

State Formation and Re-Urbanisation in the Iron Age Levant

Joint Conference of the Minerva Center for the Relations between Israel and Aram in Biblical Times, University of Bern, University of Leipzig, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, and Bar-Ilan University

Organizers: Aren M. Maeir, Angelika Berlejung, Mirko Novak and Annick Payne

Ascona, Monte Verità, Switzerland, 25th–28th November 2024

Tentative Schedule

Monday, November 25th, 2024

Afternoon: Arrival at Monte Verità

18:30-19:00

Apéro and Introduction to the meeting (by the organizers)

19.00h-20.30h Supper

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024

7.00-8.00h Breakfast

8.00-10.00h Session 1:

CSF Representative	Welcome
Gunnar Lehmann	Southern Levantine Chronology - précis
Mirko Novak	Northern Levantine Chronology - précis
Emanuel Pfoh	Kings without States? Rethinking the Political Organization and Dynamics of the Southern Levant in the Iron Age

10.00-10.30h Coffee Break

10.30-12.30h Session 2:

Herbert Niehr	Royal cult of the dead in Ugarit, Byblos and Jerusalem.
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Angelika Berlejung	How to become a “state god“: The role of deities in state formation processes
Christoph Uehlinger	Can stamp seals shed light on state formation/re-urbanisation processes in the Iron Age—and vice versa?

12.30-14.00h Lunch

14.00-16.00h Session 3:

Dominik Bonatz	Fortress Building in the Transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age: The Case of Tell Ushayer in North Jordan
Assaf Kleiman	The Geshurite Countryside
Šárka Velhartická	On the Search for “Hittite” Hieroglyphical Bilingual Inscriptions. Inscription Finds from Sheikh Sa’ad and Tell Rifa’at
Juliane Stein	Tell Rifaat/Arpad: The Early Years of Bit Agusi and a Reassessment of Assyrian Rule

16.00-16.30h Coffee Break

16.30-18.30h Session 4:

Naama Yahalom-Mack	Re-Urbanisation in Iron Age Levant: A View from Tel Abel Beth Maacah
Katharina Schmidt	Early Ammon: The Beginning of the Iron Age in Central Transjordan
Shuichi Hasegawa	The LB/Iron Age transition as seen from Tel Rekhesh
Diederik Halbertsma	Monumentality without complexity: revisiting the ‘Mudayna’ sites as evidence for collective effort

19.00-20.30h Supper

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024

7.00-8.00h Breakfast

8.00-10.00h Session 5:

Claudia Suter	Stylistic Variation in Iron Age Luxury Goods: Subregional or Pan-Levantine?
Stefan Münger	Early Iron Age Tel Kinrot - An Urban Settlement at the Turn of the Second to the First millennium BCE
Nathan Lovejoy	Political Identity and Ideologies of Kingship in the Syro-Anatolian City-States of the Northeast Mediterranean
Mor Goldenberg	Sealing Gaps: Local Seal Impression distribution in the Kingdom of Israel

10.00-10.30h Coffee Break

10.30-12.30h Session 6:

Aren Maeir	Transitions, changes and continuities in LB/Iron Age Philistia
Mirko Novak	Resilience vs Collapse. The divergent history of de- and re-urbanisation in the Northern Levant at the Transition from Late Bronze to Iron Age
Annick Payne	Languages, Scripts and Materiality of Writing in the Luwo-Aramaic cultural zone

12.30-14.00h Lunch

14.00-16.00h Session 7:

Gunnar Lehmann	Early Iron Age Urbanization and the Emergence of Patrimonial Monarchies in the Southern Levant
Alexander Sollee	Archaeological perspectives on the formation of Bīt Baḥiani as seen from Tell Ḥalaf
Marina Pucci	How many Late Bronze Ages? How many Iron Ages? Archaeological chronologies

	and their markers from the 14th to the 7th centuries BCE in SE Turkey and North Syria
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16.00-16.30h Coffee Break

16.30-18.30h Session 8:

Federico Giusfredi	The Upper Middle Euphrates, Sam'al and Cilicia: features of an Iron Age Luwo-Semitic cultural "belt"
Itzik Shai	Tel Burna through the Ages: From Canaanite Hub to Judahite Borderland
Teresa Bürge	The early Iron Age in the Jordan Valley: settlement patterns, connectivity, transformations and innovations

19.00-20.30h Supper

Thursday, November 28th, 2024

7.00-8.00h Breakfast

8.00-10.00h Future research outlook, networking, and publication plans

10.00h Leave Monte Verità