



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Lebanese-Italian Archaeological Project in the Region of Tyre, 2019-2024: Documenting, presenting, and monitoring archaeology and heritage at threat

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Abstract

From 2019 a joint DGA/Sapienza University/Lebanese University joint project is seeking to investigate and document the regions of Tell Maaschouq, Shawakeer, and Ras el-Ain, in southern Lebanon. These three areas are located in the current municipality of Tyre, respectively to the east and south of the Old City, and correspond to the ancient continental settlement of Tyre (Ushu, Palaytiros, Paleotyros). The Lebanese-Italian project is the first systematic archaeological investigation of this sector of the region of Tyre.

To that end, we developed a multi-analytical approach to the investigation and documentation of landscape changes from antiquity to the present days. This combines 1) remote sensing analysis and historical landscape characterization; 2) geomagnetic survey; 3) pedestrian survey, 4) excavations, 5) geomorphology/ geoarchaeology, 6) archaeometry, and 7) digital technologies.

Through this work, the project documented human activities and occupation encompassing the prehistoric and protohistoric periods, the early historical periods, the late antiquity and the Ottoman period, continuing in modern times. Building on this new data, we are developing digital tools for cataloguing and presenting this extraordinary complex of archaeological and cultural heritage assets. These activities are timely and urgent because the whole region of Tyre is currently threatened by destruction.

Keywords

Lebanon, Shawakeer, Ras el-Ain, Tell Maaschouq, Cultural Heritage

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation