

RE-ORIENTING ANCIENT NEAR-EASTERN STUDIES

An Event in Honour of Emeritus Professor Tony Sagona

Saturday, 27 October 2018

Symposium

10 am – 5:30 pm

The Forum Theatre (Room 153), Arts West

Reception

6 pm – 8 pm

The Atrium, Arts West



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RE-ORIENTING ANCIENT NEAR-EASTERN STUDIES

An Event in Honour of Emeritus Professor Tony Sagona

This symposium has as its theme an emerging shift in Ancient Near Eastern Studies that is in part a result of the current turmoil in the Middle East and in part a reflection of growing interest in new approaches to longstanding problems concerning borders and frontiers, routes and roads, and more. This development has witnessed a change of geographical emphasis away from more traditional areas of study (for example, Mesopotamia, Persia, Anatolia) to places that have previously been misinterpreted as less significant northern and eastern peripheries (Caucasia, Central Asia, China, et cetera). In this context, Tony Sagona's early and enduring focus on Eastern Turkey and the Southern Caucasus now seems especially prescient.



A major driving force for Tony was to ensure the continuation of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the university, having himself been the inheritor of a long tradition of teaching, research and writing in the area at Melbourne. An intensified emphasis on new geographical focal points—particularly the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia and China—represents a positive future direction and area of differentiation for Ancient Near Eastern Studies as offered by the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies.





SCHEDULE – SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018

Forum Theatre, Arts West

10:00-10:10

WELCOME

With an opening address from Prof Trevor BURNARD

10:10-11:00

KEYNOTE

Prof Marcella FRANGIPANE

Pastoralism, metallurgy and the interaction of the Upper-Euphrates communities with Northern Anatolian and South-Caucasian mobile groups: the evidence from Arslantepe

11:00-11:30

MORNING TEA

11:30-12:15

Prof Barbara HELWING

Caucasian archaeology from early sedentism to the emergence of stratified societies: a review of current state of knowledge

12:15-1:00

Prof Chris MACKIE

Greek Jason and Medea of Colchis: healer and barbarian?

1:00-2:30

LUNCH

(See page 6 for some suggestions)



SCHEDULE – SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018

Forum Theatre, Arts West

- 2:30-3:15 Dr Hyun Jin KIM
Greek Civilisation in wider Eurasia
- 3:15-4:00 Dr Catherine LONGFORD
Harvesting the seeds of identity: free threshing wheat and the Kura-Araxes
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4:00-4:45 **AFTERNOON TEA**

- 4:45-5:15 Dr Claudia SAGONA
From highlands to islands: an archaeological metaphor for a life well spent
- 5:15-5:30 A/Prof Andrew JAMIESON
The University of Melbourne and Near Eastern Archaeology: past, present and future directions
- 5:30 **CLOSE**

Atrium, Arts West

- 6:00-8:00 **RECEPTION**
With a tribute from Prof Joy DAMOUSI





LOCATION



Arts West

148 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052, Australia

Symposium:

Forum Theatre

1st floor

10 am - 5:30 pm



Reception:

Atrium

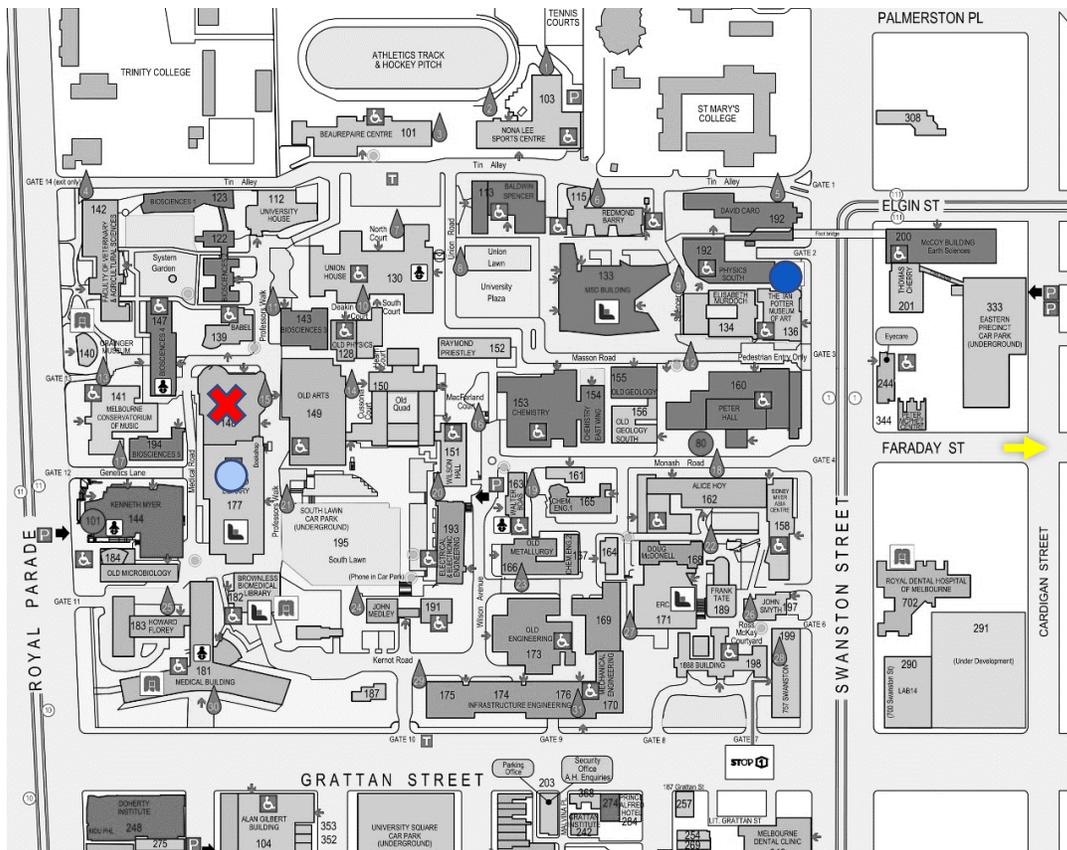
Ground Floor

6 - 8 pm





LUNCH



Symposium Venue
 ✖ Arts West

Lunch Options
 ● Professor's Walk Café

Open Saturday
 11am-4pm

● The Potter Espresso Bar
 Open Saturday
 8am-5:30pm

➔ Lygon Street
 Several options open
 on Saturdays





ABSTRACTS

Pastoralism, metallurgy and the interaction of the Upper-Euphrates communities with Northern Anatolian and South-Caucasian mobile groups: the evidence from Arslantepe
- Prof Marcella Frangipane

The development, crisis and collapse of a proto-state system at Arslantepe in the second half of the fourth millennium BCE appears to have been in close connection with the intensification of the relations of the Upper Euphrates communities with various mobile groups from the mountains of North-Central Anatolia and North-East Anatolia / Southern Caucasus. New relationships with pastoralist groups moving in the mountains around the Malatya plain are well documented at Arslantepe in the second half of the fourth millennium, when these groups were probably attracted by the centralised economic system, becoming somehow part of it and taking advantage of the opening of new ways towards more southern connections. In the first centuries of the third millennium BCE, when the precocious early state society of Arslantepe went into crisis, mobile groups frequenting the valley and related to Kura-Araxes cultures took over the control of the site and perhaps the region, either conflicting or cooperating with the local sedentary population. The great development of metallurgy at Arslantepe was a possible outcome of the relations with these groups, who brought to the site metals, metallurgical technology and specialised pastoralism.



Caucasian archaeology from early sedentism to the emergence of stratified societies: a review of the current state of knowledge

- Prof Barbara Helwing

The last two decades have brought about a surge of archaeological activity in the southern Caucasus that has greatly augmented our knowledge of the early periods of occupation in this varied and diverse landscape. The opening of the former Soviet countries to foreign researchers, the introduction of scientific methodology, and the establishment of robust research collaborations all contributed to place these landscapes on the archaeological map. Tony Sagona was a pioneer in this endeavour, beginning his inquiry before the fall of the Iron Curtain. The two major monographs that frame his career both engage with Caucasian archaeology and attest to the enormous transformations that research has undergone in between.

In this presentation I will review the current, recently much augmented state of knowledge on the early periods of sedentary life, and will highlight the major shifts in understanding that derive from new methods and fresh interpretational models. This overview will begin with the sixth-millennium BCE Neolithic settlements that today present a much more diverse mosaic of influences than known just a few years ago. It will then proceed to discuss the Chalcolithic period, when the influence of long-distance relations from highland Iran to the North Mesopotamian early cities made an impact on the southern Caucasus, and will end with the emergence of the Early Transcaucasian culture.



Greek Jason and Medea of Colchis: healer and barbarian?

- Prof Chris Mackie

It is often said that Greek mythology is characterised by its proliferation of hero myths, and it is through these kinds of narratives that the Greeks explored the world around them. Greek explorations of the physical landscape of distant places, through trade or war or colonisation, provided an incentive to develop a repertoire of tales to tell. The *Odyssey*, for instance, emerges at time when the Greeks were moving west to South Italy and Sicily; and the Theseus saga assumes some level of early contact between Crete and Greece. The story of Jason and the Argonauts seems to build on early contact between the Greeks and the distant world of Colchis (Georgia), even if we can't really push the historical connection too far.

This paper explores the myth of Jason from the point of view of some of the early Greek sources, with particular reference to the *Odyssey*, Pindar's *Pythian 4*, Euripides' *Medea*, and the *Argonautica* of Apollonius of Rhodes. My aim is to explore the antiquity of the myth, its main features, and the way that it seems to change through time in some significant ways. In this context I will be exploring the use of drugs and magic, especially in the person of Medea. I want to revisit an argument I made many years ago that Jason's role as a healer and his time spent with Chiron in his youth might suggest that it was he that originally had special powers in magic and the dark arts. If so how do we explain such a mythical transformation? These were topics I discussed in detail with Tony Sagona, who loved nothing more than to engage with myth and literature, even if it was not his main focus of attention. So much the better, in Tony's mind, if the myth and literature was set in Georgia, a country with which he had an abiding fascination.



Greek civilisation in wider Eurasia

- Dr Hyun Jin Kim

Greek civilisation is often regarded as the root of Western civilisation. Yet, the Ancient Greeks never identified themselves with the 'West'. The great Aristotle claimed that Hellas constituted the centre between 'East' and 'West'. This lecture will examine the impact of Greek civilisation on Central Asia, India and China and demonstrate that Hellenic culture was the world's first 'global' culture.

Harvesting the seeds of identity: free threshing wheat and the Kura-Araxes

- Dr Catherine Longford

The Kura-Araxes culture, noted for its metalwork and red-black burnished pottery, developed in the Caucasus and highlands of North-Eastern Anatolia in the late fourth millennium BCE. At the beginning of the third millennium BCE the Kura-Araxes cultural horizon rapidly spread from its Caucasian and North-East Anatolian homeland, south into the Upper Euphrates, the Levant and west into Iran. What this expansion represents archaeologically and culturally, whether it was the result of Kura-Araxes migration or diffusion of Kura-Araxes material culture, is often keenly debated. Recent research on archaeobotanical material from Sos Höyük, a Kura-Araxes village in North Eastern Anatolia excavated by Tony and Claudia Sagona, has indicated that the Kura-Araxes had a settled, mixed agro-pastoral economy. At Sos Höyük, hexaploid free threshing wheat and two-row hulled barley were the main cereal resources used.



Indeed, Kura-Araxes agriculture at sites across the Near East appears to have been based on the cultivation of free threshing wheat from as early as 3500 BCE. This is in stark contrast to other sites in the Near East. Although free threshing wheats were part of the Neolithic crop package from the eighth millennium BCE, it is not until the second millennium BCE that free threshing wheats begin to be the dominant wheat crop found archaeologically in the Near East. The preference for free threshing wheat at Kura-Araxes sites appears to be another characteristic that helps to distinguish the Kura-Araxes horizon and may have ramifications for interpreting the Kura-Araxes phenomenon. This paper will present findings from Sos Höyük, together with a survey of archaeobotanical results from Kura-Araxes and other Near Eastern Chalcolithic and Bronze Age sites to discuss the intriguing correlation between the spread of the Kura-Araxes horizon and free threshing wheat.

From highlands to islands: an archaeological metaphor for a life well spent

- Dr Claudia Sagona

In 2010, excavations in Malta by the University of Rome (La Sapienza) and University of Foggia, led to a discovery that stunned the academic community – a cuneiform inscription etched into one face of a polished, banded agate item. This object alone told a story of many ancient hands, of a miner, trader, skilled artisan, scribe, worshipper, and perhaps a thief, mariner and settler. But its life did not end in the ground, for archaeologists, historians, linguists and museum curators continue to shape a role for the object in the present. This one agate fragment embodies the story of the ultimate east-west connection. It is also the subject of the last paper I wrote together with Tony, and perfectly reflects the scope of archaeological interests he nurtured at Melbourne University.





The University of Melbourne and Near Eastern Archaeology: past, present and future directions

- A/Prof Andrew Jamieson

For more than three decades (1985 to 2016) Emeritus Professor Antonio (“Tony”) Sagona was the face of archaeology, particularly Near Eastern archaeology, at the University of Melbourne. Through fieldwork, teaching, supervisions, publishing, editing and community engagement, Tony — more than any other individual — consolidated the discipline of ancient Near Eastern studies at Melbourne and shaped its future.

This paper will discuss the origins of ancient Near Eastern studies at the university, where it first emerged as an area of study in the early 1950s, and the role of key supporters such as John Thompson, William Culican, Thomas McClellan and Guy Bunnens in its growth. Tony’s contribution and legacy will then be examined within the context of these historical developments. The fieldwork projects in Syria, Turkey and Georgia that have defined Near Eastern archaeology at Melbourne will also be discussed, along with the results and research themes which have emerged from that activity. The paper will conclude with some comments on current and future plans for ancient Near Eastern studies at the University of Melbourne, arguing that they reflect an orientation to the east that is distinctive, while at the same time thoughtfully addressing the wider trends and current issues influencing programs in the discipline globally.



SPEAKERS

Professor Marcella Frangipane
Sapienza University of Rome

Marcella Frangipane is Full Professor of Archaeology (Prehistory) at the Sapienza University of Rome, where she teaches Prehistory and Protohistory of the Near and Middle East and Strategies and Methods of Archaeological Research. She is a Foreign Associate Member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), and a Corresponding Member of the Deutsches Archäologische Institut in Berlin and the Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. She is also the editor in chief of the journal *Origini* and the editor of two monograph series, *Arslantepe* and *Studi di Preistoria Orientale* (SPO). Professor Frangipane has participated in field research in Mexico, Italy, Egypt and Turkey, becoming field vice-director of the Sapienza excavations at the Late Predynastic site of Maadi (Egypt), and, in 1990, the director of the Italian Archaeological Project in Eastern Anatolia (excavations at Arslantepe-Malatya and Zeytinli Bahçe-Urfa, Turkey). The Arslantepe Project, where Professor Frangipane has worked for more than 40 years, is the core of her research activity.





Professor Barbara Helwing
University of Sydney

Barbara Helwing holds the Edwin Cuthbert Hall Chair in Middle Eastern Archaeology at the University of Sydney. She specialises in the archaeology of Southwest Asia, with longstanding on-site experience in Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan, and has more recently shifted her attention to South Asia, with a new field project in Sri Lanka. Her research focuses on the functioning of ancient human societies in an interdisciplinary and diachronic perspective, looking at human-environment as well as human-technology interactions and the role of innovations therein. As a side-line, she is also interested in the history of archaeology in the countries of Southwest and South Asia within its historical and political context. Before coming to Australia in 2016, she taught Near Eastern Prehistory and Archaeology in Lyon, Tübingen, Berlin, Tehran and Ankara. From 2000 to 2014, she was head of the German Archaeological Institute in Iran.

Professor Chris Mackie
La Trobe University

Chris Mackie has written widely on Roman and Greek topics, especially Vergil, Homer, and Greek mythology. More recently he has developed interests in the Gallipoli/Dardanelles region through time, and in classical reception studies. After working at the University of New England (NSW) for two years, he was at the University of Melbourne for 24 years where he supervised many MA and PhD theses. He joined the Research Centre for Greek Studies at La Trobe University in mid-2010.





Dr Hyun Jin Kim

University of Melbourne

Dr Hyun Jin Kim is Senior Lecturer in Classics in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. He took his D Phil from Oxford University as a Commonwealth scholar and specialises in Greek History, Late Antiquity and Comparative Literature. He is the author of five books on various subjects relating to the above-mentioned fields of inquiry.

Dr Catherine Longford

University of Sheffield

Catherine is an archaeobotanist who has specialised in the archaeology of the Bronze Age Near East, particularly the Kura-Araxes culture. Her PhD research was on the 'Plant Economy of the Kura-Araxes' and used the site of Sos Höyük, Turkey, excavated by Tony and Claudia Sagona as a case study. Catherine has a BA/BSc (Hons) from the University of Melbourne majoring in Archaeology, Botany and Geology and an MSc in Palaeoeconomy and Environmental Archaeology from the University of Sheffield. At Sheffield Catherine was employed as a Marie Curie Research Fellow in Archaeobotany specialising in roots and tubers, and Research Officer. Currently Catherine is an ERC Post Doctoral Research Associate at Sheffield as part of the University of Manchester ADAPT project researching the spread of crops across Neolithic Europe. Catherine has worked as an archaeobotanist on excavations in Turkey (Kaman-Kale Höyük, Catal Höyük), Georgia (Chobareti, Rabati, Samtavro), Israel (Tel Beit Yerah) and Bulgaria (Dodoparon), and on various sites in the UK.





Dr Claudia Sagona

University of Melbourne

Claudia Sagona is Honorary Principal Fellow in the Classics and Archaeology program at the University of Melbourne. Her research has taken her from the islands of the Maltese Archipelago, to the highlands of north-eastern Anatolia and the Caucasus. She has written a number of books concerning Malta's ancient past, including a comprehensive volume for Cambridge University Press, *The Archaeology of Malta: From the Neolithic through the Roman Period* (2015), another on the Phoenician-Punic evidence, *The Archaeology of Punic Malta* (2002), and has delved into the Mithraic mystery cult, *Looking for Mithra in Malta* (2009). In 2007, she was made an honorary member of the National Order of Merit of Malta (M.O.M.).

Associate Professor Andrew Jamieson

University of Melbourne

Andrew Jamieson, Associate Professor in Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Melbourne, has extensive archaeological field experience and has worked at sites in Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. In the mid-1990s he was deeply involved in the UNESCO post-war salvage operations in Beirut. For ten seasons he was involved in the Australian excavations at Tell Ahmar in northern Syria. Since 2005 he has curated over 20 exhibitions in the Classics and Archaeology Gallery at the Ian Potter Museum of Art. In 2014 he was invited to represent Australia on the Shirin international committee for Safeguarding and Protection of Syrian Heritage. In 2015 Andrew won the Barbara Falk Award for Teaching Excellence. He became the general editor of *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* in 2017. His research interests include ancient Near Eastern archaeology and archaeological collection management practices.

