



Beste lezer,

Het semester is bijna achter de rug en er is veel leven in ons nieuwe Herta Mohr-gebouw gekomen. De bibliotheek heeft haar poortjes geopend, de koffiebar verspreidt een heerlijk aroma, de collegezalen zitten vol en alles neemt de normale gang van zaken. Ook bij het NINO voelen wij ons helemaal thuis in onze nieuwe kantoor- en archiefruimtes (foto's in de vorige nieuwsbrief); we hebben hier nieuwe gastonderzoekers verwelkomd en een aantal activiteiten georganiseerd.

In november gaf onze nieuwe Postdoc Fellow Albert Planelles een lezing over zijn onderzoek naar de Nuzi-brieven, een rijk corpus van privécommunicatie die veel over het dagelijks leven in het 15^e en 14^e eeuw v.Chr. in Noord-Mesopotamië vertellen. Een week later konden wij tijdens de jaarlijkse NINO/EOL-najaarslezing de nieuwe collega voor West-Aziatische archeologie, Jennifer Swerida, verwelkomen. Zij presenteerde een lezing over de zuidoost-Arabische oase Bat en haar opgravingen met de focus op landschapsreconstructie en de rol van een oase tijdens de Vroege Bronstijd.



Veenhof-lezing: Theo van den Hout

In november was er de jaarlijkse Veenhof-lezing in samenwerking met het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden; een feestelijke (voor-)avond. Theo van den Hout, hoogleraar voor Hettitische en Anatolische talen bij het Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures in Chicago, gaf een presentatie over de Hettitische koningen die in vergelijking

met de andere heersers uit de Late Bronstijd een verrassend humane insteek in hun communicatie lieten zien. Deze succesvolle lezingenreeksen, die wij in samenwerking met diverse partners konden organiseren, gaan we in het komende jaar voortzetten. Ik ben verder heel blij om te kunnen vertellen dat we vanaf volgend jaar een nieuwe lezingenserie ter ere van Herta Mohr gaan introduceren – ook weer in samenwerking met het RMO, en mogelijk gemaakt door een genereuze donatie. Maar hierover meer in 2025!



*Sint Nicolaas in gesprek met
de verraste directeur*



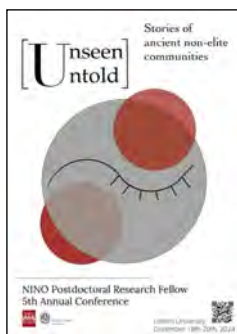
*Sinterklaasborrel en opening
fototentoonstelling Horvat Kur*

In het begin van december werd het NINO door Sinterklaas bezocht. Dat Sint ons ook in het nieuwe gebouw heeft gevonden, hebben wij met een Sinterklaasborrel gevierd die ons meteen de mogelijkheid bood het NINO als ruimte voor fototentoonstellingen in te wijden. In samenwerking met Jürgen Zangenberg konden wij elf fotopanelen op de muur en in de hal installeren, die de succesvolle afronding van Jürgens opgravingen bij Horvat Kur documenteren. Tijdens de rondleidingen door Jürgen konden bezoekers het glas op het project heffen.

Op het moment van schrijven wordt de 6^e NINO Postdoc Conference gehouden: “Unseen—Untold: Stories of ancient non-elite communities”,



Fotententoonstelling Horvat Kur in de gangen van het NINO



*Ancient Worlds Lunch
Talk: Eva Calomino*

georganiseerd door Alis e Devillers. Een verslag volgt in de volgende nieuwsbrief.

Zoals in de vorige nieuwsbrief al aangekondigd, heeft het NINO niet alleen een aantal nieuwe medewerkers (Albert en Kiki stellen zich in deze nieuwsbrief voor), maar wij zagen ook vijf fellows en grantees naar Leiden komen. Samar Ahmed Abu-Dahab en Samar Mohamed Samir Elkhamisy konden met een Incoming Mobility Grant bij een cursus osteologie aan de Faculteit Archeologie deelnemen. Marc Flores was in staat om vlak voor de installatie in de nieuwe vaste opstelling van de Midden-Oosten collectie in het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden het Gilgamesj-tablet uit de B hl-collectie te bestuderen. Eva Calomino werkte in december in de NINO-bibliotheek en in overleg met NINO-medewerkers en collega's aan haar opgravingsproject in Tell el-Ghaba. Michela Piccin zal als Visiting Research Fellow in de komende maanden haar onderzoek naar het sublieme met de collega's van Classics en Assyriologie verrichten. Ook de nieuwe Visiting Research Fellows Lidewij van de Peut en Nicky van de Beek (vertrouwde bekenden!) stellen zich in deze nieuwsbrief (opnieuw) voor.

Ook bij het NINO-stichtingsbestuur is er een aantal nieuwe gezichten. Lodewijk van Oord heeft zijn vader Koos vervangen. Ben Haring heeft het stokje van Olaf Kaper overgenomen. Enno Maessen is de opvolger van Erik Jan Z rcher. Als vervanger van Bert van der Spek heeft Caroline Waerzeggers de rol als voorzitter overgenomen. Zij vormen samen met Quirine van der Hoeven, Joanita Vroom en Lucas Petit het nieuwe bestuur. We danken de afgetreden leden voor hun inzet bij het NINO en wensen het nieuwe bestuur veel plezier en energie voor hun nieuwe taak!

Wij wensen iedereen fijne Kerst, goed nieuw jaar, en tot ziens bij veel activiteiten in 2025! MM

Nieuws uit het NINO- onderzoekscentrum

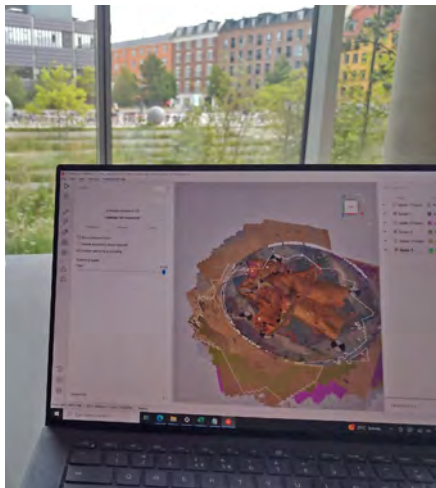
Funding report: Luna Beerden

In August, I undertook a two-week research trip to the Globe Institute of the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) as part of my RMSc research



project which focuses on the activity levels of women in Predynastic Egypt and A-group Nubia. In particular, the project aims to give renewed attention to a population group frequently overlooked and/or wrongly interpreted in a field traditionally dominated by patriarchal theoretical frameworks. With recent analyses focusing on questions of identity, ethnicity and gender, my thesis research is framed within the "third wave of gender studies" manifested in Egyptology and Near Eastern studies.

Due to the rising importance of activity-level studies in the osteoarchaeological field and the constant development of (new) methodologies, the decision was made to perform cross-sectional geometric analysis of long bone loading histories using an ARTEC Space-Spider (structured light handheld 3D scanner) available through the Laboratory for Human Osteoarchaeology of Leiden University. This method, being both non-invasive and non-destructive in nature and having proven to provide results of equal value as Computed Tomography, was chosen for its direct availability, ease of application in the field and recent re-evaluation as a valuable addition in the study of activity-levels. Although various archaeological sites were considered, with Predynastic Egyptian material from Naqada, Tarkhan and el-Badari scanned at Duckworth Laboratory (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), this specific research trip focused on the Nubian A-group individuals excavated by the Scandinavian Joint Expedition to Sudanese



Nubia in the framework of UNESCO's International Rescue Campaign. Out of the 107 A- group individuals that could positively be identified in the collection, the long bones of 29 individuals were 3D-scanned, with varying degrees of skeletal completeness, preservation state, and differing provenance (Ashkeit (site 95), Halfa Degheim (site 277), Sahaba (site 401), Serra (site 25)). For each individual, age and sex estimations were performed according to current standards, and measurements were taken for both stature estimation and body mass normalisation. Any additional information important for the interpretation of the results was noted down, such as preservation state and/or pathologies observable on the human remains. As data collection has now been completed, the next step in the research will be to post-process the collected 3D-data and perform further analyses which combined with the archaeological evidence available for the studied sites will give more insight into the activities performed in the past.

With the support provided by the NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant, I was thus able to successfully conduct the last research trip of my RMSc research project – collecting hundreds of gigabytes of raw 3D data and giving renewed appreciation to a collection with huge untapped potential.

This project is conducted at the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University under supervision of Dr. Sarah Schrader and with additional co-supervision provided by Dr. Veronica Tamorri (Leiden University) and Dr. Jaap Saers (Naturalis Biodiversity Center).

Funding report: Ashley Wilkinson

This year I had the amazing opportunity to finally present my research. I was chosen to present at Current Research in Egyptology (CRE) which was hosted this year in Liverpool. The conference started off with a wonderful keynote and social mixer. There were many amazing presentations about a wide variety of topics, including using programming to decipher hieroglyphs, Egyptomania and scarabs in 19th century horror literature, a wonderful art display and discussion about museums and the future of exhibitions. Best of all, I got to see many friends and colleagues from all around the world.



My presentation focused on aspects of my Master's research, which examined gender roles of New Kingdom Thebes through tomb depictions of harpists. My main question was: in which contexts do we find male and female harpists? I did a brief overview of generally accepted ideas of gender in ancient Egypt, mainly that men and women had roles that were very separate or divided. However, my research showed that there were depictions of male and female harpists playing in the exact same contexts, sometimes even together. I ended my presentation discussing overlapping spheres of influence and how this contributes to understanding the nuances of ancient Egyptian society. This was followed by discussing the need to go back and re-examine these widely accepted beliefs and to understand where they come from and what they are based on, and, in the light of new information, how to challenge them.

I am very grateful to NINO for providing the funding needed to go to this conference. It was a wonderful experience that allowed me to grow and challenge myself, as well as learn about so many amazing new avenues of research.



Osteology training and research project, Samar Elkhamisy and Samar Abu-Dahab

Two bioarchaeologists specialising in bone material received an Incoming Mobility Grant to spend time at the Faculty of Archaeology 5-30 November, 2024. News item on LU website: www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2024/12/egyptian-archaeologists-deepen-their-expertise-on-human-osteoarchoeology-in-leiden



Samar Ahmed Abu-Dahab (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) wrote the following report for our newsletter:

It was a great opportunity to obtain a NINO Mobility Grant, in addition to the Mehen Foundation fund. The trip allowed me to take an advanced osteology training and collect the data for my research at the same time. My dream was realized; I had been interested in training at the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University since completing the online course “The Truth in Our Bones” there in 2017. Through NINO, I was able to connect with Dr Sarah Schrader, who graciously consented to help me.

With Dr Schrader’s kind support and encouragement, I enrolled in the MSc course in osteo-archaeology. The training was the first step toward my academic goals of earning a PhD in osteology. My knowledge and abilities in the subject of osteology were improved with her support, the lab assistant, and the PhD students’ assistance. Additionally, I benefited from Leiden University’s human remains collection through

the course assignments given by Dr Schrader.

She also arranged meetings with the director of the NINO, Dr Miriam Müller, and the curators of Egypt and Nubia at the RMO, Dr Daniel Soliman and Dr Toon Sykora, which was very beneficial. So were the osteology specialists’ meetings where we could share ideas and gain insight from their experiences. In addition, I used the lab library to deepen my study of osteology.

The training I received in Leiden will help me in my work at the archaeological training center, because I am participating as a field trainer for Egyptian inspectors in the beginner field schools held by the center under the supervision of the main center in Cairo, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Additionally, my research was aided by having access to the university and NINO libraries. I intend to publish it in 2025, entitled “The Excavation at Tanis Street Cemetery: Funerary Practices at the Eastern Cemetery of Alexandria.”

This was one of the two large cemeteries that were discovered in 2013–2014 near the El-Shatby cemetery. The cemetery contains several types of graves that were excavated, such as burial pits, limestone-lined graves, red brick graves, jar burials, and cinerary urns (*Plakettenvasen*). The cemetery also gave information about the burial position, orientation, and body treatment, besides the grave goods such as vessels, oil lamps, bottles, and metal objects.

There are many references in these excellent libraries that are unavailable in Egypt, that will enhance my research. Furthermore, in the Leiden Museum of Antiquities and in the Art & History Museum in Brussels I was able to view items similar to those on my site, particularly the cinerary urns, which I wish to publish.

Additionally, the trip was a great chance to attend NINO activities, and also to discover Dutch history and culture by visiting the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam and the amazing Corpus Museum in Leiden. I am really grateful for this funding, which was a significant step to enhance my studies.



Funding report: Thomas Faassen

From November 4th until December 1st I stayed and studied at the Dutch Institute in Turkey (NIT) as a fellow. The NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant enabled me to travel to and from Istanbul. My aim in Istanbul was twofold: I wished to complete writing my PhD proposal for the upcoming 'NWO PhD's in the Humanities 2025' round and to finish a journal article to be published in the *Tijdschrift voor Mediterrane Archeologie* (TMA) in the summer of 2025. The resources, fellow researchers and academic environment at the NIT have helped me tremendously in conducting my research and writing both the PhD proposal and the journal article.

My research focusses on the ancient East. The aim is to break down the 'border' that previous scholarship has placed between the Persian and Greek cultures. For my PhD I wish to examine how the Achaemenid, Argead and Seleucid dynasties – the three dynasties that ruled over the Persian societies from c. 559-63 BCE – sought to legitimize their reigns in order to provide structure to their society. The focus of this doctoral examination will be on the dynasty as a whole entity – rather than merely on the monarchs or courts – since studies on later Premodern dynasties have illustrated the effectiveness of investigating the social and political functioning of premodern societies through their dynasties. In my PhD I aim to bring this effective field of study to the ancient world as well.

Max Weber's theory on the legitimacy of rule will be the project's starting point, since ancient dynasties relied on 'charismatic legitimacy'. By focusing on how all members of the dynasties tried to translate (ideological) power into practice, this project's innovative approach will give new insights into the internal organization and cohesion of ancient dynasties and the continuation of agency and behaviour within the three succeeding dynasties that ruled Persian societies. The three most important ideological components of ancient kingship were: their ancestry, military accomplishments, and the dynasty's religious piety and/or divinity.



Therefore, the agency of royal family members in these areas will be examined, because these elements were most crucial in creating legitimacy for the dynasty's rule and thus, eventually, for creating structure in society.

Secondly, the article I wrote for TMA aims to illustrate the fruitfulness of my PhD proposal's approach and research subject. In this article, I argued that various epigraphical and iconographical sources from within the Persian empire illustrate that Darius I and Xerxes I were preparing Xerxes' succession together, in order to make the transfer of power as smooth as possible. For too long, scholars assumed based on Herodotus' description of the event that Xerxes was appointed as crown prince merely a few months before Darius I's death. The epigraphical and iconographical records from Persepolis and Bisitun indicate, however, that Darius and his son were actively trying to convince the people that Xerxes possessed the same virtues, qualities and charisma as his father; the prince's image literary mirrored Darius' in the royal palaces. Importantly, Xerxes contributed as much as Darius, illustrating his agency in this inheritance of Darius' charisma. This is merely one case-study and I wish to conduct many more in my PhD research to illustrate how the dynasty as a whole entity sought to safeguard its continuation and continue the charisma of their founder.

In short, the NINO Outgoing Mobility Grant allowed me to travel to and from the NIT in Istanbul to write my PhD proposal and an academic journal article. I met many new scholars and, in general, this experience opened new doors for my development as a researcher of the ancient (Near) East.



NINO funding: deadlines and open calls

15 February 2025: Incoming Mobility Grant, Outgoing Mobility Grant, Conference Subsidy

1 December 2024–15 February 2025: submission of articles on the Ancient Near East or Egypt, for the biennial *Jaarprijs Cuijpers-Opdenakker*

mid-February–mid-March 2025: call open for Postdoc Fellowship (archaeology)

continuous: Visiting Research Fellowship; Outreach Allowance

Jaarprijs Cuijpers-Opdenakker

Are you a researcher of Ancient Near Eastern studies (incl. Egyptology)? Have you recently (no earlier than 2020) published an excellent article? Submit your article to win a prize for the Best Scholarly Article on the Ancient Near East in the Netherlands!

The *Jaarprijs Cuijpers-Opdenakker* is funded by and named after C.P.M. Cuijpers en R.J.G. Opdenakker, and awarded once every two years by a jury representing NINO, Ex Oriente Lux, and the prize founders. Full conditions and regulations, as well as the online submission form, are on the NINO website: www.nino-leiden.nl/funding/jaarprijs-cuijpers-opdenakker

Submissions are open until 15 February 2025.

Publicaties

Verschenen met steun van NINO en NIT: Diederik Burgersdijk, Fokke Gerritsen, and Willemijn Waal (eds.), *Constantinople through the Ages. The Visible City from Its Foundation to Contemporary Istanbul* (Cultural Interactions in the Mediterranean, Vol. 8)

<https://brill.com/display/title/71027>

Geïllustreerd met veel foto's uit onze Scholten-collectie (open access, gratis pdf download):

Karène Sanchez Summerer, Lucia Admiraal (eds.), Karstian Oudman, *The Multiple lives of Jacob Israël de Haan: The Palestine years (1919-1924)*

<https://books.ugp.rug.nl/ugp/catalog/book/182>

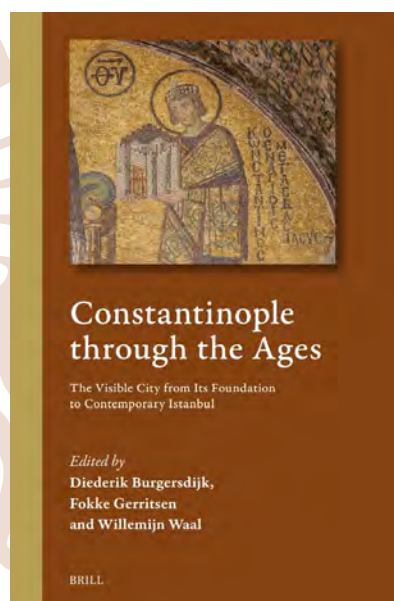




Photo exhibition Horvat Kur

Fieldwork at Horvat Kur was carried out between 2008 and 2018 under the direction of Jürgen Zangenberg as part of the Kinneret Regional Project, an international archaeological expedition to the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee sponsored by Leiden University, the University of Bern, Helsinki University, Wofford and Danville Colleges and the University of Oklahoma at Tulsa. KRP has been exploring Horvat Kur and its surroundings since 2007 with the help of hundreds of volunteers, mostly students from the sponsoring Dutch, Swiss, Finnish and US universities, but also from Rumania, Germany, Russia and many other countries.



The synagogue at Horvat Kur during the 2013 fieldwork season (photographed by B. de Groot; © Kinneret Regional Project)

The photo exhibition consists of 10 information panels with bilingual texts (Dutch and English), plans and photographs highlighting a synagogue in use between the 4th through the 7th c. CE and many of its unique features. They are on display in the hallways of the NINO offices in the Herta Mohr building until March 2025.

The photo/text panels have been designed by Leonie van Esser and colleagues and produced by the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden. Kinneret Regional Project and NINO are grateful for the wonderful cooperation!

6th NINO Annual Meeting, 30 January 2025

The NINO Annual Meeting offers an opportunity for advanced students and researchers of the Near East (ancient to the early modern) in the Netherlands to meet and exchange ideas about ongoing and envisioned research projects. The event is co-organized by the Netherlands Institute of the Near East (NINO) and an alternating host institution. This year the meeting is hosted by the **University of Groningen**, on the topic:

Heritage and politics in the Middle East: historical perspectives

The study of the Near East has historically been entangled with politics, from those of early modern states and empires, to those of foreign institutes, universities, and museums. This annual meeting focuses on heritage politics of the Middle East from a historical perspective. How have the studies of historical sources, archaeological remains, and texts from the past, been involved with early modern state formation, (de)colonization, cultural diplomacy, economic policies, memory practices? How was this involvement received by people living in the Middle East, and heritage institutions abroad? And today, how is it represented in the curricula of degrees focusing on the Middle Eastern past? How does it influence fieldwork and archive practices?



The NINO Annual Meeting will be accompanied by the photo exhibit *A New industry in an Ancient Land: Archeology, tourism and cultural diplomacy in the Holy Lands* – from the historical Frank Scholten photographic collection.

Preliminary program (and soon: final program) at www.nino-leiden.nl/event/6th-nino-annual-meeting



NIT-day 2025 in Nijmegen

Fokke Gerritsen

The second edition of the NIT-day in the Netherlands, highlighting the ongoing projects of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, took place on the 6th of December at Radboud University. Following a successful gathering in Leiden at the end of 2023, we decided to organize a NIT-day in the Netherlands on a yearly basis. The format copies the annual NINO-day that brings together researchers of the ancient Near East, each year hosted by a different university. Although the geographical scope of the NIT is more restricted in comparison to NINO's, the chronological scope is broader, ranging from prehistory to the present. This diversity came through in the presentations by members of the NIT 'community', with research projects ranging from prehistoric excavations to ethnographic fieldwork in post-earthquake Antakya, and from Greek and Latin epigraphy to the societal impact of Late Antique climate change.

The day began with an overview of recent and ongoing projects carried out by the institute in the fields of archaeology and heritage studies. Three young researchers that had recently completed a fellowship at NIT, Rik Janssen from Leiden, Sanne de Jong from Nijmegen and Rafael Medeiros Coelho from Groningen, gave brief presentations on their work. The program also included several research projects conducted by Radboud University scholars with a link with NIT. Mariëtte Verhoeven talked about the development of a self-guided walk showcasing Istanbul's rich water heritage that will become part of the mobile app KarDes, and together with student-assistant Kee-Lou Ooyman presented an open-access mapping and database project that brings together archaeological, architectural-historical, textual and visual sources related to



Istanbul's water heritage. Mariëtte Verhoeven and NIT-staff have collaborated already for a number of years on water heritage, in particular on the relationships between historical water infrastructure and the present-day city of Istanbul and its residents. The final session of the day consisted of two connected presentations on the Temple of Augustus and Rome in Ankara, whose walls are engraved with one of the most important inscriptions of the Roman era, the Res Gestae or the political testament of the emperor Augustus. Radboud University researcher Evelien Roels talked about the significance of the Greek and Latin inscriptions, followed by former NIT fellow and current Radboud University researcher Ketty Iannantuono's presentation on the histories of their discovery, dissemination, use and abuse.

A full list of presentations can be found here: www.nit-istanbul.org/event/nit-day-in-nijmegen



Even voorstellen

Albert Planelles, Postdoc Fellow

Albert Planelles is the new NINO Postdoctoral Fellow. His research focuses on Late Bronze Age cuneiform texts from the so-called periphery of Mesopotamia, with a focus on the various phenomena linked to language contact. He has contributed to several research projects on Nuzi and on peripheral cuneiform corpora of the second millennium and has visited various museums around the world to study cuneiform tablets.



He began his studies at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he obtained a BA in History, specialising in Ancient History. He spent a year at the Università degli Studi di Sassari as an Erasmus exchange student. Upon completion of his BA, he obtained an MA in Assyriology at the Universitat de Barcelona. Albert received his PhD from the Universidad de Alcalá in 2021 with a dissertation on the letters from ancient Nuzi, which was supervised by Dr. Josué J. Justel. His doctoral research was funded by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación (Spanish National Research Agency) and benefited from research stays at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Université Paris Nanterre.

After obtaining his PhD, he held a postdoctoral position at the Universidad de Alcalá. As a member of an international project based at this university, he contributed to the digitisation of the Nuzi texts. He subsequently joined the

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spanish National Research Council) as a Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Fellow, where he continued his research on Nuzi. At the same time, however, he began to develop a broader line of research, focusing on the Hurro-Akkadian dialect as evidence of language interference.

At NINO in Leiden, he is further developing this line of research. Based on the available cuneiform sources, he examines the interference of Hurrian into Akkadian with the aim of elucidating the linguistic and cognitive processes that resulted in the grammatical anomalies observed in the texts. This research project is based on the letters from the various Hurro-Akkadian corpora known to date.

Kiki Freriks, BiOr-assistent

Ik ben Kiki, sinds augustus redactie-assistent van het recensietijdschrift van het NINO, Bibliotheca Orientalis. Ik volg hier Nolke Tasma op, die het werk jarenlang fantastisch heeft uitgevoerd: grote schoenen om te vullen!

Bij het NINO ben ik gelukkig geen vreemde; ik heb al eerder gewerkt als NINO-onderzoeksassistent, en hielp ik mee aan het catalogiseren van de oudheden in de Böhl-collectie. Ik ben dan ook heel blij bij het NINO terug te kunnen keren als redactie-assistent.

Ik ben masterstudent Egyptologie, en schrijf dit jaar ook mijn scriptie. Vooral de Egyptische talen en schriften fascineren me enorm, en daar houd ik me in mijn studie dan ook veel mee bezig. Ik heb echter een brede interesse, en heb dus ook



geprobeerd om hier en daar iets mee te pakken van de andere NINO-gerelateerde vakgebieden, zoals de Assyriologie, Hittitologie, en Arabistiek. In de multidisciplinaire omgeving van BiOr voel ik me dan ook erg thuis!



In mijn eerste maanden bij BiOr ben ik al druk bezig geweest en heb ik veel geleerd. Ik vind het leuk bij te dragen aan het publicatieproces en actief met recente ontwikkelingen in het vakgebied bezig te kunnen zijn, en ik voel me vereerd dat ik een bijdrage kan leveren aan zo'n mooi tijdschrift! Je kunt me regelmatig vinden (vaak omringd door stapels boeken) in het BiOr-kantoor (Herta Mohr 1.120).

Nicky van de Beek, Visiting Research Fellow

Toen ik me als zeventienjarige ging oriënteren op universitaire studies raakte ik geïntrigeerd door de NINO-bibliotheek. Eigenlijk was er maar één opleiding die mijn aandacht trok: Egyptische Taal en Cultuur in Leiden. Tussen een woud van boekenkasten en hoogpolig tapijt stond een grote tafel waar studenten bezig waren om hiërogliefenteksten te vertalen: dat wilde ik ook.

Inmiddels, 20 jaar verder, ben ik trots om als Visiting Research Fellow verbonden te zijn aan het NINO. Na de studies Egyptologie en Archeologie in Leiden ben ik werkzaam geweest bij diverse onderdelen van de Leidse Universiteit, maar de wetenschap bleef lokken. Zo belandde ik de afgelopen vier jaar in Duitsland, aan de Johannes Gutenberg Universiteit in Mainz, waar ik binnen een interdisciplinair project landschapsafbeeldingen in Ouderijks elitegraven heb mogen bestuderen voor mijn promotie-onderzoek.

De oorsprong van deze interesse ligt bij de colleges Egyptische Kunstgeschiedenis van René van Walsem en de mastaba-kapel van Hetepherachty in het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, die het onderwerp vormde van mijn MA-scriptie. Nu keer ik terug naar Leiden om dit prachtige graf digitaal te epigraferen (de reliëfs te kopiëren) en hernieuwd te publiceren. Door dit onderzoek kwam ik bovendien op het spoor van Herta Mohr, de gedreven jonge Egyptologe die mij in de jaren 1930-40 voorging met haar Leidse mastaba-studie. En wat is een betere plek om haar leven te bestuderen dan in het gebouw dat naar haar vernoemd is?

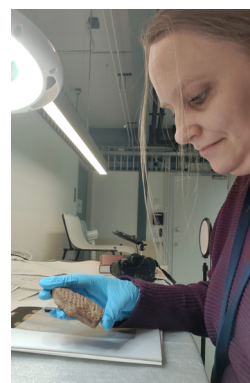
Lidewij van de Peut, Visiting Research Fellow

In september 2024 ben ik met veel plezier begonnen als Visiting Research Fellow bij het NINO. Ondanks dat het NINO behoorlijk is veranderd na de verhuizing, voelt het weer als thuiskomen. Mijn onderzoek richt zich op twee onderwerpen: Hittitische objecten in de Böhl-collectie en bewijs voor het hardop voorlezen van een kleitablet tijdens een ceremonie in het vroege Hittitische Rijk (ca. 1650-1320 v.Chr.).

In 2019-2020 heb ik als NINO Postdoctoral Fellow een deel van de Böhl collectie mogen catalogiseren. Sindsdien wil ik me verder verdiepen in deze collectie, haar geschiedenis en de kleitabletten en andere objecten die ze bevat. Nu ben ik gestart met de Hittitische objecten. De collectie bevat zeven fragmenten van Hittitische kleitabletten, waarvan er slechts één redelijk goed is gepubliceerd (LB 950, zie foto, die binnenkort te zien zal zijn in de nieuwe vaste Oude Midden Oosten-tentoonstelling in het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden).

Daarnaast is er aantal kleine objecten die als Hittitisch of mogelijk Hittitisch zijn aangemerkt en een aantal objecten afkomstig uit Turkije waarvan de exacte herkomst en datering onduidelijk is. Een deel hiervan is mogelijk ook Hittitisch. Het doel van mijn onderzoek is om de fragmenten van kleitabletten te publiceren en een overzicht van alle (mogelijk) Hittitische objecten in de Böhl collectie en hun collectiegeschiedenis te presenteren.

Naast het werken met originele objecten – wat mijns inziens het mooiste is in onze vakgebieden – ben ik ook geïnteresseerd in wat mensen vroeger deden met al die geschreven teksten. Voor één Hittitisch kleitablet kan ik aantonen dat het bedoeld was om ervan voor te lezen tijdens een ceremonie. Op basis van dit kleitablet en verder onderzoek zal ik proberen om criteria vast te stellen hoe je aan een kleitablet en de tekst die erop geschreven staat kan zien dat het een performatieve tekst is en of het kleitablet werd gebruikt tijdens de uitvoering van de ceremonie.



*Lidewij bestudeert
LB 950 in het RMO*



Michela Piccin, Visiting Research Fellow

Michela Piccin (1988) earned her Bachelor's and Master's in Classics at Ca' Foscari University, Venice and PhD in Assyriology at La Sapienza University, Rome. During her studies, she spent several periods in the UK (Cambridge and Oxford) researching 'rhetoric' in Ancient Near Eastern texts. She has served as a visiting professor of Assyriology, History and Cultures at Northeast Normal University (NENU), Changchun, China and as a research fellow in Semitic Linguistics at North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom, South Africa where she explored stylistic-linguistic issues associated with 'rhetoric' in ancient Near Eastern literature.



As a NINO Visiting Research Fellow, she feels privileged and thrilled to carry out this investigation, and she believes that Leiden University's vibrant academic environment is the perfect location to do so. She is in touch with Caspar de Jonge, colleague in the department of Classics and Ancient Civilizations, who also works on rhetoric, about her research. She also hopes to discuss her research with Caroline Waerzeggers and Willemijn Waal.

Attending the 'Ancient Sublime Across Cultures' international conference (26–28 June 2024, Munich) inspired her to explore notions of the sublime through a fruitful and novel research that uses Longinus' treaty Περὶ Ὕψους as a guide. While Martin West (1995), in his article 'Longinus and the Grandeur of God', observed some connections between 'the sublime' and Near Eastern literature, collecting further contexts from Sumerian, Akkadian, and Hittite literary texts will expand and enrich the scholarly literature on the sublime and uncover additional facets of the sublime in Mesopotamia. Moreover, various words express the idea of 'awe-inspiring' (or fearsome or terrifying) in nature, such as the Sumerian me-lam2, Akkadian melammu, and related words in Akkadian, Sumerian, and Hittite. However, these terms lack taxonomy that scholars can use to understand the texts various associations with 'sublimity', so another aim of her project is to develop this taxonomy. This investigation into 'the sublime' naturally develops from Piccin's research on 'rhetoric' in Near Eastern texts on which her first monograph, *Linguistic Aspects of Persuasiveness in Akkadian* (2021) is based.

Nieuws uit de NINO-collecties en -archieven

Publizistik und Polemik

Op 17 oktober gaf NINO-archivaris Sebastiaan Berntsen een lezing op de conferentie "Publizistik und Polemik", georganiseerd door de Duitse onderzoeksgroep "Rethinking Governance in the Ancient Near East". De conferentie vond plaats in de Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften in het centrum van Berlijn. Het thema was "Mediale Kommunikation in den Orientwissenschaften" ofwel de rol van wetenschappelijke tijdschriften in de wetenschapsbeoefening in onze vakgebieden, en de directe aanleiding was het 125-jarig bestaan van de Orientalistische Literaturzeitung (OLZ).



De onderzoeksgroep had verzocht om een bijdrage over ons tijdschrift *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, dat sinds 1942 wordt uitgegeven door het NINO. Sebastiaan

heeft in de NINO-archieven (die nu zijn ondergebracht bij UBL Bijzondere Collecties) veel informatie gevonden over de vroege jaren van BiOr. In de jaren 1940-'50 leek het er eventjes op dat BiOr de plaats van de OLZ zou innemen...



daarover wilden de collega's natuurlijk meer weten. Er ging eventjes een zucht door de zaal toen Sebastiaan, bij een overzicht van redacteurs van de afgelopen 80 jaar, noemde dat prof. M. Stol onlangs is teruggetreden als BiOr-redacteur – na 48 jaar.

De komende tijd zal Sebastiaan zijn artikel omwerken tot een artikel voor het boek dat naar aanleiding van de conferentie zal verschijnen in de serie *Investigatio Orientis*. Het wordt wellicht een nieuwe traditie dat het NINO bijdraagt aan deze serie: in volume 10 publiceerden Sebastiaan, Carolien en Willemijn ieder een artikel over (aspecten van) Nederlands onderzoek naar het Oude Nabije Oosten, als onderdeel van een internationaal overzicht. Ook aan een volgende conferentie en bundel hopen we weer een bijdrage te leveren.



Editorial Board Bibliotheca Orientalis

There have been a few changes among the Editors of our journal *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, containing reviews and bibliographical data on books published on the ancient and modern Near East.

After 48 years as Editor of the Assyriology section, Prof. Marten Stol has stepped down. We are very, very grateful for his long service!

The Assyriology section is now edited by Dr. Shiyanthi Thavapalan (VU Amsterdam) and Dr. Elyze Zomer (Universität Tübingen). NINO Director Dr. Miriam Müller has joined as Editor of the Egyptology section and Editor-in-Chief.

The BiOr Editorial Board consists of: H. Gzella, R.E. Kon, A. van der Kooij, L. Limme, D.J.W. Meijer, M. Müller, S. Thavapalan, W.J.I. Waal, and E. Zomer. Editorial secretary: C.H. van Zoest. Editorial assistant: K.R. Freriks.

Böhl Collection in Leiden University Libraries

The cuneiform documents in the Böhl Collection are housed at Leiden University Libraries (UBL) as of February 2024. They are available for consultation at the Special Collections Reading Room.

For more information, please visit our website www.nino-leiden.nl/collections/de-liagre-bohl-collection and contact NINO's Curator of the Böhl Collection, Dr. R. de Boer.

In the next NINO newsletter, Rients de Boer will introduce himself and his work with our collection.

Böhl Collection in National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden

On 19 December 2024 the new permanent exhibition "The ancient Middle East" of the RMO was opened. The celebration was attended by a large crowd who witnessed speeches by RMO Director Wim Weijland, RMO Curator David Kertai, and LU Professor of Assyriology Caroline Waerzeggers, before proceeding to the first floor of the museum.

We are proud that 44 objects from our Böhl Collection are part of this permanent display on thousands of years and millions of square kilometres of history. See www.rmo.nl/en/exhibitions/permanent-exhibitions/the-ancient-middle-east, or better yet: visit the museum in person!

We plan to highlight Böhl Collection items on display at the RMO on our social media channels:

- Facebook [@NINO.Leiden](https://www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden)
- Instagram [@nino.leiden](https://www.instagram.com/nino.leiden)
- Bluesky [@nino-leiden.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/nino-leiden.bsky.social)
- LinkedIn [@nino-leiden](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nino-leiden)



LB 2110, clay tablet with
cuneiform text: epos of
Gilgamesh and Humbaba



Nieuws uit de MEL/NINO- bibliotheek

Main entrance to Middle Eastern Library and African Library open

On 12 December, installation of security portals was complete; the doors to the MEL and AL are finally open!

You can enter and exit through the main entrance in the Herta Mohr building during office hours (Monday-Friday 9.00-17.00 hrs) using your LU-Card. After office hours, you can enter the MEL via the footbridge from the main University Library building. Please note that the UBL service desk (where help with LU-Cards may be provided) is located in the main UBL building. For more information on the LU-Card for library access, go to www.library.universiteitleiden.nl/using-the-library/library-card

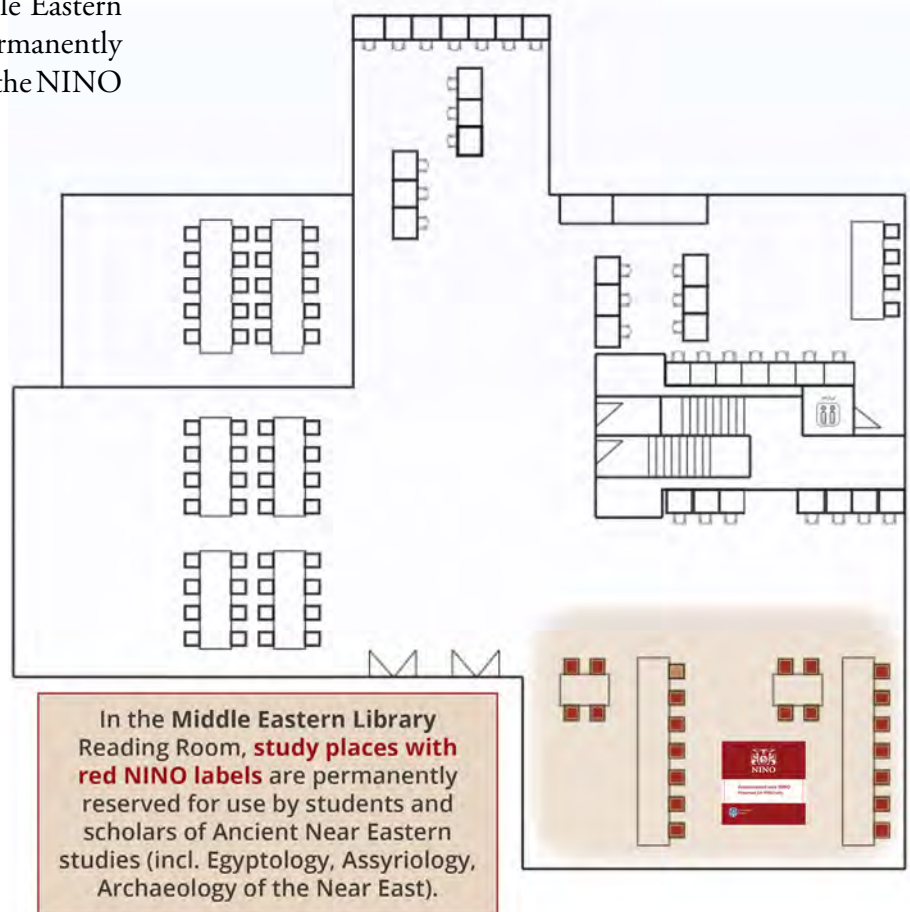
NINO study places reserved in Middle Eastern Library

A number of study places in the Middle Eastern Library (MEL) Reading Room is permanently reserved for those who are actively using the NINO

library collections: students, staff members and guests studying and researching in Egyptology, Assyriology and Near Eastern Archaeology. At Leiden University these are the studies ONOS, CAC, and Archaeology of the relevant areas. At other universities in the Netherlands and abroad these studies may be differently named.

The MEL-NINO study places have been set aside to ensure that all students, staff, Visiting Research Fellows and guests studying and conducting research in NINO's fields of interest will have a seat in the vicinity of the NINO library collections. These study places are labelled with the NINO logo in red (see floor plan).

The decision to permanently reserve these seats for use of the NINO library collections has been made in consultation between UBL and NINO. This is instead of the study place reservation system (used in other UBL reading rooms), which was briefly used and evaluated after the first exam period in October 2024.





Middle Eastern Library

Reguliere openingstijden

Leeszaal: maandag t/m vrijdag 9:00-23:00u (na 17:00 toegang via de UB), zaterdag en zondag 9:30-22:30 (toegang via de UB)

Bibliotheekbalie: maandag t/m vrijdag 9:00-17:00u

Aankomende sluitingsdagen en aangepaste openingstijden:

- 24 december, Kerstavond: leeszaal open tot 17:15u
- 25-26 december, Kerstmis: gesloten
- 27 t/m 30 december: leeszaal reguliere openingstijden, toegang via de UB; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 31 december, oudejaarsavond: leeszaal open tot 17:15u, toegang via de UB; bibliotheekbalie gesloten
- 1 januari 2025, nieuwjaarsdag: gesloten

Omroep West & online: UBL-televisieserie “Sleutel tot het Midden Oosten – de Oosterse collectie in Leiden” met Laila al-Zwaini

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-vTxWFyVBpHicAlh1OFao-ZAy7BogKNo>

In afl. 2 o.a. Willemijn Waal over de kleitabletten van de Böhl-collectie; in afl. 6 o.a. Anita Keizers over Sayyida Salme.



Zondag 16 maart 2025, 17:00-18:30u

Week van de Klassieken: slotavond georganiseerd door het NINO. Thema: recht en rechtvaardigheid; sprekers: Jan Gerrit Dercksen, Ben Haring, Margaretha Folmer.

Agenda-overzicht

Activiteiten van NINO en van bevriende organisaties

Thursday 30 January 2025

6th NINO Annual Meeting “Heritage and politics in the Middle East”, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen



Lustrum van Dispuut Pleyte in 2025: 50 jaar

Dispuut Pleyte viert dit academisch jaar het vijftigjarig bestaan! De lustrumcommissie organiseert een aantal leuke activiteiten voor leden en oud-leden. Noteer alvast in de agenda:

- 14 februari 2025: gala
- 7 juni 2025: lustrum/symposiumdag