

Brief report of the workshop “Beola 3” held in Beola (Italy)

from Wednesday May 17, 2023 to Tuesday May 23, 2023

(mDP – ZH524; full report available at this [link](#))

After the workshops “[Beola 1](#)” and “[Beola 2](#)” (held in Beola in July and September 2022, respectively), part of the team of the [Cybernetica Mesopotamica](#) project gathered again in Beola (in person or online, via ZOOM) for another workshop labeled “Beola 3”.

The main goal of this meeting consisted in a twofold effort:

- 1) to have an update about ongoing projects, particularly for what concerns the elaborations of idea for the forthcoming volume [Digital Discourse. A View from the Field](#) (for which the deadline for submitting papers has been moved from July 31, 2023 to September 2023);
- 2) to concretely work on the development of new programs supporting the activities of the project.

On Thursday, May 19, 2023 the group of collaborators physically present in Beola (Giorgio Buccellati, Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, Lorenzo Crescioli, Bernardo Forni, Marco De Pietri, Jessica Scaciga, James Walker) had a three-hours meeting (through ZOOM) with other members of the project connected online (Federico Buccellati, Amer Ahmad, Stefania Ermidoro, Jonah Lynch, Yasmine Mahmoud, Mary Stancavage); this meeting had two main goals:

- 1) to briefly summarize the major results of ongoing projects and possible further perspectives for future developments of the same;
- 2) to discuss together about the general topic of the forthcoming volume [Digital Discourse. A View from the Field](#); on this occasion, each of the collaborators exposed his/her own idea for a possible, eventual contribution to the volume.

The recording of this meeting is available to team members at this [link](#) (with ID and PW, only).

Report by Hiba Qassar on the *Women Atelier’s Project*:

“Dr Yasmine Mahmoud invited me to develop a proposal on how to improve the women’s Atelier in Mozan. My proposal aims to transform Mozan women’s handmade crafts into marketable cultural products by adding value to every aspect of the production chain (idea, artist selection, production, distribution, consumption). I have also identified the main challenges and opportunities for the project. Finally, I suggested two models:

- creating a direct link between arts and crafts;
- relying entirely on local women for production.

I am still waiting for feedback and input so we can move forward.”

Report by Arwa Kharobi on Anthropological Analyses on Human Remains

“Dear all, I regret not being able to join you today but hopefully next time! Here is a brief report on what I am working on now regarding the human remains from Tell Mozan. 1. Writing a paper

presenting the first full set of dental data from Tell Mozan (Ancient Urkesh) using bioarchaeological methods (paleopathology, stable isotopes as well as metric and non-metric traits). Patterns of dental caries and with tooth wear were recorded to be combined with the isotopic results regarding dietary estimations. We report isotopic analysis ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) from enamel of [75] human permanent teeth which were also used for an additional biodistance analysis based on ASUDAS. The multidisciplinary approach investigates the ancestral background of Urkesh and the degree of temporary or more permanent relocation from other settlements. The hypothesis of the existence of a homogeneity of the oral health of the inhabitants of Urkesh can be advanced. Metric and non-metric dental traits favour Mesopotamian traits. Analysis regarding diet confirm an “agricultural & historical” type food, rich in sugar. These results filling the gap of dental data in the region, reconstructing the diet and define biological distances between Urkesh and other Middle Bronze Mesopotamian populations. Submission is planned for June 2023 in the journal is the American Journal of Biological Anthropology. Co-authors: Chris Stantis, Nina Maaranen, Federico Buccellati, Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati. 2. Developing a new study with Dr Antony Colombo (Bordeaux University). The goal is to find out if there are differences between individuals in terms of deficiencies during development (thus linked to food which could be crossed with the isotopic results) and morphological variations (micro-evolution, phylogenetic marker, which can be related to cultural variations and potentially crossed with genetic data). 3. Collaboration with Dr Tina Saupe (Evolutionary Biology Centre, Uppsala University) for the DNA analysis, work in progress, expect to have the results back by the end of this year. Those two projects are on dental samples already in hand (The old one and limited to 30). In the future I will need more dental samples and some bone ones (Ribs) to develop a new pilot study on stress and migration in the framework of the ERC project that I would like to submit in October 2023, where Mozan is one of the Five main archaeological sites included.

A schedule of what I am planning to do for Summer:

- June 2023: Finishing the *Urkesh/Mozan Studies 8 (A place for the Dead: An overview of Burial Practices at Tell Mozan in the Middle Bronze Age)*;
- From July and on: Start encoding into [UGR](#) (anthropological data).”

During the other days, the team mostly focused on the development and updating, under the constant assistance of Bernardo Forni (for what concerns both format and content) of the many websites pertaining to the “site domains” described in the [CM](#) hub-website.

In the end, the fruitful collaboration of the different members of the team allowed the project to envisage soon very important achievements, partially already fulfilled; just to mention the most remarkable ones:

- elaborating abstracts for the forthcoming papers;
- writing three new pages for the analytical part (left-hand side) of the unit book about [A15](#);
- training with the new program elaborated by Bernardo Forni (MID: “Markdown Input to Display”; see section “[Useful material](#)” accessible to members of the staff, through ID and PW);
- reviewing the whole stratigraphy of [A15](#);
- implementing the following programs or part of websites:
 1. MID improvements and adaptations to the needs of the project (see also the attached PDF with the description of the new input and output system);

2. converting (HTML > MID) [A15](#), "[The Grammar](#)", and JD (partially);
3. making publicly available online the MID version of [CAR](#);
4. implementing of templates for JD and elaboration of a version of this program compatible to MID.

Further reports are expected to be sent by individual collaborators in the forthcoming months.