

The Essence of Urban Civilization:  
An Interdisciplinary Study of the Origin and Transformation of Ancient West Asian Cities

**Symposium:**

**Cities and Urbanization in West Asia and Egypt  
—Shapes, Functions, and Ideology—**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Tsukuba International Congress Center (Convention Hall 200)

**Program**

**DAY 1: Friday, June 2 Opening, Prehistory & Environment**

**Opening** (Chair: T. Hogue)

9:30 **Yamada, S. Opening Address**

9:45 **Novák, M. Opening Lecture** (50 min followed by 10 min Q&A)  
Cities and urban landscapes in Ancient Mesopotamia. Different traditions and diverging concepts in Babylonia, Assyria and Upper Mesopotamia

(Break)

**Prehistory** (30 min talk followed by 15 min Q&A. Chair: T. Hogue)

11:15 **Karul, N.**  
Karahantepe: a new Pre-Pottery Neolithic site in Şanlıurfa–Turkey

12:00 **Miyake, Y.**  
Communal buildings and social complexity in the Neolithic Southwest Asia

(12: 45–14:15 Lunch)

**Environment** (30 min talk followed by 15 min Q&A. Chair: Y. Miyake)

14:15 **Nazari, H., Ritz, J.F., Fathian, A., Fazeli Nashli, H., Mahan, Sh., Vaezi, A., Avagyan, A.**  
The myth of Lake Saveh, Central Iranian Plateau: a new synthesis of geological, archaeological and historical data

15:00 **Anma, R., Jotheri, J., Wakasa, S., Shitaoka, Y., Shin, K., Sano, T., Yokoo, Y.**  
Late Quaternary climate changes and sedimentation in the Tigris-Euphrates watersheds: implication in the changing watercourses and early cities

(Break)

16:00 **Watanabe, C.E.**  
Water in Mesopotamia: its dual aspects in creation and destruction

16:45 **Nishiyama, S., Kurosawa, M., Ikehata, K.**  
Archaeometrical analyses on the Iron Age material remains excavated from the eastern border zone of the Assyrian Empire: results from Yasin Tepe, Iraqi Kurdistan

18:00 **Reception party at the restaurant in the Congress Center**

## DAY 2: Saturday, June 3 Mesopotamia & Egypt

**Mesopotamia** (30 min talk followed by 15 min Q&A. Chair: S. Yamada)

9:30 **Baker, H.D.**  
Circulation in the Babylonian cities: streets and the urban fabric

10:15 **Shibata, D.**  
Patron deities in Ancient Mesopotamian cities

(Break)

11:15 **Hogue, T.**  
The cityscape of Carchemish: a historical investigation of urban organization in Syro-Anatolia

12:00 **Konstantopoulos, G.**  
Both real and imagined: borders and boundaries in Mesopotamia

(12:45–14:15 Lunch)

**Egypt** (30 min talk followed by 15 min Q&A. Chair: N. Kawai)

14:15 **Moeller, N.**  
Challenges and new approaches for studying ancient Egyptian urbanism

15:00 **Moreno Garcia, J.C.**  
Towns, royal estates and harbours: settlement organization and flows of wealth in the third and early second millennium BC

(Break)

16:00 **Kondo, J.**  
The layout of the monuments in the city of Thebes, Egypt

16:45 **Suto, Y.**  
Cities, villages, and countryside in Egypt under the Ptolemies

## DAY 3: Sunday, June 4 Medieval & Modern West Asia and North Africa

**Medieval West Asia** (30 min talk followed by 15 min Q&A. Chair: N. Nakamachi)

9:30 **Rante, R.**  
The origin of Rayy and its evolution until Islamic time

10:15 **Guirguis, M.**  
*bani suef*, a new urban Ottoman center in Middle Egypt, 16<sup>th</sup> century: the position of non-Muslims inhabitants

11:00 **Yamaguchi, A.**  
Urbanization in Kurdistan under Early Modern empires: the transition from mountain fortresses to flatland cities

(11:45–13:30 Lunch)

**Modern West Asia and North Africa** (20 min talk followed by 10 min Q&A. Chair: R. Burns)

- 13:30 **Moaz, A.**  
The preservation of historical natural and urban landscape
- 14:00 **Matsubara, K.**  
Ancient heritage and modern urban planning: the urban project for Old Damascus in 1968 by Gyoji Banshoya
- 14:30 **Taniguchi, Y.**  
Conservation of a medieval religious area around St. Simeon Church in Paşabağ, Cappadocia (Turkey)

(Break)

- 15:15 **Burns, R. Closing Lecture** (50 min followed by 10 min Q&A. Chair: K. Matsubara)  
Notes for closing presentation at Tsukuba seminar, June 2023
- 16:30 **Panel Discussion: Essence of City**  
(Chair: S. Yamada; Panelists: M. Novák, H.D. Baker, N. Moeller, J.C. Moreno Garcia, R. Burns)
- Questions to be discussed: (60 min)
1. How to define a city ? (size, population, social complexity, wall, great architecture, etc.)
  2. How cities reflect human societies and how human societies influence the shape of cities?