



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Repair, Reuse, and Recycling in Southern Mesopotamia (2500-2000 BC): preliminary results from the SLOW SUMER Project

*ROMANO L. <sup>1\*</sup>, FESTA G. <sup>2</sup>, CARUSO V. <sup>3</sup>, CELANT A. <sup>1</sup>, DE ANGELIS A. <sup>1</sup>, MAROCCHI SAVOI A. <sup>1</sup>, GRECO A. <sup>1,4</sup>, GIACCARI M. <sup>1</sup>, MANCLOSSI F. <sup>1</sup>, PAOLETTI P. <sup>5</sup>, SANTARELLI M. <sup>1</sup>, SCATIGNO C. <sup>2</sup>, SPADA G. <sup>1</sup>, TAFURI M. <sup>1</sup>, VERDERAME L. <sup>1</sup>, ZINGALE M. <sup>6</sup>, GIAMPAOLO S. <sup>2</sup>, DENARO G. <sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

<sup>2</sup> CREF - Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi, Roma, Italy

<sup>3</sup> Universit  degli Studi di Roma Tre, Roma, Italy

<sup>4</sup> Gerda Henkel Stiftung, D sseldorf, Germany

<sup>5</sup> LMU, M nchen, Germany

<sup>6</sup> University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The SLOW SUMER project, funded by the Italian PRIN 2022 scheme, investigates the under-researched practices of repair, reuse, and recycling in third millennium BC Southern Mesopotamia. This ongoing interdisciplinary project, involving a multidisciplinary team, aims to shed light on how these practices shaped Sumerian society during periods of significant cultural, environmental, and political transformations.

Our research focuses on a range of materials, from locally available resources such as clay and reeds to imported materials like bitumen. By examining artifacts from Abu Tbeirah archaeological site, and incorporating data from the wider scientific literature, we aim to reconstruct the technological processes involved in these practices and their social implications.

This presentation will outline the methodological approaches used and introduce some preliminary findings. Though the final results are still pending, the early stages of analysis reveal complex networks of practices that promise to enhance our understanding of Sumerian society in 3rd millennium BCE.

## Keywords

Sumerian Society, Repair and Reuse, Recycling Practices, Bitumen Analysis, Archaeological Methodology

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation

