



## 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING AT KÜLTEPE

### CONFERENCE CALL FOR

The 2nd International Meeting at Kültepe, July 27-29, 2015

'Resources, trade and social developments in the world of Kültepe'

The period 2500-1500 bce saw the rise of centralized state power in Central Anatolia in a process of urbanization and political centralization that reached a zenith in the 20th century bce. At this time the region was divided into dozens of densely populated micro-states, each centered on an individual urban and palatial institution, but connected through a shared linguistic, material and religious horizon. One element that tied together this competitive system of peer polities was a complex network of commercial exchange operated by local and foreign merchants operating within and beyond the region. The site of Kültepe located near the modern-day provincial capital of Kayseri provides the best documentation for this international network through a unique convergence of textual, physical and scientific data. A fortuitous (for posterity) destruction of the site in c. 1835 bce has provided a dense and multi-faceted documentation that allows us to extrapolate well beyond its confines in both time and space, so as to explore some of the foundational technological, commercial, cultural and biological connections that spanned the Eurasian landmass in the Bronze Age.

The purpose of the second International Meeting at Kültepe is to anchor the site in the dimensions of time and space – both in concrete physical terms, and through e.g. belief patterns, technology, institutions, climate, language, genetics and visual art – by bringing together specialists to present studies on the effects of commercial and cultural interaction at the site in a broad perspective.

The meeting will consist of five sessions, one of which is general and a catch-all for reports on ongoing work conducted at Kültepe. The remaining four sessions are thematic, and are set to dig deep into the problems of understanding Kültepe in relation to four specific topics: chronology, the origins and extent of the commercial system, resources, technologies and the infrastructure of production and exchange, and cultural interaction, social and political practices.

Each of the four thematic sessions is to be led by two invited scholars, whose work in the past has not been devoted mainly to studies of material from Kültepe, but whose research has been instrumental for placing it in a broader historical context. In most cases, the session leaders are paired, so that one comes from a material-culture background, while the other has focused on the written record. We hope that such a marriage of approaches will be reflected in the proposals for papers submitted for the meeting, and that they will embrace the unique opportunity presented by the site of Kültepe for interdisciplinary and integrative approaches. The session leaders will conduct a discussion at the end each panel, which sums up and relates its papers to the broader framework of the meeting.

The meeting thus solicits two types of papers: 9 general reports and 16 thematic presentations. All proposals are due by March 1st, 2015 and should consist of a title and a short (max. 200 words) abstract that will allow the organizers to approve and assign it to an appropriate session. Participants assigned to the thematic sessions will be asked to submit a more detailed abstract (c. 800 words) for the benefit of the session leaders by June 1st, 2015. Note that session leaders themselves are welcome to present papers, but that they are not required to do so. Note that we invite more people than there will be papers. We hope for active and exciting discussions.

The conference and publication language is English. Conference proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed sub-series of the journal *Subartu* (Brepols: Turnhout). Article submissions are due by January 1st, 2016. Final publication is set for spring of 2017.

All participants are required to fund their own trip to Kayseri. Beyond that everything is fully financed, including accommodations, meals and local transport. Meetings take place in the conference hall at the site itself, where also coffee and refreshments will be served during the day. Evenings will feature talks in the field by scholars working on material from the site and barbecues. No formal attire is required, but you may consider bringing shorts for the day, and a warm sweater for sitting outside after sundown. The meeting offers a complementary day-trip to the newly discovered EB tin-mines on the nearby Mount Erciyas (RSVP required) on July 30th.

#### DAY 1

- 1) Chronology (Relative and Absolute; Social and Material) (4 PAPERS)
- 2) Origins and Extent of the Commercial System (4 PAPERS)

#### DAY 2

- 3) Resources, Technologies and the Infrastructure of Production and Exchange (4 PAPERS)
- 4) Cultural Interaction, Social and Political Practices (4 PAPERS)

#### DAY 3

- 5) General Session (9 PAPERS)
- 6) Closing Discussion (Panel of session leaders, open debate)

#### *Conference Contact Information*

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We look forward to seeing you at Kültepe.

Fikri Kulakoğlu



Gojko Barjamovic

