

Seminari Progetto PRIN 2022 “The Price of Progress. A Multidisciplinary Research on Human-Environment Interactions in the Levant at the Dawn of Urbanism (3500-2000 BCE)”

Prof. Lorenzo Verderame
(Sapienza Università di Roma)

Water, Civilization, Urbanization: A Glimpse from Early Mesopotamia

Prof. Giulio Maresca
(Sapienza Università di Roma)

*Land, Water, and Wind: Archaeological Perspectives on the Resourcescape of the
Helmand River Basin*



Martedì 20 maggio 2025

14:00-16:00

Aula EX-CISADU, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

***Google Meet link per seguire il seminario dalla distanza:
meet.google.com/zpz-nxou-rnd***

Organizzazione e contatti:

Prof.ssa Marta D'Andrea - marta.dandrea@uniroma1.it

Prof. Lorenzo Verderame - lorenzo.verderame@uniroma1.it

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Abstracts

Prof. Lorenzo Verderame – Sapienza Università di Roma

Water, Civilization, Urbanization: A Glimpse from Early Mesopotamia

The paper addresses the relationship of water with the urbanization process in ancient Mesopotamia and theories regarding the correlation of water management and the origin of the state. It begins with Wittfogel's concept of “hydraulic civilization(s)” and investigates the significance of water management in the Mesopotamian context by analysing literary references and the pivotal role of the ruler, as evidenced by royal inscriptions and administrative documents from Early Mesopotamia.

Prof. Giulio Maresca - Sapienza Università di Roma

Land, Water, and Wind: Archaeological Perspectives on the Resourcescape of the Helmand River Basin

The Helmand River Basin, spanning present-day Iran and Afghanistan, has been shaped by arid landscapes, fluctuating water availability, and extreme winds. The talk examines its resourcescape from an archaeological perspective, tracing human-environment interactions from the Iron Age to the Islamic period. By analysing material culture, subsistence strategies, and technological innovations, it highlights long-term adaptations and pivotal shifts in landscape appropriation