UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1
PANTHÉON SORBONNE

LOUVRE

ARCHAÏOS
ARCHAEOLOGY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



16-18 DECEMBER 2026

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NEW LIGHT ON ASSYRIAN CAPITALS

History and Heritage in Northern Iraq Reshaped by Archaeology

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PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

organized by

Pascal Butterlin, Barbara Couturaud & Jean-Jacques Herr

The organizers thank all the partner institutions

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WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2026

INSTITUT NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE DE L'ART (INHA)
2 rue Viviennne - Paris 2e
Salle Vasari

INTRODUCTION WORDS

9:00 **WELCOME COFFEE**

INTRODUCTION AND THANKING

9:30
- To be announced

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

11:00
- **Suhail Al Tamimi** (State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq)

11:30
- **Ariane Thomas** (Musée du Louvre)

GENERAL PRESENTATIONS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS ON ASSYRIAN CAPITALS

14:00 The Excavations of Heidelberg University in Mosul/Nineveh. Activities and Challenges
- **Stefan Maul** (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

14:45 Nineveh's Shamash Gate: Stabilization, Excavations, and Presentation
- **Timothy P. Harrison** (Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago)

15:30 Coffee Break (15 mn)

15:45 The Penn Nimrud Excavations 2022–2024 and the Northern Temple Precinct
- **Michael Danti** (University of Pennsylvania and Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology)

16:30 Unlocking Nimrud's Lower Town: Objectives and First Insights from a New Archaeological Project
- **Daniele Morandi Bonacossi** (Università degli Studi di Udine)

17:15 Coffee Break (15 mn)

17:30 **The New Excavations at Assur: New Insights Into the 'New City' of Assur**

- **Janoscha Kreppner** (Universität Münster)

18:15 **The Archaeological Project in Khorsabad: An Overview of the Recent Fieldwork in Ancient Dur Sharrukin**

- **Pascal Butterlin** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2026

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1 PANTHÉON-SORBONNE
12 place du Panthéon - Paris 5e
Salle 6

ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM AND HERITAGE

PALACE AND MILITARY ARCHITECTURE

Chair: **Jean-Jacques Herr**, Archaïos

9:00 The North Palace of Ashurbanipal: Results of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 Excavation
- **Aaron Schmitt** (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

9:30 Excavations in the Palace of Adad-nerari III
- **John MacGinnis** (University of Cambridge)

10:00 Excavations in the Mashqi Gate of Nineveh
- **Michael Danti** (University of Pennsylvania and Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology)

10:30 A Tale of Two Towers: Labour Organization in Neo-Assyrian Monumental Projects
- **Khaled Abu Jayyab** (University of Toronto), **William Reimer** (University of Toronto) **and Brynn Evans** (Durham University)

11:00 Coffee Break (30mn)

POSTASSYRIAN AND REGIONAL SETTLEMENTS

Chair: **Jean-Jacques Herr**, Archaïos

11:30 After the Palace: A First Assessment of the Destruction and Later Occupation of Sargon's Palatial Complex
- **Barbara Couturaud** (Musée du Louvre) **& Mustafa Hassan Ibrahim** (State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq)

12:00 Hellenistic, Parthian and Islamic Settlement Activity on Tell Kuyunjik in the Area of the North Palace
- **Aaron Schmitt** (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

12:30 Excavations at the Assyrian fort of Usu Aska in Iraqi Kurdistan
- **John MacGinnis** (University of Cambridge)

ASSYRIAN URBANISM

Chair: **Pascal Butterlin**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

14:30 **Urban Density and Patterning within Nineveh's Lower Town**
- **Petra Creamer** (Emory University)

15:00 **Khorsabad/Dūr-Šarrukīn: An Unfinished, Carefully Planned Hierarchical Urban Settlement?**
- **Jean-Jacques Herr** (Archaïos) **& Jörg Fassbinder** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

15:30 **The Urban Landscape of an Assyrian Capital: Integrating Remote Sensing and Intensive Pedestrian Survey at Nimrud**
- **Francesca Simi** (Università degli Studi di Udine)

16:00 **Coffee Break (30 mn)**

HERITAGE

Chair: **Pascal Butterlin**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

16:30 **Our Oldest Team Members: The Andrae House (1903) and Selman House (1904) at Assur**
- **Jana Richter** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

17:00 **Two Overlapping Fortification Systems. A focus on the South Wall of Khorsabad/Dur-Sharrukin**
- **Mathilde Mura** (Aix-Marseille Université)

17:30 **Digital Nineveh: Bringing Ancient and Modern Mosul into a Single Digital Environment**
- **Stephen Batiuk** (University of Toronto)

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2026

INSTITUT NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE DE L'ART (INHA)
2 rue Viviennne - Paris 2e
Salle Vasari

MATERIAL CULTURE

MATERIAL CULTURE AND INSCRIPTIONS

Chair: **Barbara Couturaud**, Musée du Louvre

13:30 **Filling the Void: New Research on the Middle Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian Ceramic Assemblages from the Nimrud Lower Town**

• **Costanza Coppini** (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, UMR 8210 Anhima, CNRS) **and Laura Zanazzo** (Università degli Studi di Udine)

14:00 **After the Empire: Post-Assyrian Pottery from Nimrud to Tell Gomel amid Shifting Authorities and Regional Networks**

• **Alessandra Di Giuseppe** (Università degli studi di Venezia Ca' Foscari - Università degli studi di Udine - Università degli studi di Trieste)

14:30 **Material Culture in Context: Pottery and Small Finds from the 2023-2026 Excavations at Assur**

• **Andrea Squitieri** (Università degli Studi di Padova) **and Helen Gries** (Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin)

15:00 **New Inscriptions Discovered in Nineveh**

• **Stefan Maul** (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

15:30 **Closing Remarks**

• **Pascal Butterlin** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), **Barbara Couturaud** (Musée du Louvre), **& Jean-Jacques Herr** (Archaïos)



WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2026

The excavations of Heidelberg University in Mosul/Nineveh. Activities and Challenges.

Stefan Maul (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

The lecture will provide an overview of the activities that Heidelberg University has been conducting in Mosul/Nineveh since 2018 under difficult conditions. The focus will be on the work at Tell Nebi Yunus and the associated approach to preserving the ancient Near Eastern cultural heritage. In addition, the spectacular results of the excavations being carried out since 2023 at the Nergal Gate, Nineveh's largest city gate, will be presented.

Nineveh's Shamash Gate: Stabilization, Excavations, and Presentation

Timothy P. Harrison (Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago)

The Shamash Gate, the monumental eastern approach to Neo-Assyrian Nineveh, has been the focus of stabilization and preservation efforts since 2020 in the aftermath of the ISIS occupation of Mosul, initially in collaboration with the NINEV_E Expedition, and currently as part of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Culture's (ISAC) Nineveh East Archaeological Project (NEAP). One of the most complete and best-preserved of the city's gate complexes, the Shamash Gate is one of fifteen gates that formed the sprawling 12 km fortifications built by Sennacherib in the early 7th century BCE. The Shamash Gate mitigation has involved critical stabilization efforts, excavations, and the development of the site as part of a municipal green space designed to serve as both a protective buffer to the ancient site and a public access archaeological park. This effort is an integral part of the broader NEAP mission, which seeks to (1) study, document and research the urban topography of Neo-Assyrian Nineveh, including its earlier and later levels of occupation, through survey and excavation, (2) document the impact of destruction on the archaeological heritage of ancient Nineveh, and (3) preserve and present to the general public the magnificent remains of the imperial city, especially its extraordinary fortification walls and gates.

The Penn Nimrud Excavations 2022–2024 and the Northern Temple Precinct (Themes: General Presentation, Emergence of Neo-Assyrian Capitals, Damage and Post-Conflict Crisis)

Michael Danti (University of Pennsylvania and Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology)

The 2022–24 University of Pennsylvania excavations at Nimrud have reassessed the city's history as an Assyrian capital through stratigraphic analysis, high-resolution documentation, and examination of architectural complexes, including new and previously excavated areas. Work in the Northern Temple Precinct and the Palace of Adad-nerari III clarifies the sequence from Ashurnasirpal II to the post-612 BCE horizon, outlining the city's founding and patterns of reconstruction, reuse, and destruction. Excavations in the Ninurta and Ishtar Temples further shed light on sacred landscapes, building phases, ritual activities, and temple economies, placing religious institutions within broader urban systems and discussions on resilience, memory, and Neo-Assyrian urbanism.

Unlocking Nimrud's Lower Town: Objectives and First Insights from a New Archaeological Project

Daniele Morandi Bonacossi (Università degli Studi di Udine)

Despite nearly two centuries of excavations at Nimrud, most research has focused on the acropolis, with its temples, palaces, cuneiform archives, and artworks. Aside from Fort Shalmaneser and a few excavation trenches, the extensive lower town and surrounding landscape remain largely understudied. Launched in 2025 by the University of Udine, the "Nimrud Lower Town Archaeological Project" addresses this gap through an integrated, multiscale approach that combines remote sensing, survey, topography, geoarchaeology, and geophysical methods. Preliminary results, including intensive pedestrian and magnetometer surveys, and new cuneiform evidence, offer the first comprehensive picture of the lower city and its setting, revealing a dense, planned urban layout with monumental and residential structures organized within a network of streets and open spaces.

The new excavations at Assur: New insights into the 'New City' of Assur

Janoscha Kreppner (Universität Münster)

In spring 2023, new fieldwork in Assur was launched with funding from the German Research Foundation's Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize awarded to Karen Radner, and has since taken place regularly through to 2026. The aim is to supplement the extensive findings from the earlier excavations through targeted geomorphological investigations, geophysical surveys and scientific analyses of samples from detailed stratigraphic excavation sequences. As the earlier excavations primarily yielded insights into the northern part of the city, we have selected two operations in the very south, in the so-called 'New Town', for the new excavations. The new findings allow us to reconstruct a settlement sequence from c. 1500 BCE to the Early Islamic period, filling the gap between the Neo-Assyrian and Parthian periods. In addition, we can draw new conclusions about the urban landscape of southern Assur during the Neo-Assyrian period.

The Archaeological Project in Khorsabad: An Overview of the recent Fieldwork in Ancien Dur Sharrukin

Pascal Butterlin (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

An iconic site for archaeological research in the Near East, Khorsabad—ancient Dur-Sharrukin—remains a comparatively understudied urban settlement. The various archaeological investigations conducted at the site have brought to light extensive monumental complexes, whose architecture and functions are still unevenly understood. The city itself largely remains an "empty shell," as reflected in the successive plans and reconstructions proposed over the years. The Sargon Citadel Project was launched in 2019 in collaboration with the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH, Baghdad and Mosul), the Louvre Museum, the universities of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, A Coruña, Munich, Aix-Marseille, and the private companies Archaïos and Iconem. Its primary objectives are to assess the archaeological potential of a site severely affected by recent conflicts, particularly the war against Daesh (ISIS), and to develop a comprehensive management strategy for its preservation and future development. Following four field seasons, a more coherent picture of the city is beginning to emerge. Research has focused on the fortification system, particularly the southern city wall and Gate 6. These investigations have been integrated into a broader survey of the lower city, where magnetometer prospection has yielded highly significant results, enabling the proposal of a preliminary urban layout. A third line of research has involved assessing the current condition of the citadel, especially the area of the Great Palace, which has been heavily impacted by archaeological excavations, later occupation phases, and military installations.

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2026

The North Palace of Ashurbanipal: results of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 excavation

Aaron Schmidt (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

This presentation will focus on the fieldwork conducted by the University of Heidelberg since 2022 in the area of the North Palace on Tell Kuyunjik at ancient Nineveh. It includes a discussion of the Neo-Assyrian remains discovered during the first three seasons in different areas of the palace including building remains, relief fragments, pottery and other small finds.

Excavations in the Palace of Adad-nerari III

John MacGinnis (University of Cambridge)

This paper will present the results of the excavation in the Upper Chambers and the palace built by Adad-nerari III at Nimrud. We start with the background - the excavations carried out by Layard and Loftus in the 1840s and 1850s, and the work by Muzahem Mahmoud Husein on behalf of the State Board for Antiquities and Heritage in the 1990s. We assess both the achievements of those operations as well as some of the problems in interpretation generated by their results. We will then present the result of the Penn Museum fieldwork, including some extraordinary discoveries, and how the Upper Chambers are coming into focus as a construction very much in accord with the canon of Assyrian palace architecture.

Excavations in the Mashqi Gate of Nineveh

Michael Danti (University of Pennsylvania and Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology)

The University of Pennsylvania excavations at the Mashki Gate of Nineveh have combined archaeological research with a major cultural heritage effort to recover and preserve the site after its destruction by the so-called Islamic State. Excavations uncovered a previously unknown chamber within the gate containing reused reliefs of Sennacherib from the Southwest Palace of Nineveh, providing new insights into patterns of reuse and imperial display. Conducted in close partnership with Iraqi archaeologists and authorities, the project highlights Iraqi leadership and training, focusing on sustainable heritage management, site reconstruction, and community participation in the ongoing revitalization of Nineveh.

A Tale of Two Towers: Labour Organization in Neo-Assyrian Monumental Projects

Khaled Abu Jayyab (University of Toronto, **William Reimer** (University of Toronto) **and Brynn Evans** (Durham University)

During his reign (705–681 BC), Sennacherib transformed Nineveh from a prominent regional center into a vast imperial capital encompassing approximately 750 hectares. This ambitious building program was explicitly commemorated in royal inscriptions as a material projection of Assyrian power and ideological supremacy. Central to this transformation was a major eastward expansion of the city, which extended Nineveh's fortification system to a circuit measuring nearly 12 km in length. This expansion necessitated not only the construction of new defensive walls, but also the development of monumental gate complexes along the newly defined eastern perimeter. Among these was the Shamash Gate, one of the principal access points into the city.

Recent excavations at the Shamash Gate provide new insight into the logistical organization underpinning Neo-Assyrian monumental construction. In particular, the material evidence offers a rare glimpse into the organization of labour, especially in relation to large-scale brick production. Analysis reveals that the northern and southern towers of the gate were constructed using two distinct brick types, differing in dimensions, clay composition, tempering practices, and overall visual characteristics. These differences suggest variation in production regimes that may reflect differentiated labour groups, supply networks, or phases of construction.

This paper presents the results of systematic sampling and compositional analysis of bricks from both towers. By integrating archaeological data with Neo-Assyrian textual evidence, it seeks to reconstruct aspects of labour organization during Sennacherib's reign, with particular attention to corvée obligations and state-directed production. Through this material perspective, the study contributes to broader discussions of imperial infrastructure, resource mobilization, and the mechanisms that sustained Neo-Assyrian monumentality.

After the Palace: A First Assessment of the Destruction and Later Occupation of Sargon's Palatial Complex

Barbara Couturaud (Musée du Louvre) **& Mustafa Hassan Ibrahim** (State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq)

Since 2023, excavations on the palace of Sargon in Khorsabad have resumed. Covering an area of approximately five hectares within a citadel of ten hectares, this structure was the first Assyrian palace to be excavated, beginning in 1843 ; fieldwork ceased in 1854 and results were published in 1867. While many questions remain regarding the authenticity of the palace plan and the actual extent of the excavations, subsequent discoveries in other Assyrian capitals

have nevertheless allowed the general layout of this palace to be considered as largely authentic.
Since the archaeological project of Khorsabad resumed, three excavation campaigns and thirteen soundings have uncovered the remains of the palace in various areas. The objectives of these test soundings is, among others, to probe the palace in different locations in order to georefeance and refine its floor plan, as well as to assess its overall condition. In this regard, the excavations have shown that the building, after its presumed abandonment in 705 BC following the death of King Sargon, suffered extensive damage, culminating in the tunnel excavations of the 19th century, which contributed to its deterioration. This presentation will therefore focus on tracing the palace's history after its abandonment, including potential acts of deliberate damages during the Assyrian period, followed by phases of reoccupation, and at last the excavations conducted over the past nearly two centuries.

Hellenistic, Parthian and Islamic settlement activity on Tell Kuyunjik in the area of the North Palace

Aaron Schmidt (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

During excavations by Heidelberg University in the North Palace on Tell Kuyunjik, we encountered remains dating to the post Assyrian periods. There is clear evidence for Hellenistic, Parthian and Islamic settlement activities in several of our excavation areas. Apart from massive building remains, we encountered large quantities of pottery and animal bones. The presentation will provide an overview of the different contexts and associated artifacts.

Excavations at the Assyrian fort of Usu Aska in Iraqi Kurdistan

John MacGinnis (University of Cambridge)

This paper will present the results of the excavation of the Assyrian fort located in the Darband-i Rania pass in the Zagros mountains in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The inauguration of excavation at the site led to the realisation that Usu Aska does not consist solely of a fortified watch tower, as initially appeared, but preserves the remains of a very substantial military installation. The exploration of the site is slowly uncovering the plan and articulation of the Assyrian stronghold. We examine the construction of the fortifications, the multiple rebuilding of which we believe must have been due to having sustained damage from earthquakes. The analysis of the small finds, together with the application of environmental sciences, are for the first time giving us a picture of the workings and daily life of an Assyrian fort.

Urban Density and Patterning within Nineveh's Lower Town

Petra M. Creamer (Emory University)

As archaeological investigations return to Assyria's capital cities, a new emphasis on mapping the layout of these settlements has followed. Recent surface surveys and remote sensing methods have led to an increased understanding of population dynamics, urban density, and social, political, and economic organization. In this paper, I present the results of the 2025-2026 magnetometry investigations in Nineveh's lower town. These preliminary results reveal a dense urban layout within the city, including the areas constructed and settled by Sennacherib in the early 7th century BCE. I then contextualize Nineveh's evident population growth within Assyrian efforts to intensify agropastoral production in the Heartland.

Khorsabad / Dūr-Šarrukīn: An Unfinished, Carefully Planned Hierarchical Urban Settlement?

Jean-Jacques Herr (Archaïos) **& Jörg Fassbinder** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Within the broader history of ancient Mesopotamian urbanisation, the first half of the first millennium BCE stands out as a distinct period. During this era, urban settlements, most notably the capitals of the Assyrian empire expanded exponentially. This growth marked a significant use and multiplication of newly founded cities. Archaeological data accumulated from the beginning of Near Eastern Archaeology in the 19th c. through the 1990s led scholars to identify a defining characteristic of these settlements, namely a massive, fortified perimeter featuring two distinct citadels built astride the city walls. Typically, one of these elevated sectors topped an existing archaeological mound to host royal residences and sanctuaries, while the other, similarly controlled by state institutions, served as a military and logistical hub, often referred to as an 'arsenal'. While this traditional model, established through extensive excavations, emphasizes a spatial segregation between elite institutions and the dominated inhabitants, recent scholarship has challenged its comprehensiveness. Current studies highlight a critical gap in this framework, noting that approximately 87% to 94% of the remaining urban settlement area remains largely under investigated.

This perspective contrasts sharply with the evidence yielded by more than forty years of archaeological investigations conducted along the periphery of the Assyrian Empire's core area. In provincial urban centres a dense network of carefully planned streets and built-up blocks has been revealed by combining geophysical prospecting with traditional archaeological excavation. Recent archaeological projects conducted in the lower towns of Assyrian capitals allow researchers to replicate this interdisciplinary methodology. This approach serves to better interrogate the nature and spatial organisation of what has traditionally, and based on only partial data, been considered the paradigm of urban settlement within an imperialistic territorial state.

This presentation will focus on recent investigations conducted by the Mission archéologique française de Khorsabad in the lower town. This urban area, encompassing 320 ha, has long been assumed to be unfinished. This halted development is historically attributed to the sudden death of King Sargon II, just one year after the city's inauguration in 706 BCE, which prompted his successor, Sennacherib, to establish Nineveh as the new imperial capital. The preliminary results of magnetometer surveys, remote sensing, excavations, and pedestrian surveys will be discussed to address the extent to which the short-lived settlement of Khorsabad (ancient Dūr-Šarrukīn) was a carefully planned, hierarchical urban centre featuring multi-scale, polarised functions.

The Urban Landscape of an Assyrian Capital: Integrating Remote Sensing and Intensive Pedestrian Survey at Nimrud

Francesca Simi (Università degli Studi di Udine)

This paper presents the first results of an integrated remote sensing and intensive survey approach to the Lower Town of Nimrud, aimed at reconstructing the urban landscape organisation of an Assyrian capital. Analysis of historical satellite imagery, aerial photographs, UAV-derived datasets, and magnetometer survey results has identified elements of the urban street network, fortifications, and possible hydraulic infrastructure, as well as evidence of spatial connections between the city and its hinterland. These data are complemented by a systematic 40×40 m grid field survey, which has produced a high-resolution dataset of surface materials. Preliminary results reveal a complex settlement history, including significant Middle Assyrian occupation and continued post-Assyrian presence, offering new insights into Nimrud's urban development beyond its acropolis.

Our Oldest Team Members: The Andrae House (1903) and Selman House (1904) at Assur

Jana Richter (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

This presentation outlines the history and recent restoration of the German expedition buildings at Assur, built between 1903 and 1904 under Walter Andrae. Originally serving as living and working spaces, these structures have survived over a century and are now protected as heritage monuments under Iraqi law. They underwent renovation by the SBAH in 1978 but suffered significant damage during the IS occupation from 2015 to 2016. As part of the renewed excavation project at Assur launched in 2023, we restored the old expedition house and its neighbouring building. Archival research into their histories highlights their heritage value, with letters and reports by Walter Andrae and colleagues providing insights into the daily life of the early expedition team and the social environment of late Ottoman Iraq.

Two overlapping fortification systems – A focus on the south wall of Khorsabad/Dur-Sharrukin.

Mathilde Mura (Aix-Marseille Université)

One of the most prominent archaeological signatures of the ancient city of Khorsabad/ Dur- Sharrukin, is its monumental enclosure wall, stretching over several kilometers. Still visible in the landscape, this imposing perimeter was perceived as inherently strategic and was therefore profoundly reshaped by recent military infrastructure: earthworks, berms, and trenches constructed during the armed conflicts that the territories north of Mosul has endured in the 2010s.
Building on the broader conflict archaeology assessment at Khorsabad, and using the legacy of ancient excavations, satellite imagery analysis, and new excavation data from Gate 6 this paper presents a targeted study of the site's south wall, where the superimposition of Neo-Assyrian and modern military fortification systems is particularly legible. Overall, the renewed occupation of the south wall, raises two important questions. The first on the long- lasting consideration of this location as strategically critical and – directly contracting with it - the second focusing on the ephemerality of the military occupations of the site. To address these questions, we will assess the condition and making of the Assyrian remains and contemporary features, the depth of destruction recent installations have caused, while highlighting unexpected stratigraphic preservation in sectors left undisturbed by recent military occupation.
The case of Khorsabad's south wall illustrates a broader methodological challenge in conflict archaeology, namely: how to disentangle overlapping anthropogenic interventions and envision a site management plan true to every period of the site's history. Acknowledging the modern military occupation as an archaeological layer in its own right, opens new perspectives

for heritage practitioners tasked to define what should be preserved, documented, or cleared in post-conflict recovery contexts. The analysis thus contributes to ongoing debates on remote sensing for heritage monitoring in conflict zones, while advocating for inclusive conservation frameworks that account for the full, and sometimes uncomfortable, depth of a site's history.

Digital Nineveh: Bringing Ancient and Modern Mosul into a single digital environment

Stephen Batiuk (University of Toronto)

Ancient Nineveh, nestled in the modern city of Mosul, has a great and storied place in the history of archaeology. It served as the foundation for the study of the Mesopotamian world, with the early 19th century investigations at the site revealing the great civilization of Assyria and the grandeur of its capital. Since the 1820's, there have been nine major excavation campaigns at the site, in addition to numerous smaller campaigns. The majority of which have not been published in a complete and/ or scientific manner. Many researchers have painstakingly attempted to rehabilitate the datasets and extract as much information as possible, but none have tried to fully integrate the varied datasets. The destructions in the modern city by ISIS combined with the resulting civil rebuilding and archaeological mitigation work, have provided a vital necessity to try to bring the disparate legacy datasets and the modern infrastructure planning together into a coherent digital framework. This paper presents the current state of this collaborative, and monumental task. From collecting the publications, identifying and digitizing the usable data, and integrating it into a database with GIS capabilities, we aim to pull together as much of the data from over 200 years of historical and archaeological research and overlay it with as much geodetic and modern infrastructure data to create a tool that will be of importance not only to historical research, but for the challenges faced by the rebuilding of the modern city of Mosul in which Nineveh is nestled.

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2026

Filling the Void: New Research on the Middle Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian Ceramic Assemblages from the Nimrud Lower Town

Costanza Coppini (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, UMR 8210 Anhima, CNRS) **and Laura Zanazzo** (Università degli Studi di Udine)

The Nimrud Lower Town Archaeological Project, which has initiated a multidisciplinary investigation of the Lower Town of the first Assyrian capital, aims not only to enhance understanding of Nimrud's urbanism but also to deepen current knowledge of its complex and multifaceted material world. To this end, this paper presents preliminary results from the analysis of Assyrian pottery from the intensive pedestrian survey and the first excavation campaign. The examination of Middle Assyrian ceramics from the intensive survey—which provides insights into the chronology of the previously unknown pre-Nimrud settlement—and the Neo-Assyrian repertoire from both the survey and the excavation will contribute to an initial assessment of the site's settlement history, as well as the technological and functional characteristics of the pottery assemblages.

After the Empire: Post-Assyrian Pottery from Nimrud to Tell Gomel amid Shifting Authorities and Regional Networks

Alessandra Di Giuseppe (Università degli studi di Venezia Ca' Foscari - Università degli studi di Udine - Università degli studi di Trieste)

This contribution examines settlement dynamics in northern Mesopotamia from the post-Assyrian to Hellenistic periods through a comparative analysis of ceramic assemblages from Nimrud and Tell Gomel. Typological and spatial data show different development trends. At Nimrud, post-Assyrian ceramics indicate continued occupation in the sixth century BC, followed by a gradual reduction in the extent and intensity of settlement. Tell Gomel yields limited post-Assyrian material but experienced increased occupation during the Hellenistic era. The post-Assyrian pottery is seen not as a transitional marker but as an indicator of broader territorial reorganization, reflecting changing political systems, communication routes, and the influence of a former imperial centre.

Material Culture in Context: Pottery and Small Finds from the 2023-2026 Excavations at Assur

Andrea Squitieri (Università degli Studi di Padova) **and Helen Gries** (Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin)

Excavations at Assur since 2023 have yielded a wide range of pottery and small finds dating from the Middle Assyrian through the Parthian period. The stratigraphic sequence, anchored by radiocarbon dates, provides a framework for refining the site's ceramic chronology. Small finds were recovered from domestic contexts, graves, and areas containing production waste. The study combines stratigraphic and contextual analysis with archaeometric and microscopic methods to clarify the date and function of the pottery and small finds. The newly recovered material also provides a basis for reassessing and refining the classification of the extensive assemblages from earlier excavations at Assur, with implications for our understanding of material culture at Assur and across Assyria.

New inscriptions discovered in Nineveh

Stefan Maul (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

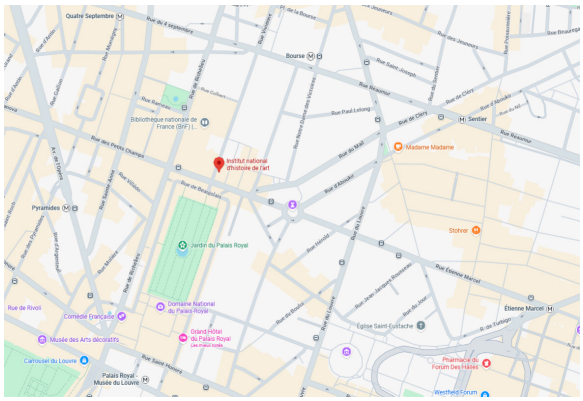
During the excavations that Heidelberg University has been conducting since 2018 in Nineveh—the last Assyrian capital, which was magnificently expanded in the 7th century BCE—thousands of written records have been found on bricks, stone blocks, stone orthostats, and architectural sculptures, on door socket stones, clay prisms, and clay and ivory tablets, as well as on stone vessels and clay bullae. These documents provide deep insights into the history of the final century of the Assyrian Empire and everyday life during that period. Moreover, they allow us to reconstruct the architectural history of the great palaces and fortifications.

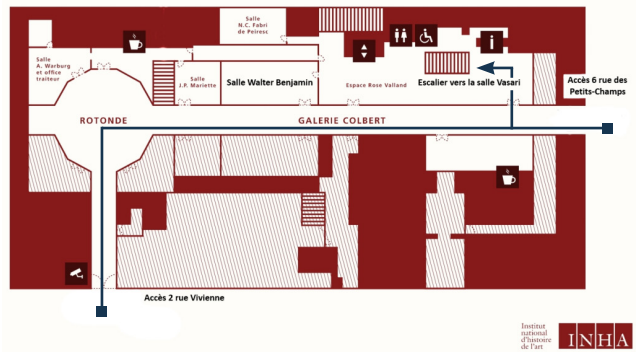
ACCESSIBILITY AND SITE MAP

Getting to the INHA

By public transport: via metro, lines 1 and 7 (Palais-Royal-Musée du Louvre station), line 3 (Bourse station), or lines 7 and 14 (Pyramides station). By bus, take line 29 (Bibliothèque nationale, Mairie du 2e, or Victoires stops) or line 39 (Sainte-Anne-Petits-Champs stop).

Access to the Salle Vasari is via 2 rue Vivienne, 75002 or 6 rue des Petits-Champs, 75002.

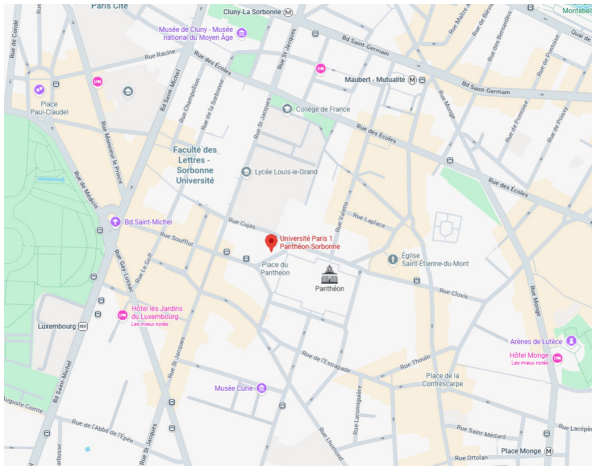


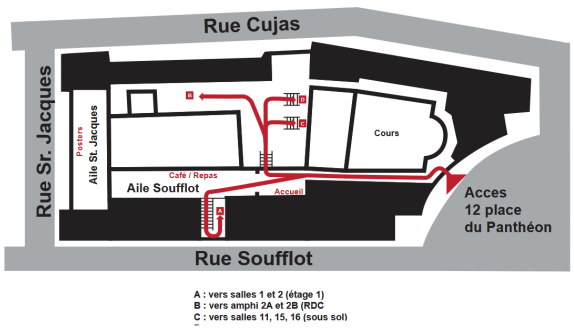


Getting to the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

By public transport: via RER line B (Luxembourg station), metro, line 10 (Cardinal Lemoine or Cluny-La Sorbonne stations), line 4 (Odéon, Saint-Michel, or Maubert-Mutualité stations), or lines 7 (Place Monge station). By bus, take lines 21, 27, 38, 82, 84, 85 or 89 (stop near the Panthéon)

Access to the Salle 6 is via 12 place du Panthéon 75005.





A : vers salles 1 et 2 (étage 1)
B : vers amphi 2A et 2B (RDC
C : vers salles 11, 15, 16 (sous sol)

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