

## Biographies of speakers

## Istituto Svizzero

### Alessio Agostini (Sapienza-Università di Roma)

Alessio Agostini (MA and PhD, University of Florence) teaches Semitic Epigraphy and Philology at Sapienza. His main interests focus on the epigraphic documentation of pre-Islamic Arabia, as well as on the cultural and linguistic connections within the Western Semitic civilizations. In 2010/11 he was granted a Marie Curie Fellowship at the French CNRS. Since 2002, he has been a member of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Yemen (IsIAO / L'Orientale – University of Naples). He also collaborated with the Corpus of South Arabian Inscriptions (University of Pisa) and conducted excavations and field surveys to the Sultanate of Oman (2013) and Ethiopia (Tigray, 2017).

### Nadia Aït Saïd-Ghanem (SOAS – London)

Nadia Aït Saïd-Ghanem is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow attached to the School of Oriental and African Studies (London, UK). Her PhD examined how a number of key concepts in Arabic grammatical theory can widen our current approaches to, and understanding of, Akkadian grammar. Her current project focuses on the apodoses of omen texts from the Old Babylonian period to examine the desire and anguish expressed in these texts' statements about the future.

### Maria Giovanna Biga (Sapienza – Università di Roma)

Maria Giovanna Biga is Professor of History of the Ancient Near East at Sapienza – University of Rome. She also taught in France (EPHE and Collège de France, Paris) and in Spain. She has worked as an epigraphist for the Italian Archaeological Mission in Ebla from 1976 to 2010, the year of the last archaeological campaign. She published numerous books and scientific articles on Ebla, Ancient Near Eastern History, and History of Religions.

### Barbara Böck (CSIC Madrid)

Barbara Böck (PhD FU Berlin 1996, Habilitation FU Berlin 2002) is a Senior Researcher at CSIC in Madrid. Her main field of research is the scholarly tradition of the first millennium BCE, with a special focus on the medical knowledge of ancient Mesopotamia; she is currently working on medicinal plants. Other research interests are systems of religious and magical belief. Publications include a study of ancient Mesopotamian medicine (The Healing Goddess Gula: Towards an Understanding of Ancient Babylonian Medicine, 2014) as well as studies and principal text editions of the divinatory practice of physiognomy (Die babylonisch-assyrische Morphoskopie, 2000) and of incantations used in magical and medical therapies (Das Handbuch Muššu u 'Einreibung', 2007).

**Armando Bramanti (CSIC Madrid / ISR)**

Armando Bramanti obtained a PhD in Assyriology in a joint program between Sapienza – University of Rome and Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (2017). After numerous pre- and postdoc research stays in Italy, Germany, Spain, US, and Switzerland he has been a research fellow of the ISR for the year 2019/2020. He now works at the Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid. His main research interests concern Sumerian administration, cuneiform palaeography, and the history of Mesopotamia in the third millennium BCE.

**Paola Buzi (Sapienza – Università di Roma)**

Paola Buzi is Professor of Egyptology and Coptic Studies at Sapienza – University of Rome. She combines philological and archaeological research interests. She is PI of the ERC project “PATHs” – “Tracking Papyrus and Parchment Paths: An Archaeological Atlas of Coptic Literature. Literary Texts in Their Geographical Context” ([paths.uniroma1.it](http://paths.uniroma1.it)).

**Franco D’Agostino (Sapienza – Università di Roma)**

Franco D’Agostino is Professor of Assyriology at the Department of Oriental Studies of Sapienza – University of Rome. He is director of the archaeological mission at Eridu (Abu Shahrain) and co-director of the archaeological mission at Abu Tbeirah, in southern Iraq.

**Nicla de Zorzi (Universität Wien)**

Nicla De Zorzi is an Assyriologist with a focus on Ancient Near Eastern history, religion, and literature. Since 2018 De Zorzi has been Assistant Professor for Assyriology at the University of Vienna. After completing a PhD from the Ca’ Foscari University Venice (2011) she has been a postdoctoral researcher at LMU Munich (2012–2014) and University of Vienna (2014–2018). In 2017 she obtained a FWF Grant for the project “Bestiarium Mesopotamicum: Animal Omens in Ancient Mesopotamia” (2018–2021) and in 2018 was awarded an ERC Starting Grant for the project “Repetition, Parallelism and Creativity: An Inquiry into the Construction of Meaning in Ancient Mesopotamian Literature and Erudition” (2019–2024).

**Ann Guinan (University of Pennsylvania)**

Ann Guinan is a Consulting Scholar at the Babylonian Section of the Penn Museum and series editor for *Magic and Divination in the Ancient World* published by Brill Academic Press. She reconstructed the corpus of human behavioral omens from the omen series Šumma Alu. Her research has been focused on this corpus and has led to broader studies of Sex and Gender and Divinatory Theory.

**Enrique Jiménez (LMU München)**

Enrique Jiménez (PhD Complutense University of Madrid, 2013) is Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Literatures at the Institute for Assyriology and Hittitology (Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich). His research interests include the literature and scholarship from Ancient Mesopotamia, in particular during the first millennium BCE. He is the author of *The Babylonian Disputation Poems* (Brill, 2017).

**Rachel Lerculeur (Université de Genève)**

Rachel Lerculeur, MA is currently a PhD candidate within the šumma ālu project in Geneva. The main goal of her PhD project is to edit the sleep omens within the series. Before starting her PhD, she obtained a master’s degree in Museology and Mesopotamian Studies at the universities of Geneva and Neuchâtel, with a thesis focusing on the exhibition of cuneiform tablets.

**Ignacio Márquez Rowe (CSIC Madrid)**

Ignacio Márquez Rowe obtained his PhD in 1995, the first within the field of Assyriology from the University of Barcelona, and has subsequently taught Ancient History and Ancient Semitic languages at the University of A Coruña, the University of Barcelona, and the University Complutense of Madrid. He is currently a Senior Researcher at the Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid, and a Corresponding Fellow of the Spanish Royal Academy of History. His book *Anatomical Clay Representations of the Sheep Intestines for Divination in Ancient Mesopotamia*, co-authored with Barbara Böck, will be published next year.

**Patrick M. Michel (Université de Lausanne / AMA ISR)**

Patrick M. Michel studied Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Lausanne and completed a Ph.D. in Assyriology at the University of Geneva in 2012. He also studied Hittitology at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and participated in several excavations on the site of Tell Kazel (Tartous) in collaboration with the American University of Beirut. He is also President of the Association des Membres et des Amis of the Swiss Institute in Rome. After teaching at the universities of Bern, Lausanne, and Geneva he currently leads the Collart – Palmyre Project at the University of Lausanne.

**Francesca Minen (Università di Udine)**

Francesca Minen is a specialist of Mesopotamian medicine. In 2018 she completed her doctoral studies at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. In 2019 she has been awarded a Henri Frankfort short-term fellowship at the Warburg Institute in London, where she analysed the divination series Šumma ālu from a medico-historical viewpoint. More recently, she has been bestowed a postdoctoral grant by the Italian Institute for Ancient History in Rome. She is an adjunct at the University of Udine since 2016.

**Anne-Caroline Rendu Loisel (Université de Strasbourg)**

Anne-Caroline Rendu Loisel is lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Strasbourg. Her research focuses on the anthropology of the senses in the cuneiform tablets of ancient Mesopotamia. She has published *Les chants du monde, the soundscape of ancient Mesopotamia* (Toulouse, 2016). Since 2018, she has been a member (epigraphist) of the international archaeological mission of the site of Eridu Abu Sharein (Southern Iraq) led by Franco D’Agostino (Rome) and Philippe Quenet (Strasbourg).

**Lorenzo Verderame (Sapienza – Università di Roma)**

Lorenzo Verderame is Professor of Assyriology. His main research interests are divination and third millennium administrative texts, as well as Mesopotamian religion and material culture. He is author of seven books, including the edition of the first six chapters of the astrological series *Enūma Anu Enlil* (2002), five volumes with the edition of administrative texts, and an overview of the Sumerian and Akkadian literature (2016). On Mesopotamian demons he has edited a monographic volume of *SMSR (Studi e materiali di storia delle religioni)* (2011) and authored several articles. He is the epigrapher of the Italian archaeological mission to Tell Surghul / Nina (Iraq).