



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Beyond Visible Language: Non-linguistic Lives of Cuneiform Writing in Western Asia during the Bronze and Iron Ages

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Abstract

Since the turn of the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE, cuneiform script served as the primary tool for recording data in Western Asia, facilitating the economic functioning of human communities. Its usage quickly became intertwined with all key aspects of administration, communication, and the spiritual realm. However, during this time the cuneiform script also gained additional associations and meanings. The aim of this workshop is to discuss specific examples in this historical record of when and how cuneiform writing was used for purposes that went beyond its ability to represent language.

Possible topics include:

Amulets and other magical writing in their material aspects

Monumentality

Pseudo-inscriptions in seals and sealings

Text and image/text as imageCuneiform tablets as votive objects

Keywords

Cuneiform, Writing, Materiality, Non-linguistic

Program

Heather Baker (University of Toronto), “Image and Text: Building Representations from 1st Millennium BC Babylonia”

Yoram Cohen (Tel Aviv University), “Late Bronze Age School Tablets as Votive Objects - Some Observations and Suggestions”

Katrien De Graef (Ghent University), “Coding Cuneiform: Measuring the Robustness of the Transmission of Yearname Codes”

Anne Goddeeris (Ghent University), “Hidden in plain sight. On the finding of a long-lost Lamashtu amulet and on its execrable cuneiform inscription”

Jacob Lauinger (Johns Hopkins University), “Why No One Could Have Read the Inscriptions on the Statue of Idrimi (and Why That Was the Point)”

Jana Mynářová (Charles University), “The Power of Writing. Cylinder Seals with Pseudo-Cuneiform Legends”

Type of paper

Workshop