Decree of the Rector n. 408 of 07/05/2024

Competition for awarding 1 research grant at the University of Udine

DISCLAIMER:
The official and legally binding call for applications is in Italian only.
This document cannot be used for legal purposes and is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications (Decree of the Rector n. 408 of 07/05/2024). Please refer to the official call published on: https://www.uniud.it/it/albo-ufficiale

Any change and integration will be made available on the above-mentioned web page. Therefore, no personal written communication regarding the examination date and/or competition results shall be provided to applicants.

Annex 1

Call for applications for the award of 1 grant for the performance of research activities at the University of Udine on the topic "The Assyrian Empire and its prodromes. Settlement patterns, stratigraphic sequences and material culture between the Middle Bronze Age and the Iron Age in the Northern Iraq Transtigridian plains" SSD: L-OR/05 (principal investigator, Pierdaniele Morandi Bonacossi)

Research grant co-funded by the resources of the project PRIN 2022 - Prot. n. 2022NBP4AW

Art. 1

A selection proceeding is hereby announced for the award of 1 research grant at the University of Udine for the performance of the research activity identified in Annex A, which forms an integral and substantial part of this call. The research grant is linked to the research project on which it is based and is subject to the corresponding financial coverage.

The grant may be renewed with the winner in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) and the Regulations of the University of Udine for the awarding of research grants issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021, in the presence of a positive assessment by the scientific supervisor of the activity carried out by the research fellow, adequate scientific justification and related financial coverage, within the limits set out in Article 3, letters b) and c) below.

The research grant does not entitle the successful candidate to any rights as regards access to University roles.

Any personal communication to candidates relating to this selection will be sent exclusively to the email address indicated in the application form.
Art. 2
The activities covered by the research grant referred to in this call for competition and the admission requirements are indicated and described in Annex A. Failure to meet the admission requirements at the time of applying shall result in the exclusion of the candidate from the selection process.

Possession of a PhD qualification or equivalent qualification obtained abroad or, for the sectors concerned only, of a medical specialisation qualification accompanied by an adequate scientific production, constitutes a preferential requirement for the awarding of the grant envisaged for this selection, if it has not been mentioned as an admission requirement.

The Selection Board shall assess, for the sole purpose of admission to the competition, the suitability of any qualification obtained abroad, without prejudice to the assessment of the medical specialisation qualification to which Article 38, paragraph 3.1 of Legislative Decree 165/2001, as amended, and the relevant Community regulations apply.

The Board assesses the qualification obtained abroad based on the relevant documentation enclosed with the application to take part in the selection and may exclude the candidate if the submitted documentation does not provide sufficient elements for the assessment. Candidates are therefore invited to enclose all documentation in their possession relating to their qualifications in order to provide the Board with sufficient elements to assess their position.

Candidates are admitted to the selection process subject to a reservation and their exclusion, for failure to meet the requirements, may be ordered at any time by reasoned decision.

Art. 3
The research grant referred to in this call cannot be awarded to the following subjects:

a) Employees of Universities and the entities referred to in Article 22(1) of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022).

b) Recipients of previous research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, for the maximum period allowed by the regulations, excluding the period in which the grant was received in conjunction with a PhD, up to the legal duration of the relevant course.

c) Those who have already been awarded research grants and fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 for a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive.

d) Those who have a degree of kinship or relationship, up to and including the fourth degree, with:
   - The Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Udine.
   - The principal investigator or a professor/researcher belonging to the department or structure of interest where the research grant activity takes place.

The research grant referred to in this call cannot be cumulated with the following:

a) Awarded scholarships of any kind, except those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for supplementing, by means of stays abroad, the fellow's training or research activities.

b) Other research grants.
c) Employment relationships, even if part-time, without prejudice to the provisions of the regulations for employees of public administrations.

The grant referred to in this call is also incompatible with simultaneous attendance of degree courses, master's degrees, and PhDs with scholarships and medical specialisation, in Italy and abroad.

Persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence resulting in disqualification from holding public office or inability to contract with the public administration as a secondary penalty are not eligible for selection.

Art. 4
Applicants must submit, in the manner described in Article 5 below, the application to take part in the selection, duly signed in handwritten or digital form. An application without a signature will result in the exclusion of the candidate, except in the case of access through the use of the Public Digital Identity System (SPID) in which case the signature will not be necessary. The application must be uploaded in its entirety (i.e., every page), otherwise the applicant will be excluded from the selection.

Applicants must enclose the following with their application for participation in the selection, under penalty of exclusion:
1. The professional scientific curriculum vitae in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, highlighting the candidate's aptitude for carrying out and implementing the research programme.
2. Copy of valid identity document or other identification document. Citizens of non-EU countries must enclose a copy of their passport.
3. Limited to citizens of non-EU states residing or authorised to reside in Italy, a copy of their residence permit or authorisation to reside in Italy.
4. For candidates who cannot provide a self-certification under the conditions set out below, documentation proving possession of the academic qualification required for admission to the selection. Possession of a higher academic qualification does not exempt the candidate from producing such documentation, which, if missing, will result in exclusion:
   - Candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a European Union Member State must submit a declaration in lieu of certification and, if necessary, a notarial deed regarding the academic qualification needed for admission (indicating the academic qualification, the academic institution awarding the qualification, the year it was awarded and the mark obtained) and the publications and other qualifications held, indicating for each one all the identification details necessary for the Board's assessment. The application for participation counts as a declaration in lieu of certification of the declared academic qualification. If the subject matter of the declaration is not clearly identified in terms of its nature, duration, time setting and institution concerned, the selection board will disregard it. The Administration reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks on the truthfulness of the content of the declarations made; in the event of a false declaration, the provisions of Article 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and Articles 483, 485, and 486 of the Italian Criminal Code shall apply. The University will not take into account any certificates attached by candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a state belonging to the European Union.
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- **Citizens of a non-European Union State** must submit documents and qualifications in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, under penalty of exclusion from the selection or, as the case may be, non-assessment. Documents and titles, originally in a different language, must be accompanied by a translation, made by the candidate under his or her responsibility, into Italian or English or any other language indicated in Appendix A. With reference to the dissertation only, the translation may be limited to an extended abstract.

- **Citizens of a non-EU State regularly residing in Italy** may use declarations in lieu of certification only in respect of states, personal qualities or facts that can be certified or attested to by Italian public bodies, without prejudice to the special provisions contained in the laws and regulations governing immigration and the status of foreigners.

- **Citizens of non-EU states authorised to reside in Italy** may use the aforementioned declarations in cases where they are produced pursuant to international conventions between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Applicants may also enclose with their application for assessment purposes their publications and any other qualification deemed useful to prove their qualification in relation to the research programme described in Annex A and to certify any research activity carried out in public and/or private entities (with the indication of the starting date and duration). The submission modalities are similar to those indicated in point 4 of the previous paragraph.

Only the qualifications possessed by the candidate on the date of submission of the application for selection and presented in accordance with Article 5 will be assessed.

Any exclusion from the selection procedure due to lack of eligibility requirements, absence of mandatory documents, failure to sign the application to take part in the selection or submission of the application in a manner other than that provided for in this call will be communicated to the parties concerned exclusively by email to the email address indicated in the application to take part in the selection.

**Art. 5**

Registration for this selection will begin on May 17, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Italian time) and will end on May 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Italian time).

The application to take part in the selection must be completed, under penalty of exclusion, using the appropriate online procedure, available at [https://pica.cineca.it/](https://pica.cineca.it/).

For those who do not already have a user account, the procedure involves a registration phase for the applicant, and a subsequent phase for completing the application online.

Once completed, the application must be signed in the manner (handwritten signature, with attached identity document, or digital signature) described in the online procedure, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. The application does not have to be signed if the above-mentioned online procedure is accessed using the Sistema Pubblico di Identità Digitale (SPID - Digital ID Public System). In the case of a handwritten signature, the applicant must upload the application to the system in its entirety. The information entered in the application form shall constitute a declaration in lieu of certification and affidavit, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000.
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The qualifications referred to in Article 4 must be attached to the application in .pdf format. Individual files, in .pdf format, may not exceed 30MB in size. It is not permitted to submit attachments to the application in the form of links to files residing on "online storage/file sharing" services or web pages. Reference may not be made to documents or publications submitted to this or other administrations or documents attached to the application for participation in another selection procedure.

The application for participation in the selection is automatically sent to the University of Udine with the final closure of the online procedure.

The University Administration:
- accepts no liability if it is impossible to read the submitted documentation in electronic format due to damaged files;
- does not accept or take into consideration qualifications or documents received in paper form or by any other means than those specified in this article.

The Administration accepts no liability in the event of incorrect indication by the candidate of his/her email address or in the event of failure or delay in communicating a change in the email address indicated in the application, nor for any digital transmission errors attributable to third parties, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.

Applicants are advised not to wait until the last few days before the deadline to submit their application. The University accepts no liability for any malfunctions due to technical problems and/or overloading of the communication line and/or application systems.

Art. 6
The selection test takes place according to the modalities set out in Annex A.

The test will aim to ascertain the candidates' preparation, experience and research aptitude. It will consist of an assessment of the professional scientific curriculum, publications and titles submitted, and an interview, where applicable.

Failure of the candidate to attend the interview will be considered as withdrawal from the selection, whatever the cause.

Candidates who intend to avail themselves of the benefits provided for by Article 20 of Law no. 104 of 1992 (need for assistance, possible use of additional time for the performance of examination tests) in relation to their disability situation, must declare this and accompany the application with appropriate medical certification in order to allow the Administration to prepare in time the means and tools to guarantee the statutory benefits; failure to submit the medical certification exempts the Administration from any obligation in this regard.

Art. 7
The Competition Selection Board is identified in Annex A to this call, of which it forms an integral part. At its first meeting, the Board appoints the Chairperson and the Secretary taking the minutes, and establishes the criteria and procedures for assessing the qualifications and the interview, where applicable.
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The results of the assessment must be made known to the parties concerned at the interview, where provided for.

The Board can attribute to the selection a total number of 100 points (one hundred hundredths). At the end of its work, the Board formulates the overall merit list based on the total marks obtained by each candidate and draws up the minutes of the competition operations.

The grant may be awarded, subject to the ranking list, to candidates who have obtained a minimum overall mark of 70/100 (seventy hundredths).

The Board's judgement is final on the merits.

The ranking list will be made public exclusively by publication on the University's official notice board; the outcome of the assessment will not be the subject of personal communication to candidates.

Those who do not declare their acceptance of the research grant and do not present themselves at the structure where the research activities are to be carried out to sign the contract by the deadline communicated by the same to the email address indicated by the candidate in the application shall forfeit their right to the research grant, except for health reasons or reasons of force majeure duly documented and promptly notified.

Candidates holding qualifications obtained abroad, if successful, must submit the following, if not already attached to the application:

- **For degrees issued by a country that is a party to the Lisbon Convention (https://www.enic-naric.net/), the following documentation:**
  - Supplement Diploma or similar certificate in English issued by the competent University.
  - "Certificate of Verification of Foreign Qualification - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "diplome" service at https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login

- **For degrees issued by a country not party to the Lisbon Convention (https://www.enic-naric.net/), one of the following options:**
  - Declaration of the on-site value of the qualification held and the certificate relating to the qualification with examinations and grades. The certificate in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation into one of those languages (certified by the competent diplomatic-consular authority or sworn at a court in Italy).
  - "Certificate of Comparability and Verification of Foreign Qualifications - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "diplome" service at https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login

If the aforementioned documentation is not available at the time of the conclusion of the contract, the candidate must prove that he or she has requested it and submit it as soon as possible; if it is not submitted within six months of the start of the contract, the candidate will forfeit the contract and will be required to repay any related sums received to date.
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Art. 8

The research activity cannot be started before the contract defining the terms of the collaboration is signed.

The activity covered by the research grant must have the following characteristics:

a) Be carried out in the context of the research programme covered by the grant and not be a purely technical support to the same.

b) Close connection with the implementation of the research programme that is the subject of the relationship with the winner.

c) Having a continuous and in any case temporally defined character, not merely occasional, and in coordination with the overall activity of the University.

d) Performance in a condition of autonomy, within the sole limits of the programme prepared by the Head of the same, without predetermined working hours.

The research fellow is obliged to submit a detailed written report on the work carried out and the results achieved, together with the opinion of the scientific supervisor, to the reference structure within the deadlines laid down in the contract. The research fellow will also have to submit interim reports and time sheets if requested by the reference structure and/or the scientific supervisor.

The research fellow is bound to strict confidentiality regarding the data and information to which he/she becomes privy in the course of his/her research activity. At the request of the scientific coordinator, he/she will be required to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

The industrial property rights to the results obtained by the research fellow in the performance of the research activity belong exclusively to the University, without prejudice to the moral right of the research fellow to be recognised as an author or inventor.

The University reserves the right to revoke this call for competition for reasons of public interest, should the research project and/or the financial backing on which the research grant is based cease to exist. Should these causes arise after the contract has been signed, the University may terminate the contract without notice.

Art. 9

The following apply to the grant under this call:

- On tax matters, the provisions of Article 4 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended.
- On social security matters, the provisions of Article 2(26) et seq. of Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as amended.
- On compulsory maternity leave, the provisions of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007.
- On sick leave, the provisions of Article 1(788) of Law No 296 of 27 December 2006, as amended.

During the period of compulsory maternity leave, the allowance paid by INPS pursuant to Article 5 of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007 is supplemented by the University up to the full amount of the research grant.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments in arrears.
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Art. 10
The data collected as part of the procedure referred to in Article 5 is necessary for the proper management of the selection procedure, for the possible subsequent management of the research grant and purposes related to the management of the services provided by the University. The University of Udine is the Data Controller. At any time, the data subject may request access, rectification and, compatibly with the institutional purposes of the University, cancellation and restriction of processing or may object to the processing of his/her data. He/she can always lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority. The full information is available on the University of Udine website in the “Privacy” section accessible from the home page www.uniud.it Direct Link: https://www.uniud.it/it/it/pagine-speciali/guida/privacy

Art. 11
For any matters not expressly mentioned in this call, reference is made to the relevant regulations in force cited in the introduction and to the "Internal regulations for the award of research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021.

Art. 12
The official in charge of the proceeding is Dr. Sandra Salvador, Head of the Research Services Area of the University of Udine.

The reference office at the University of Udine is the “Area Servizi per la Ricerca - Ufficio Formazione per la Ricerca”, Via Mantica 31 - 33100 Udine.

To request information on the call, please complete the following form available on the University of Udine website: https://helpdesk.uniud.it/SubmitSR.jsp?type=req&accountId=universityofudine&populateSR_id=42105
### DECRETO RETTORALE

#### Annex A

**Responsabile scientifico della ricerca / Principal investigator:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nome e cognome / Name and surname</th>
<th>Pierdaniele Morandi Bonacossi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifica / Position</td>
<td>Professore Ordinario / Full Professor</td>
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<td>Area MUR / Research field</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Risponsabile scien
tifico del l’area / Principal investigator:**

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Titolo dell’assegno di ricerca / Topic of the research fellowship “assegno di ricerca”:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testo in italiano</th>
<th>L'impero assiro e i suoi prodromi. Modelli insediativi, sequenze stratigrafiche e cultura materiale tra il Bronzo Medio e l’età del Ferro nelle pianure transtigridane dell’Iraq settentrionale.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Testo in English</td>
<td>The Assyrian Empire and its prodromes. Settlement patterns, stratigraphic sequences and material culture between the Middle Bronze Age and the Iron Age in the Northern Iraq Transtigridian plains.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Obiettivi previsti e risultati attesi del programma di ricerca in cui si colloca l’attività dell’assegno di ricerca / Foreseen objectives and results of the research programme performed by the research fellowship “assegno di ricerca”:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testo in italiano</th>
<th>Il progetto si prefigge di ricostruire i prodromi dell'impero assiro, ossia la sua prima formazione nel II mill. a.C. e i suoi meccanismi di espansione attraverso l’analisi dei modelli insediativi, delle sequenze stratigrafiche e della cultura materiale. Grazie al lavoro del Progetto Archeologico Regionale Terra di Ninive (PARTeN), attivo nella regione tra le pianure transtigride e il pedemonte della catena montuosa degli Zagros (provincia di Duhok) dal 2012, il progetto si avvale dei dati della ricognizione di superficie (3.000 km²), della sequenza insediativa del sito di Tell Gomel (Età del Bronzo Medio, del Bronzo Tardo e del Ferro) e della relativa cultura materiale e delle infrastrutture per la gestione della rete idrica costruita durante l’impero neo-assiro. La disseminazione dei risultati sarà diretta sia alla comunità scientifica (pubblicazioni su riviste peer-reviewed, partecipazione a convegni internazionali), sia a un pubblico più vasto (account social dedicati, attività per le comunità locali).</th>
</tr>
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<td>Testo in English</td>
<td>The project aims to reconstruct the prodromes of the Assyrian empire, namely its first formation in the 2nd millennium BC and its expansion mechanisms through the analysis of the settlement patterns, stratigraphic sequences and material culture. Thanks to the work of the Archeological Regional Project of Ninive (PARTeN), active in the region between the transtigridian plains and the piedmont of the Zagros mountains (province of Duhok) since 2012, the project makes use of the data of the surface survey (3,000 km²), the settlement sequence of the site of Tell Gomel (Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age) and the related material culture and infrastructures for the management of the network of the water system constructed during the Neo-Assyrian period. The dissemination of the results will be directed both to the scientific community (publications in peer-reviewed journals, participation in international conferences), and to a wider public (social media accounts, activities for local communities).</td>
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**Obiettivi del progetto**

| Testo in italiano | Il principale obiettivo è costituito dalla comprensione delle profonde trasformazioni in atto nelle pianure transtigride e nel pedemonte dello Zagros prima della creazione dell'impero assiro e durante la sua esistenza. Al fine di raggiungere questo obiettivo, il progetto si |
concentrerà su 1) cambiamenti nei modelli insediativi, con focus sull'analisi della distribuzione della ceramica; 2) l'indagine della sequenza stratigrafica del sito di Tell Gomel tra il Bronzo Medio e l'età del Ferro, allo scopo di mettere in luce i cambiamenti sia nei quartieri abitativi (dalle residenze del Bronzo Medio ai quartieri produttivi del Ferro) che nei costumi funerari (dalle tombe a camera del Bronzo Medio alle sepolture a incinerazione di epoca neo-assira) e nella cultura materiale; 3) l'indagine delle infrastrutture per la gestione della rete idrica dell'impero assiro, in particolare dell'acquedotto di Jerwan. La prospettiva diacronica sarà fondamentale per ricostruire i cambiamenti del territorio e delle comunità: si prenderà in esame l’arco cronologico tra gli inizi del II millennio a.C. (Bronzo Medio), attraverso il tardo II millennio (Bronzo Tardo), fino all'I millennio a.C. (Ferro), quando l'impero assiro raggiunse la sua massima espansione.

Stato dell'arte
La storia della ricerca sull'impero assiro è tradizionalmente caratterizzata da un approccio di tipo storiografico, focalizzato sulle fonti scritte rinvenute nelle grandi capitali dell'impero o in centri urbani provinciaiali di primaria importanza. Esse trattano temi quali l'ideologia, l'amministrazione, la vita di corte, la guerra, la religione e la propaganda. Sono ancora pochissimi gli studi di carattere archeologico non basati esclusivamente sui dati delle fonti cuneiformi (Parker 2001; Düring 2020). Il progetto qui proposto mira a colmare il vuoto nella ricerca attraverso l’approccio archeologico allo studio dell’impero assiro e dei suoi prodromi, concentrandosi sulle trasformazioni negli insediamenti e nella cultura materiale. I risultati finora raggiunti dal progetto PARTeN sono di primaria importanza per la ricerca proposta (Morandi Bonacossi e Iamoni 2015; Morandi Bonacossi 2018; Morandi Bonacossi et al. 2018).

Descrizione del progetto
Il progetto si articola nelle seguenti diretrici di ricerca: 1) prospettiva diacronica (dal Bronzo Medio all'età del Ferro, periodo neo-assiro): 1a) studio e analisi della sequenza stratigrafica portata alla luce nel sito di Tell Gomel, sia nel quartiere abitativo che nella necropoli; 1b) studio dei materiali ceramicì da Tell Gomel per mettere in luce aspetti di cambiamento e continuità nella loro produzione e uso; 1c) analisi della ceramica dalla ricognizione archeologica di superficie mirata a contribuire alla ricostruzione dei modelli insediativi. 2) Periodo neo-assiro: si condurrà l'indagine delle infrastrutture per la gestione delle risorse idriche del territorio, fondamentali per la produzione agricola nella regione, concentrandosi sull’acquedotto di Jerwan.

WP 2. Analisi della sequenza stratigrafica di Tell Gomel: a) architettura e uso degli spazi tra il Bronzo Medio e l’Età del Ferro; b) analisi dei materiali ceramici e di Tell Gomel per mettere in luce aspetti di cambiamento e continuità nella loro produzione e uso; c) analisi della ceramica dalla ricognizione archeologica di superficie mirata a contribuire alla ricostruzione dei modelli insediativi.
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| Possibili potenzialità applicative | L'impatto scientifico principale consiste nella definizione di un approccio archeologico per l’analisi della formazione e funzionamento dell’impero assiro sul territorio, con particolare riferimento alle trasformazioni degli insediamenti e della cultura materiale tra il II e il I mill. a.C. L’approccio archeologico sarà integrato dal dialogo con altre discipline (antropologia fisica, archeozoologia, archeobotanica), che contribuiranno all’elaborazione di un quadro completo delle trasformazioni del territorio e della società tra il II e il I mill. a.C.

Il progetto avrà una importante ricaduta sociale determinata dal coinvolgimento delle comunità locali e dei colleghi archeologi della Direzione delle Antichità di Duhok. Le comunità locali saranno coinvolte nel lavoro di scavo e in attività di divulgazione, rivolte soprattutto bambini in età scolare, e mirate a condividere la storia del territorio e l’importanza della sua protezione. Gli archeologi collaboreranno nelle attività di scavo e saranno di supporto nella divulgazione. Il progetto si propone di realizzare attività di disseminazione sia in forma di comunicazioni scientifiche su riviste referate che di partecipazione a convegni internazionali. I risultati e i lavori nel corso del progetto saranno condivisi attraverso canali dedicati sulle piattaforme di social media per raggiungere un ampio pubblico.

| Bibliografia |

### DECRETO RETTORALE

**Text in English:**

| **Abstract** | The project aims to reconstruct the prodromes of the Assyrian Empire, i.e., its first formation in the 2nd millennium BC and the mechanisms behind its expansion through the analysis of settlement patterns, stratigraphic sequences, and material culture. Thanks to the work of the Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project (LoNAP), which has been active in the region between the Transtigridian Plains and the foothills of the Zagros Mountain range (Duhok province) since 2012, the project will make use of data from the surface survey (3,000 km²), the settlement sequence of Tell Gomel (Middle Bronze, Late Bronze, and Iron Ages), and its material culture, as well as the water management infrastructures built during the Neo-Assyrian Empire. The dissemination of the results will address both the scientific community (publications in peer-reviewed journals, participation in international conferences) and a wider public (dedicated social accounts, activities for local communities). |
| **Objectives of the project** | The main objective is to understand the profound transformations taking place in the Transtigridian Plains and the Zagros foothills before the creation of the Assyrian Empire and during its existence. To achieve this objective, the project will focus on 1) changes in settlement patterns, with a focus on distribution of pottery; 2) the investigation of the stratigraphic sequence of Tell Gomel between the Middle Bronze and Iron Ages, with the aim of highlighting changes in both residential areas (from the Middle Bronze Age buildings to the Iron Age workshop quartiers) and funerary customs (from Middle Bronze Age chamber tombs to Neo-Assyrian incineration burials), and in material culture; 3) the investigation of the water management infrastructures built during the Assyrian Empire, in particular, the Jerwan aqueduct. The diachronic perspective will be fundamental for reconstructing the changes in the territory and in the societies: the chronological span between the early 2nd millennium BC (Middle Bronze Age), through the late 2nd millennium (Late Bronze Age), up to the 1st millennium BC (Iron Age), when the Assyrian Empire reached its maximum expansion, will be examined. |
| **State of the art** | The history of research on the Assyrian empire is traditionally characterized by a historiographical approach, focusing on written sources from the empire’s great capitals or major provincial urban centers. They deal with topics such as ideology, administration, court life, warfare, religion, and propaganda. However, there are still very few archaeological studies that are not exclusively based on data from cuneiform sources (Parker 2001; Düring 2020). The project proposed here aims to fill the gap in research through the archaeological approach to the study of the Assyrian empire and its prodromes, focusing on transformations in settlement and material culture. The results achieved so far by the LoNAP project are of primary importance for the proposed research (Morandi Bonacossi and Iamonì 2015; Morandi Bonacossi 2018; Morandi Bonacossi et al. 2018). |
### Project description

The project is divided into the following research axes: 1) Diachronic perspective (from the Middle Bronze to the Iron Age, Neo-Assyrian period): 1a) Study and analysis of the stratigraphic sequence brought to light at the site of Tell Gomel, both in the residential area and in the necropolis. 1b) Study of the ceramic materials from Tell Gomel to highlight aspects of change and continuity in their production and use. 1c) Analysis of the pottery from the archaeological survey aimed at contributing to the reconstruction of settlement patterns. 2) Neo-Assyrian period: The investigation of the infrastructures for water management, fundamental for agricultural production in the region, will be conducted, focusing on the Jerwan aqueduct.

The methodology is divided into 4 Work Packages (WP):

**WP1.** Investigation of changes in settlement patterns: ceramic analysis from the archaeological survey.

**WP2.** Analysis of the stratigraphic sequence of Tell Gomel: a) Architecture and use of space between the Middle Bronze and Iron Ages. b) Analysis of the necropolis and the changes in burial customs, from the monumental chamber tombs of the Middle Bronze Age to the simple cist tombs with prestige goods (gold, semi-precious stones) of the Middle Assyrian period (Late Bronze Age) to the incineration graves (Neo-Assyrian period). In collaboration with the project’s physical anthropologist, the individuals found will be analyzed to reconstruct their diet, kinship relationships, and origin. The data on the subsistence of the communities of Tell Gomel between the 2nd and 1st millennium BC will be enriched by collaboration with the project’s archaeozoologist and archaeobotanist.

**WP3.** Analysis of the continuity and changes in the material culture of Tell Gomel between the Middle Bronze and Iron Ages with a focus on the chrono-typological and technological characteristics of the materials (use of archaeometric analyses).

**WP4:** Investigation of the hydraulic infrastructures built during the Neo-Assyrian Empire to enhance land occupation and agricultural production: extension of the excavation of the Jerwan aqueduct, to clarify its size structure and functioning in relation to the canal.

### Possible application potentialities

The primary scientific impact will be the development of an archaeological approach for analyzing the formation and functioning of the Assyrian empire on the ground, particularly focusing on the changes in settlements and material culture between the 2nd and 1st millennium BC. This archaeological approach will be complemented by interdisciplinary dialogue with other fields such as physical anthropology, archaeozoology, and archaeobotany to provide a comprehensive understanding of the territorial and societal transformations during this period.

The project will also have a significant social impact through the involvement of local communities and archaeologists from the Directorate of Antiquities in Duhok. Local communities will be involved in the excavation work and in outreach activities, primarily targeting school children, to share the history of the area and
emphasize the importance of its preservation. Archaeologists will collaborate in excavation activities and support in dissemination efforts. Dissemination activities will encompass scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and participation in international conferences. The results and work during the project will be shared through dedicated social media channels to reach a wide audience.

References

DECRETO RETTORALE

Requisiti di ammissione / Minimum qualifications necessary:

Possesso del titolo di Dottore di ricerca o titolo equivalente conseguito all’estero. / Possession of a Research doctorate or equivalent qualification obtained abroad.

Modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione / Arrangements for the submission of documents:

La modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione è specificata all’art. 4 del bando. / The way of presenting the documentation under evaluation is specified in art. 4 of the present notice.

Ai fini valutativi, i candidati potranno presentare le pubblicazioni e ogni altro titolo ritenuto utile a comprovare la propria qualificazione in relazione al programma di ricerca descritto nell’Allegato A, nelle seguenti lingue: / For evaluation purposes, candidates may present publications and any other qualifications deemed useful to demonstrate their qualification in relation to the research program described in Attachment A, in the following languages:

- Italiano / Italian
- Inglese / English

Procedura selettiva / Competition procedure:

Valutazione per soli titoli. / Assessment of qualifications only.

Commissione giudicatrice / Examining Board:

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