

## **"Die formale und funktionale Struktur des Palastes von Nuzi im Kontext altorientalischen Palastbaus" (working title)**

### **Abstract**

The aim of this dissertation project is the reappraisal of the archaeological evidence from the so called 'palace of Nuzi', a representative, administrative and/or public building the the Late Bronze Age settlement of Nuzi (modern Yorgan Tepe) in Northern Mesopotamia.<sup>1</sup> The re-evaluation will be based on structural and architectural characteristics as well as on portable inventories and written evidence. For this purpose, hundreds of previously unpublished artifacts could be documented at the Semitic Museum at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) and can now for the first time be included in a catalog and analysis. Apart from a complete and contemporary re-publication of the evidence from the settlement the dissertation shall present a revised interpretation of the formal and functional structure of the palace.

In this spatial and sociological analysis, the institution of the palace shall no longer be understood exclusively as a place of representation and administration, but also of domestic and economic activities. The physical, social and economic position of the Palace within the settlement shall be determined by microscopical and macroscopical comparison of the archaeological evidence. Furthermore the texts from Nuzi have in the past been extensively researched and the results present an exceptional prerequisite for an interdisciplinary approach to investigating the functionalities of this ancient settlement based on multiple sources. Consequently and in comparison with related sites, further insights into the history of Ancient Near Eastern palatial architecture will be possible as well as locating Late Bronze Age Nuzi within the cultural and political environment of Northern Mesopotamia in the 15th and 14th century BC.

This dissertation project is based on a unique and partly unknown collection of archaeological data but shall provide more than a re-publication of the evidence. Applying multiple approaches from the cultural sciences, the concepts 'palace', 'building', 'household', 'statehood', 'public space' and 'prosperity' in an Ancient Near Eastern society will be investigated and reflected on against the background of the research history of Near Easter Archeology.

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<sup>1</sup> The mound Yorgan Tepe in nowadays Northern Iraq was archaeologically explored from 1925 to 1931. The comprehensive but outdated report was published in 1937/39: R.F.S. Starr: Nuzi (Cambridge, 1937/39).