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Editorial

Within a few weeks, we editors of *ex oriente* paved the way for three important publications (D. Henry and J. Beaver, eds., on Ayn Abū Nukhayla; by guest editors M. Benz and J. Bauer the pioneering *Neo-Lithics* 2/13 special issue on *The Symbolic Construction of Community*; the book of M. Kinzel on the architecture of Shkārat Msaied and Ba'ja in our *SENEPSE* series). We are proud of these publications, as are our co-editors Reinder Neef and Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow.

But this would not be an editorial of Neo-Lithics, if we would not be thoughtful about this output: Who can read all these, process all the information, and who can afford to buy all these, in addition to the rapidly increasing enormous output of equally important publications on the Near Eastern Neolithic by other authors, editors and publishing houses? And even more problematic: Who can intellectually and fairly evaluate the constantly emerging new approaches and schools of thought? If one has to publish one's own material and thoughts without first consulting the eruption of new literature for one's own topic, doesn't this severely impact the academic quality, discourse and progress of one's own publications? More and more we see that colleagues apparently were unaware of recently published materials and ideas on their subjects and have forged ahead in order to cope with the publishing constraints.

Research has become governed by highly problematic tools and concepts since it is fueled by various uncontrollable acceleration mechanisms and developments, such as funding institutions that grant shorter and shorter research terms, the "authority" of rating systems in academic publishing, the ever-growing possibilities of the internet and computer software; the list goes on and on. Does what has been thought to facilitate research gradually become the grave digger of research? Can we continue to hope that things are not that dramatic or worse?

Hans Georg K. Gebel and Gary Rollefson

Göbekli Tepe. Preliminary Report on the 2012 and 2013 Excavation Seasons

Oliver Dietrich, Çiğdem Köksal-Schmidt, Cihat Kürkçüoğlu, Jens Notroff, and Klaus Schmidt

Most recent excavation seasons at the Pre-Pottery Neolithic hill sanctuary of Göbekli Tepe have been largely dedicated to essential provisions in advance of construction work on the permanent shelter for Enclosures A-D. In 2012 deep soundings down to the natural bedrock were made in the main excavation area in the south-eastern depression of the tell; these soundings will provide the foundations for the struts of the permanent shelter. In the meantime a preliminary wooden shelter has been installed (Fig. 1). The erection of this preliminary structure addresses the urgent need for the protection of the prehistoric remains in this area; furthermore, it will provide a platform for building work on the permanent membrane shelter which is expected to commence next year. A similar shelter structure will also be installed in the north-western depression of the mound where new excavation areas were opened in 2011. Preparations for this third structure were the focus of our 2013 excavation seasons.

Work in the Main Excavation Area

In the main excavation area in the south-eastern depression of the tell an older layer (III) dating to the PPNA is superimposed by a younger layer (II) that is assigned to the early and middle PPNB. While layer III is well known for its eminent monumental architecture with its towering T-shaped pillars, the younger layer II is characterised by smaller rectangular buildings, often with only two small central pillars or none at all. While a total of six deep soundings were excavated down to the bedrock in 2011, all remaining soundings in this excavation area were completed in the autumn season of 2012. A positive effect of the



Fig. 1 The preliminary shelter erected in 2013 at the main excavation area of Göbekli Tepe (Photo: K. Schmidt, DAI).

soundings – which in some cases exceeded depths of five metres – has been the unprecedented insights that these have provided with respect to the structure of the site. Three soundings situated immediately adjacent to Enclosures C and D also produced significant quantities of charred botanical remains, a first at Göbekli Tepe, these at last providing sufficient organic material for the generation of an extended series of radiocarbon ages (reported on in the last issue of Neo-Lithics: Dietrich *et al.* 2013).

In addition, work in area L9-85 - at the southern edge of the main excavation area - has helped clarify the entrance situation of Enclosure C (Fig. 2). This stone circle, which comprises a number of concentric, interwoven walls with pillars, has an overall diameter of approximately 30m. The floor of the enclosure was created by cutting and smoothing the natural bedrock, which also included the carving of two pedestals, each about 30cm high, to hold the two central pillars. Notably, both central pillars were destroyed in antiquity; their shattered remains were found in the lower part of a (prehistoric) robber pit. A virtual reconstruction using modern laser scanning techniques shows that one of these central pillars (P35) was originally some 5 metres tall.

The pillars of this enclosure are adorned with numerous reliefs, first and foremost depictions of wild boars. Structure and layout were changed considerably during its operating life. An early, and later blocked, entrance situation consisted of a narrow passage way between two parallel, narrowly-set walls which branch off southwards from its centre; these walls are made of massive stone slabs that are worked on all sides. A further large stone slab protrudes into this passage way. Although not completely preserved, it is likely that this slab would have once been furnished with a central opening (or portal). At some point, this opening had been *walled up*, as testified by the two lowermost courses of a blocking wall which were found preserved in-situ. On the southern side of the porthole-stone, just below the opening and accosting visitors to the enclosure using this passage way, there is the low-relief of a boar lying on its back.But the porthole stone is just one element of a much more refined entry to the enclosure. To the south of the porthole-stone a large U-shaped monolith was discovered, the left-hand column of which is crowned by the carved sculpture of a predator; unfortunately, the top of the right-hand column of the monolith was not preserved, though it too may also have featured a similar guardian figure. Together with the porthole slab it marked the entrance to Enclosure C. A new element in this situation was discovered in 2012. A stairway

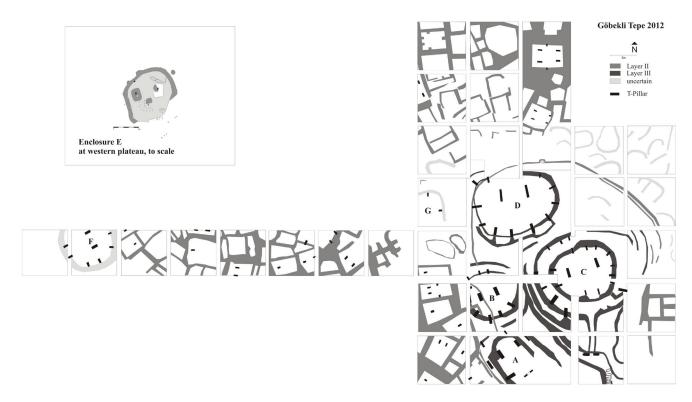


Fig. 2 Schematic plan of the excavation at Göbekli Tepe (main excavation area and summit of the south-western mound) (Plan: K. Schmidt and J. Notroff, DAI).



Fig. 3 Entrance situation to Enclosure C with stairway (Photo: N. Becker, DAI / Plan: K. Schmidt and J. Notroff, DAI).

with (so far) eight steps (Fig. 3) was constructed to bridge a dip in the bedrock leading up to the original entrance of Enclosure C; however, further excavations will be needed before we fully understand the implications of this particular feature.

Deep Soundings in the North-Western Depression

The aim of new excavation areas opened in the northwestern depression of the mound in 2011 was to ascertain whether the situation here would be similar to the one already encountered in the main excavation area in the south-eastern depression. As archaeological work in this area was preceded by geophysical survey, it came as no surprise when evidence for monumental enclosures began to appear in these new trenches. Subsequently also PPNB (Layer II) structures (which had not been visible in the georadar imaging) were discovered.

One focus of our work in the north-western depression of the tell in 2013 was the excavation of seven deep soundings to test suitable locations for supporting struts of the planned shelter. Bedrock was reached in four of these soundings; intriguingly, in two of the soundings the bedrock appears to have been artificially worked. Partially utilising and expanding natural faults, channels had been dug into the bedrock which were then covered and protected by stone slabs (Fig. 4). Large-scale excavations will be required to reveal the extent of these modifications and to show if and how these structures were connected to the cisterns located on the plateaus (Herrmann and Schmidt 2012).



Fig. 4 Example of one of the channels dug into the bedrock and covered with stones. In situ situation in the sounding in area K10-35 (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).



Fig. 5 Overhead view of area K10-53 showing the complex architectural remains and large limestone vessel (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).

In two further deep soundings complex building structures were revealed. Subsequently, excavation trenches – measuring 9 x 9 metres – were opened in these areas. In one of these squares (K10-36) in the northern part of the excavation area, several east-west oriented wall sections were exposed, forming at least one room which also produced the shaft remains from a T-shaped pillar.

In area K10-53, the other newly opened trench, a more complex situation with an agglomeration of several oval shaped rooms appeared, some containing (multilayered) terrazzo floors (Fig. 5). Next to – or rather among – these building structures, a large stationary limestone vessel of the type previously associated with production and consumption of beer was discovered (Dietrich *et al.* 2012). It has a capacity of about 240l and is as such the largest of these vessels so far discovered at Göbekli Tepe.



Fig. 6 Overhead view of area K10-24 showing the fragment of one of the damaged central pillars (P 63) of Enclosure H in the north-western corner, pillars 55 and 57, and the remaining shaft fragment of P64 between them. Also visible is the surrounding wall of Enclosure H and part of another wall to its south (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).



Fig. 7 Pillar 57 carries the relief of two antithetic snakes with a round object between them (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).

In the two remaining soundings, located in areas K10-05 and K10-13, the most important discovery comprised considerable amounts of charred botanical material. A large number of samples could be taken; these will not only help expand our knowledge of the PPN environment at Göbekli Tepe (Neef 2003) but will also provide important organic samples for radiocarbon dating the features exposed in the new excavation areas, *i.e.* comparable to similar recent developments in the main excavation area (Dietrich *et al.* 2013).

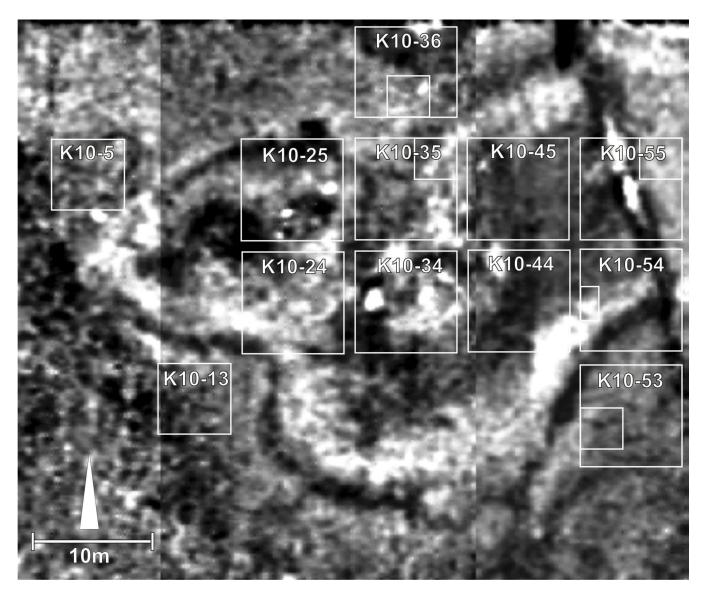


Fig. 8 Excavation areas at the north-western depression of Göbekli Tepe superimposed onto the GPR radargram (timeslice 50cm) (Radargram: GGH Solutions in Geosciences; Plan: J. Notroff, DAI).

Enclosure H

In 2011, one of the central pillars and four pillars of the surrounding ring of a new enclosure (Enclosure H) were discovered. The central pillar had been toppled and broken in antiquity, thus mirroring the situation already attested in Enclosure C (Schmidt 2008, 63-66). In the autumn season of 2013, the ring-wall of this enclosure was excavated in area K10-24, the northern section of this trench clearly shows the remains of a large pit that had been dug to locate and damage the central pillars. A newly discovered large pillar fragment found in this context probably belongs to the second of the pillars that stood at the centre of this enclosure (Fig. 6).

Excavations of Pillars 55 and 57 belonging to the circle surrounding the central pillars of this enclosure were continued. On the front of P57 a new relief was discovered (Fig. 7). This relief comprises two antithetic snakes shown flanking a round object. P55 remains void of reliefs so far. Post-use destruction

of Enclosure H is further indicated by the remaining shaft fragment of a pillar located between P55 and P 57 that was also smashed in antiquity. Further, the wall of the enclosure - with a niche and bank structure similar to those observed in other enclosures in the main excavation area - shows considerable signs of (post-use) disturbance. During geo-radar survey (Fig. 8), a somewhat diffuse picture was recorded for the southern part of Enclosure H, perhaps indicating a possible overlap of this with another, much larger enclosure. Excavation revealed the small part of a wall that appears to run parallel to the circlewall of Enclosure H, confirming the existence of a much more complicated architectural situation than indicated by geo-radar results. Between these walls a staircase-like structure was discovered. Further work in this and adjacent areas will be needed to clarify this situation.

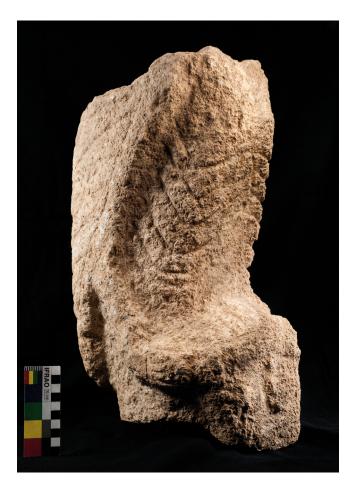


Fig. 9 Fragment of a sculpture from Göbekli Tepe: a large bird holding a human head (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).



Fig. 10 Fragment of a pillar from Göbekli Tepe with the image of a vulture with outstretched wings (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).

New Iconographical Finds

The iconographical repertoire from Göbekli Tepe can be supplemented by several recent finds from the site. In 2012 the fragment of a sculpture depicting a large bird with a more than life-size human head in its talons (an image already well known from Nevalı Cori) was found in a deep sounding in trench L9-84 in the main excavation area (Fig. 9). As in Nevalı Çori (cf. Hauptmann 1999: 76, fig. 13-14) incised lines seem to depict a headdress or a hair net that resembles the net-like coverings also known from plastered human skulls in the Southern Levant (cf. e.g. Yakar and Hershkovitz 1988). As such, this may suggest a relation between the special treatment of skulls in PPN burial ritual and the almost life-size sculptures of heads from Göbekli Tepe (cf. Becker et al. 2012: 34-36; Notroff et al. in prep.). In the case of the sculpture from Göbekli, the nose is clearly visible, while the mouth is not depicted. As in Nevalı Çori, the upper part of the body and the head of the bird had been struck off. However, in the newly discovered sculpture the tail, wings, and belly of the bird are preserved. Another depiction of a bird, this time the low-relief of a vulture, was found on a pillar fragment discovered in trench L9-65 (Fig. 10). The bird, its wings outstretched, is shown in surprising detail.

In the eastern baulk of trench L9-56 another fragment of a sculpture was discovered (Fig. 11). Dorsal line and scapulae are clearly visible on this smaller than life-size human torso. The accentuation of the ribcage may place this sculpture within a group of images that depict partially skeletonized humans and animals, one which is well represented at Göbekli Tepe (Schmidt in preparation; Notroff *et al.* in preparation). An incised V-shape in the chest area resembles the collar-like element from the so called Urfa man, a life-size human sculpture discovered in the area of the largely destroyed PPN site of Urfa-Yeniyol (Bucak-Schmidt 2003; Hauptmann 2003).

Another group of sculptures well represented at Göbekli Tepe are human heads (Becker *et al.* 2012). In 2012 a head with a protruding chin (perhaps the depiction of a beard?) was found on the surface of the site. The mouth is not depicted, a typical attribute of all sculptures of heads found so far.

A new piece was also added to the group of stone plaquettes. A small fragment of a plaquette (Fig. 12) discovered in 2013 in the deep sounding in trench K10-13 shows two snake heads and below them a netlike depiction of interwoven snake bodies, very similar to the imagery on Pillar 1 from Enclosure A (Schmidt



Fig. 11 Fragment of a human sculpture from Göbekli Tepe with clear emphasis on ribs and scapulae; the V-shaped incisions on the chest resemble the collar of the 'Urfa man' (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).

2012: 113-114, Fig. 45). Another interesting depiction was discovered on a shaft straightener (Fig. 13). It shows a fox of the exact same type that features in the much larger reliefs on the T-shaped pillars, thus repeating this motif *en miniature*. The fox is accompanied by a series of abstract symbols. This combination of motifs testifies to the deeply rooted common background to the iconography adorning manifold objects from Göbekli Tepe and at sites from the greater PPNA interaction sphere of Upper Mesopotamia.

Acknowledgments: We are grateful to the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism for kind permission to excavate this important site. The archaeological work at Göbekli Tepe is funded by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the German Research Foundation (DFG). Further founding is provided by the Theodor Wiegand-Gesellschaft e.V., ArchaeNova e.V. Heidelberg, the Global Heritage Fund, and the John Templeton Foundation. Thanks are due to Lee Clare, Berlin, for extensive corrections.



Fig. 12 Fragment of a plaquette from Göbekli Tepe featuring two snake heads and a net-like design of interwoven snake bodies similar to the imagery on Pillar 1 (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).



Fig. 13 Fragment of a shaft straightener from Göbekli Tepe. The small depiction of a fox corresponds to similar reliefs on the large pillars (Photo: N. Becker, DAI).

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The Construction of Neolithic Corporate Identities

Invitation to a Workshop organized by **Trevor Watkins** (University of Edinburgh), **Marion Benz** (University of Freiburg i. Br.) and **Hans Georg K. Gebel** (Free University Berlin)

9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, Basel, June 9-13, 2014.

http://9icaane.unibas.ch (early bird registration until March 31st, 2014)

One of the most momentous thresholds in the longer-term evolution of human sociality was neolithisation - the transition from more flexible mobile foraging communities to sedentary and complex corporate societies. For too long Neolithic research has concentrated on the economic side of this transition, while the formation and maintenance of these early large-scale communities could not have developed without unprecedented cognitive and social capacities. More than ever before, in these sedentary milieus the human ability to perceive selectively, to memorize associatively, and to act in a collaborative way, evolved by steadily valorizing, symbolically charging and communicating practices, discourses, spaces and things, including building "traditions". Corporate identities in the Near Eastern Late Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic were not only formed and sustained by commonly accepted tangible things (images, paraphernalia, practices etc.), they were also promoted and transformed by intangible modes, codes and ideological concepts.

The workshop aims to identify and translate the empirical evidence of the different intangibles that helped to form Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic group identities. One of the approaches might be the concept of (inter-)mediality by which cognitive competences behind corporate strategies can be identified. In addition to prehistoric archaeologists, the workshop invites contributions from specialists in evolutionary and cognitive sciences.

Participants with contributions

Prof. Dr. Kurt W. Alt, Institute of Anthropology, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany.

Dr. Eleni Asouti, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool, UK.

Dr. Marion Benz, Science Associate, Department of Near Eastern Archaeology, Albert- Ludwigs-University Freiburg i.Br., Germany.

Dr. Amy Bogaard, Lecturer in Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Lisbeth B. Christensen, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Dr. Hans Georg K. Gebel, Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology, Free University Berlin, Germany.

Profs. Drs. A. Nigel Goring-Morris / Anna Belfer-Cohen, Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Theya Molleson, Science Associate, Department of Earth Sciences, The Natural History Museum, London, UK. Dr. Tobias Richter, Department for Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Prof. Dr. Gary O. Rollefson, Department of Anthropology, Whitman College, Walla Walla, USA.

Dr. Christa Sütterlin, Film Archive of Human Ethology of the Max-Planck-Society, Andechs/Munich, Germany. Prof. Dr. Trevor Watkins, Emeritus, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, UK.

Domestication of Plants and Animals in the Near East

Invitation to a Session organized by **Maria Saña Seguí**, maria.sana@uab.cat (Departament de Prehistòria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona - Spain) – **Jean-Denis Vigne**, vigne@ mnhn.fr (UMR 7209: Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique: Sociétés, Pratiques et Environnements, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle – CNRS, Paris - France) – **Sue Colledge**, smcolledge@gmail.com (University College London, Institute of Archaeology, London - UK) – **Miquel Molist**, mimolist@ gmail.com (Departament de Prehistòria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona - Spain)

> XVII World Congress of the International Scientific Association UISPP, Burgos-Atapuerca (Spain), between the 1-7 September, 2014.

The aim of this session is to provide a platform to discuss and exchange ideas, opinions and new theoreticalmethodological perspectives on the study of plant and animal domestication. ... One of the main points raised in the debate on the phenomenon of Neolithisation is the need for integration of studies of animal and plant domestication within the context of economic and social change that took place in the early Holocene. Our session is to present and discuss from different sights the processes of domestication, for example, their causes and consequences, based on the wealth of accumulated data from recent research and, most important, with a particular emphasis on drawing together evidence from archaeozoological, archaeobotanical and archaeological studies. Special attention will be paid to new conceptions about early domestication (*i.e.* "predomestic" agriculture or control of wild animals), to new methodological, technical and high resolution approaches to the study of the processes, to different temporal and spatial scales and to the exploration of the variables that interact during the domestication of animals and plants.

With these aims in mind, the session will be interdisciplinary, including presentations and discussions on the following aspects:

- concepts used in the study of domestication in the Near East;

- new methodological and technical approaches to the study of plant and animal domestication, for example, criteria involved in the definition and classification of the first domestic animals and plants;

- the empirical record and new archaeological evidence for domestication - micro- and macro-spatial approaches;

- economic strategies and the integration of animals and plants: the origins of agricultural and pastoral practices;

- explanatory models for animal and plant domestication;

- the role of the Near East in the study of the domestication and Neolithisation processes: its distinctiveness and heuristic power.

Communication proposals have to be submitted by the 30th of April 2014 to the congress organization. Registrants must indicate which Congress sessions they will attend, before May 31, 2014 (www.burgos2014uispp.es). Please also send a copy of the abstract to us (contact: maria.sana@uab.cat). On the congress webpage you should also find information on the guidelines for the abstracts and the posters, congress inscription and financial assistance for participants:

- registration and proposal forms at www.burgos2014uispp.es

- technical information: uispp2014@viajeseci.es

- scientific information: uispp2014@fundacionatapuerca.es

2014 ToRS International Food Workshop

Food, Identity and Social Change

25-26 September 2014

Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies (ToRS), University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Call for Proposals

Food draws people into the web of life and touches upon everything that matters: it expresses personhood, marks membership (or non-membership) in practically any kind of social grouping and draws lines of where morality begins and ends. Yet, food can also signify very different things from place to place, from kitchen to kitchen and from one time period to another. Social changes – such as peoples on the move (nomads, migrants, tourists), changes in intergroup relations within societies, new technologies (in mass media, biotechnology), mass production of foods, increasing globalization of food and changes caused by war – have been relatively neglected in food studies.

Food is a powerful lens for analyzing identity. This is clearly illustrated in the works of food studies that include Bourdieu's inquiry into the taste and preferences of the French bourgeoisie and Mintz's pioneering historical study of how high status sugar produced in the Caribbean became a working class staple to the exciting growth of more recent works by Appadurai on how to create a national cuisine and Wilk's scrutiny of the complex culinary reactions of Belizeans to colonialism, class differentiation and modernity.

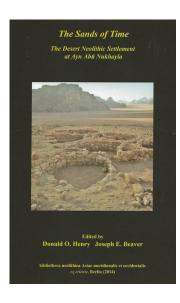
Keynote Speakers

Professor Tamara L. Bray, Wayne State University Professor Mandy Thomas, Queensland University of Technology Professor Richard R. Wilk, Indiana University

We welcome contributions on food, identity and social change: Why do we eat what we eat and why have different cultures and societies at different times eaten other things? What fosters social change to affect dietary patterns and changing identities? How can food offer the lens to understand the cultural and social affinities in moments of change and transformation? The topic offers an opportunity to excavate the past, to examine the present and to project into the future.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper at the ToRS 2014 International Food Workshop should submit a proposal of 300 words and relevant contact information by 1 April 2014 to Katrine Meldgaard Kjær (katrinemkjaer@gmail.com)

Organizers: Cynthia Chou (cynchou@hum.ku.dk) and Susanne Kerner (kerner@hum.ku.dk) Organizing Assistant: Katrine Meldgaard Kjær (katrinemkjaer@gmail.com)



Recently published by ex oriente:

The Sands of Time. The Desert Neolithic Settlement at Ayn Abū Nukhayla

edited by Donald O. Henry & Joseph E. Beaver

bibliotheca neolithica Asiae meridionalis et occidentalis (2014) (with 19 chapters, XI+380 pages, 149 figures including 8 colour illustrations, 64 tables. hardcover - 118 Euro) [ISBN 978-3-944178-05-9] – Orders via www.exoriente.org/bookshop

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