



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

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

"I'm glad I don't have to work in the desert" - How to Solicit Interest in the Research of Remoter Regions of the Near East

SMITH S.^{1*}

¹ Leibniz Centre for Archaeology (LEIZA), Mainz, Germany

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Archaeological research in remote areas is a topic that is often written about in popular science magazines, fanning public enthusiasm in the perceived "exotic" aspects of the discipline. It is therefore unsurprising that dissemination of archaeological work that focuses on aspects like "deserts" or "lost sites" generally receives a healthy amount of interest from a broad audience, and the Near East is often a focal point of such fascination. By contrast, it is ironically often researchers working within the discipline of archaeology, but in long established regions of investigation, that are harder to engage. Studies being done away from their well-known and well-documented arenas of research, debate, and synthesis can appear to be fundamentally disconnected from their work, and it can be hard to see what direct benefit it provides. This paper will address this issue by proposing a set of guidelines to be followed when presenting archaeological work of a more obscure or remote nature to colleagues working in the Near East. Based on over a decade of experience working in and presenting work from these areas, it will lay out the components necessary to aid the effective communication of such results to one's peers.

Keywords

academic dissemination, public interest, peer engagement, research of remote regions, synthesised discourse

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Workshop

A16480SS - Is there really anything to be found there? Researching beyond the Established Frameworks of Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation

