

When History ignores facts: The Ninevite 5 period (ca. 3100-2550 BC), a Missing Link of the Ancient Near East

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My research project is aimed at investigating an ignored period in the history of pre-classical Mesopotamia: the so-called Ninevite 5 period. The Ninevite 5 period, and associated archaeological culture, developed in Northern Mesopotamia during the first half of the 3rd millennium BC. The region is characterized during this period by the presence of different classes of decorated ceramics. Nevertheless, despite the use of the expression "Ninevite 5 culture", other elements of convergence in terms of material culture, architecture, urbanism or burial customs are not known at the moment, as no synthesis has ever been conducted (except Rova 1987 about the decorated pottery). Moreover, we do not know the organization, the economic or political system of the region during this period between the 1st and 2nd Mesopotamian "urban revolutions". My project intends to characterize the different elements of the material culture and settlements of the Ninevite 5 sphere, to confirm or not the existence of a Ninevite 5 archaeological culture and to provide a new paradigm on the Ninevite 5 period.