomadism, urban origins and landscape archaeology of the Near East using field surveys, excavation techniques, remote sensing technology and CORONA satellite photography. Professor Ur has conducted field work at Tell Brak, Hamoukar, the Tell Beydar region in Syria, as well as the Mughan Steppe in Iran and the Hirbemerdon Tepe in Turkey. In addition, he has engaged in research exploring irrigation landscapes of the Assyrian Empire and ancient communication networks in northern Mesopotamia.



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