



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: COMPUS – Civic community and public space in the ancient Near East. The case of Hittite Anatolia at the end of the Late Bronze Age (14th-13th centuries BCE).

FUNDING PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020

CALL: H2020-MSCA-IF-2015-EF – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: Ancient Near East; Late Bronze Age; Anatolian Studies; Urban Design; Social Analysis of Space; History of Architecture; Ancient Governance; Assembly Democracy; Collective Identities

HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE: Department of Humanities

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Lucio MILANO

FELLOW: Alessandra GILIBERT

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 180.277,20	€ 180.277,20

ABSTRACT

This project proposes to study public space of the ancient Near Eastern cities as a material correlate of civic communities. Civic communities acted as a significant political factor throughout the history of the ancient Near East, both as institutions (e.g., assemblies) and as informal groups (the “town's crowd”). These forms of social aggregation were influential and often antagonistic alternatives to the monarchical and religious central powers. However, while the Temple and the Palace as architectonic materializations of dominant powers engaged entire generations of archaeologists, the traces left by civic communities in the urban texture of the ancient cities have received far less attention. This project approaches the study of past communal political life by analyzing the planning and use of central streets and squares at Hattusha, the capital of the Hittite

Empire. The study is based on a granted access to unpublished topographical data and integrates three lines of methodological inquiry: topological analysis, urban design analysis, and a contextual analysis". Both heuristics and time focus originate from my previous studies on Syro-Hittite urbanism in the early Iron Age (1200-900 BCE). I came to understand that Late Bronze Age (14th-13th centuries BCE) urban politics are the key to city structure and political discourses for centuries to come. As case-study, Hattusha offers an optimal balance of historical relevance and data accessibility. The research aims at opening vistas on the interaction between built environment, informal civic habits, and communal institutions. It places itself across archaeology, anthropology, and urban studies. As a result, I expect an output of relevance not only for archaeologists, but for all scholars interested in comparative urban politics, ancient and modern. I also designed this research in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University to lay ground for future European-based research projects sharpen my career profile.

Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
January, 1st 2017	December, 31st 2018

BENEFICIARY:

1 Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Italy
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