

In Search of the Neo-Hittites

International Workshop
31 March - 3 April 2019,
Monte Verità, Ascona



Keynote Speakers

J.D. Hawkins – S. Mazzoni – W. Orthmann

The workshop will consider the material culture and linguistic situation of “Neo-Hittite” and neighbouring states – with a dominant Luwian or Aramaean identity – with a clear focus on the exchange across different scholarly disciplines.

To be questioned are ways and dynamics that determine local and chronological differences, to approach the bigger question of how and why these aspects contribute to forging an identity. What is the significance of differences / similarities for any given local identity, and can we detect a programme behind it, i.e. is there a purpose to be fulfilled, and if we can detect such a driving force, to whose benefit is it employed? Another topic to be addressed concerns the methodology used and the question of whether it can be borrowed from other fields of study or needs to be newly minted.

Discussion panels will be held on the following topics:

1. **Continuity and discontinuity after 1200 BCE: Settlement patterns, art, scripts**
2. **Languages and scripts: Development and influences**
3. **Ethnogenesis and identity: Markers, designations, outside perspectives**
4. **Urbanism: Monumental architecture and art as expressions of identity, power and legitimization**
5. **Current and Future Research: Perspectives & Limitations**
6. **Afterlife concepts, burial practices and ancestor cult**

Organizers: Mirko Novák – Annick Payne / Contact: annick.payne@iaw.unibe.ch



Sunday, 31st March

16.00–17.00	Arrival & Registration
17.00–17.45	Welcome Apéro
17.45–19.15	Key Note Lectures Transition. Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions 1200-1000 B.C. (Hawkins) The archaeological chronology of the Iron Age in Northern Syria and Southern Anatolia (Mazzoni) Neo-Hittite and the post-imperial period (Orthmann)
19.15–20.30	Dinner

Monday, 1st April

08.00–09.00	Breakfast
09.00	Welcome
09.15–10.30	Topic 1: Continuity and discontinuity after 1200 BCE: Settlement patterns, art, scripts Chair: Tudeau Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Settlement Patterns (Osborne)• Luwian Hieroglyphs and Cuneiform (Weeden)
10.30–11.00	Coffee Break
11.00–12.30	Topic 2: Languages and scripts: development and influences Chair: Lippke Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luwian (Yakubovich)• Aramaic / Phoenician (Lemaire)
12.30–14.00	Lunch
14.00–15.30	Topic 3: Ethnogenesis and identity: markers, designations, outside perspectives Chair: Overmann Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aramaean Ethnogenesis and Identity (Younger)• Immigrants from the Aegean and their Acculturation (Lehmann)
15.30–16.00	Coffee Break
16.00–17.30	Topic 4: Urbanism, monumental architecture and art as expressions of identity, power and legitimation Chair: Suter Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urbanism and Architecture (Hermann)• Art (Bonatz)
19.00–20.30	Dinner

Tuesday, 2nd April

08.00–09.00 Breakfast

09.00–10.30 **Topic 5: Current and Future Research: Perspectives & Limitations** Chair: Rutishauser
Introduction
• New Inscription Finds (Peker)
• Current Archaeological Work (Harrison)

10.30–11.00 Coffee Break

11.00–12.30 **Topic 6: Afterlife concepts, burial practices and ancestor cult** Chair: Bonatz
Introduction
• Ancestor Cult (Lange)
• Burial Practices (Sollee)

12.30–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 **Discussion 1: Networks / Modes of communication and knowledge transfer** Chairs: Pucci – Mönninghoff

15.30–16.00 Coffee Break

16.00–17.30 **Discussion 2: Development, context and interdisciplinary methodology** Chairs: Kulemann-Ossen – Harrison

19.00–20.30 Dinner

Wednesday, 3rd April

08.00–09.00 Breakfast

09.00–10.30 **Discussion 3: The vertical and horizontal expansion and the limits of the “Neo-Hittite” culture with introduction paper by Aro-Valjus**
Chairs: Aro-Valjus – Osborne – Payne

10.30–11.00 Coffee Break

11.00–12.30 **Final Discussion: Is there a “Neo-Hittite” culture and how do we define it? Concepts / Strategies**
Chairs: Novák– Payne

12.30–14.00 Lunch

Departure

Fondazione Monte Verità

Monte Verità rises on the hills above Ascona and Lake Maggiore, and has always been a magnetic pole of convergence of ideas, trends, experiments and historical figures.

The alternative and vegetarian colony of the early twentieth century marked the birth of the myth of Monte Verità, with the presence of artists, anarchists, philosophers and thinkers, as well as illustrious guests including Hermann Hesse. After a brief period in the early twenties, in which some expressionist artists created a small art centre, the Ascona hill was bought by the banker and German art collector Baron Eduard von der Heydt. Monte Verità became a modern hotel centre which welcomed great personalities from the artistic, political and cultural worlds. After the Baron's legacy to the Canton of Ticino in the 1950s, it was transformed into a seminar centre at the end of the 1980s, thanks to collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich. Today, Monte Verità is a state-of-the-art congress and cultural centre run by the Foundation of the same name. Immersed in the quiet and green of a park of more than seven hectares, with an incomparable view of Lake Maggiore, offers visitors a unique experience.



How to get there:

In order to reach the Congressi Stefano Franscini at Monte Verità in Ascona, whether you fly or travel by train from within Europe, you must first get to Locarno, the closest railway station to Ascona. Once in Locarno, you can reach Monte Verità as follows:

- Public bus: Bus Nr. 1 from Locarno railway station to Ascona (stop Ascona Posta) and then Bus Nr. 5 („Buxi“) from Ascona to Monte Verità.
- Taxi: There are several taxis available at Locarno railway station.



<http://www.csf.ethz.ch/how-to-find-us.html>