



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Report on the 2023 and 2024 MAIKI Excavations at Yasin Tepe in Iraqi Kurdistan: A Possible Sasanian and Islamic Crossroads in the Shahrizor Plain

*TERRIBILI G.*<sup>1\*</sup>, *MARESCA G.*<sup>1</sup>, *CERETI C.*<sup>1,2</sup>, *BRUNO J.*<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> UCI University of California - Irvine, Los Angeles, United States

<sup>3</sup> Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The Shahrizor Plain in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has always represented a crucial area in Western Zagros. In the Sassanian period it was known as Sy<sup>?</sup>raz<sup>?</sup>r, a toponym also denoting its main city. According to several Islamic-period sources, that city was labelled in Persian as “Nimr<sup>?</sup>h”/“Nim-az-r<sup>?</sup>h”, meaning “midway”, as it was located halfway along the ritual route taken by Sassanian kings from their capital at Ctesiphon to the famous fire temple of ?dur-Gušn<sup>?</sup>sp.

The imposing site of Yasin Tepe, situated within this fertile valley, has long been associated with that important city. By focusing on its monumental fortification wall, archaeological investigations by the Sapienza University of Rome Archaeological Mission in Iraqi Kurdistan (MAIKI) in 2023 and 2024 are trying to shed light on the site’s strategic importance and its role in regional power dynamics during the Sasanian and Islamic period. Preliminary analysis of the excavated materials suggests a Middle Islamic period chronology, offering valuable insights into later phases of the site’s occupation.

Future research will continue to investigate the earlier occupation at the site, particularly in the Sasanian period, to better understand its role within the wider context of the Shahrizor Plain and the Sasanian Empire.

## Keywords

Archaeology of the Zagros, Late Antiquity, Shahrizor

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