



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Inscribing meaning in Mesopotamian sacred contexts: The materiality of inscribed and uninscribed dedicated objects

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## Abstract

This paper will analyse dedicatory objects placed in Mesopotamian sacred contexts over the *longue durée*, offering insights into the interplay between materiality, memory, and religious practice. It will explore the textual and material dimensions of inscribed dedications, while considering distinctions—if any—between inscribed and uninscribed objects dedicated to Mesopotamian deities. Particular attention is given to the materiality of these objects and how it reflects the identity, status, and intent of the worshippers who dedicated them, revealing the social dynamics embedded in this act.

The findings are drawn from two major projects: 1. *Memories for Life: Materiality and Memory of Ancient Near Eastern Inscribed Private Objects* (2017–2022; Swedish Research Council; PIs: J. Andersson-Uppsala, Tsouparopoulou-Cambridge) focused on the role of inscribed private objects as carriers of memory, examining how materiality and text intertwine to preserve individual and collective identities in Mesopotamia. 2. *Mesopotamian Material Religion* (2022–2026; Polish National Science Center; PI: Tsouparopoulou) examines the spatial and material aspects of Mesopotamian religious practice, focusing on uninscribed dedicated objects and analysis of sacred spaces. By integrating the results of these projects, this paper will highlights the materiality of Mesopotamian dedicatory praxis, shedding light on how objects mediated relationships between worshippers, deities, and sacred spaces.

## Keywords

mesopotamia, sacred space, materiality, dedicated objects

## Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

## Type of paper

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