

16–19 October 2025

Entangled Rivers

A multi-layered portrait of
Southern Mesopotamia



Conference and Workshop
Bern, Switzerland

Public opening lecture

Thursday, 16 October, 18:15–20:00

University main building, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern, Room 120

Dominik Fleitmann

Rain, rain go away, come back another day
Holocene climate and environmental variability in Mesopotamia

Friday, 17 October

Uni Mittelstrasse, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Room 220

Session 1: Keynotes

Chair: Mirko Novák

09:00–09:05 **Claus Beisbart, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities**

Welcome note

09:05–09:15 **Rita Gautschy, Mirko Novák, Ingo Schrakamp, Andreas Zischg**

Welcome note

09:20–09:45 **Sebastian Borkowski, Susanne Rutishauser, Eveline C. Zbinden**

Hydrography of Mesopotamia: Rivers and channels in Babylonia

09:50–10:20 **Ingo Schrakamp**

The development of early irrigation systems in Southern Mesopotamia according to Late Uruk to Pre-Sargonic sources

10:25–11:00 **Coffee break**

11:05–11:35 **Stephanie Rost, Nazarij Buławka**

Landscape archaeology in the Umma region

11:40–12:10 **Rita Gautschy**

Encoded landscapes of culture: Building persistent and FAIR linked data

12:10–13:30 **Lunch break**

13:30 **Group picture**

Session 2: Fieldwork

Chair: Andreas Zischg

13:55–14:15 **Reed Goodman, Liviu Giosan, Holly Pittman**

Between the rivers and the tides:

The hydrology of abundance and the rise of the Lagash city-state

14:20–14:40 **Zaid Alrawi**

Old data, new perspectives:

Constructing ancient watershed of Lagash-Girsu area

14:45–15:05 **Jacob Jawdat**

Some aspects on the hydrography between Šuruppak and Isin according to the KALAM survey

15:10–15:35 **Coffee break**

15:40–16:00 **Philippe Quenet, Claire Rambeau, Géraldine Mastelli-Weissrock**

Seeking the waters of Eridu: The AMMSA project and more

16:05–16:30 **Lucie Cez, Régis Vallet**

From the canal network to the hydraulic landscape: Larsa and its surrounding alluvial plain between Euphrates and Tigris in the 2nd millennium BCE

16:35–16:55 **Discussion**

19:00 **Dinner** (Restaurant Lötschberg, Zeughausgasse 16, 3011 Bern)

Saturday, 18 October

Uni Mittelstrasse, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Room 224

Session 2: Fieldwork (continued)

Chair: Susanne Rutishauser

09:00–09:20 **Vincenzo Picotti, Simone Mantellini, Abbas Al-Hussainy, Nicolò Marchetti, Federico Zaina**

Development of water management strategies in southern Mesopotamia during the fourth and third millennium BCE

Session 3: Database

Chair: Ingo Schrakamp

09:25–09:45 **Émilie Pagé-Perron**

From cuneiform tablets to knowledge graphs:
Assyriological metadata standards in context

09:50–10:10 **Mark Altaweel**

Filling in the gaps and forecasting the past:
Applying AI to improve paleoclimate knowledge

10:15–10:40 **Coffee break**

10:45–11:05 **Dominique Charpin**

Archibab v.2 and its potential for research

11:10–11:30 **Camille Lecompte**

The emergence of terms for channels and rivers in early cuneiform texts and lexical lists from Southern Mesopotamia (Late Uruk to Sargonic Periods)

11:35–12:00 **Discussion**

12:00–13:30 **Lunch break**

Session 4: HyMes-Project

Chair: Eveline C. Zbinden

13:30–13:50 **Sebastian Borkowski, Tadeáš Červík**

The HyMes data model

13:55–14:15 **Ansam Albayati, Carla Balmer, Sebastian Balmer, Adva Bensoussan, Yves Cornillie, Beáta Fässler, Nina Gavriluk, Andrea Kohli, Francesco Lucano, Laura Oberholzer, David Röthlisberger, Felicitas Stec, Marcela Vollmer, Patricia Weber**

Come hell or high water: Life of student assistants in the HyMes-Project

14:20–14:40 **Muntadher Aloda, Fatemeh Javanmardi**

Development of settlement patterns in Southern Mesopotamia

14:45–15:10 **Coffee break**

Session 5: DH-Workshop

Chair: Rita Gautschy

15:15–15:35 **Martin Grandjean**

Describing complex structures across multiple scales:
An introduction to multilayer network analysis

15:40–17:30 **DH-Workshop**

19:00 **Dinner** (Restaurant Kornhauskeller, Kornhausplatz 18, 3011 Bern)

Sunday, 19 October

Uni Mittelstrasse, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Room 224

Session 6: Philology

Chair: Piotr Steinkeller

09:00–09:20 **Theresa Blaschke**
Tigris and Euphrates in cuneiform sources: A comprehensive overview

09:25–09:45 **Edoardo Zanetti**
Shifting landscape:
Environmental notes on the Lagash region (3rd–2nd millennium BCE)

09:50–10:10 **Coffee break**

10:15–10:40 **Manuel Molina**
Rivers and waterways in the Umma province during the Ur III period

10:45–11:05 **Dominique Charpin**
The water policy of the kings of Larsa (19th century BCE)

11:10–11:30 **Matthias Adelhofer, Michael Jursa**
ana ḫerût nāri: A typological survey of the Neo-Babylonian documentation
about rivers and channels

11:35–12:00 **Discussion**

12:00–13:30 **Lunch break**

Session 7: Discussion

13:30–14:30 **Final discussion**

About the conference

Pursuing a holistic approach towards the diachronic reconstruction of the ancient hydro-cultural landscape of Southern Mesopotamia, we invite archaeologists, philologists, geoscientists, and data scientists to share insights in current state of the art research in landscape archaeology and historic geography. Together with network researchers, we aim to critically discuss the potentials and obstacles of multi-layered networks as a device to interlink and analyze data from archaeological, textual, historical, and paleoenvironmental sources. A further goal of this multi-disciplinary discourse is the agreement on best practice standards to foster the interoperability and re-usability of data sets across disciplines.

The HyMes Team

Research group archaeology: Mirko Novák, Susanne Rutishauser, Muntadher Aloda, Fatemeh Javanmardi, Ansam Albayati, Sebastian Balmer, Yves Cornillie, Beáta Fässler, Andrea Kohli, Laura Oberholzer, David Röthlisberger, Felicitas Stec

Research group digital humanities: Rita Gautschy, Sebastian Borkowski

Research group geography: Andreas Zischg, Eveline C. Zbinden, Tadeáš Červík, Carla Balmer, Francesco Lucano, Marcela Vollmer, Patricia Weber

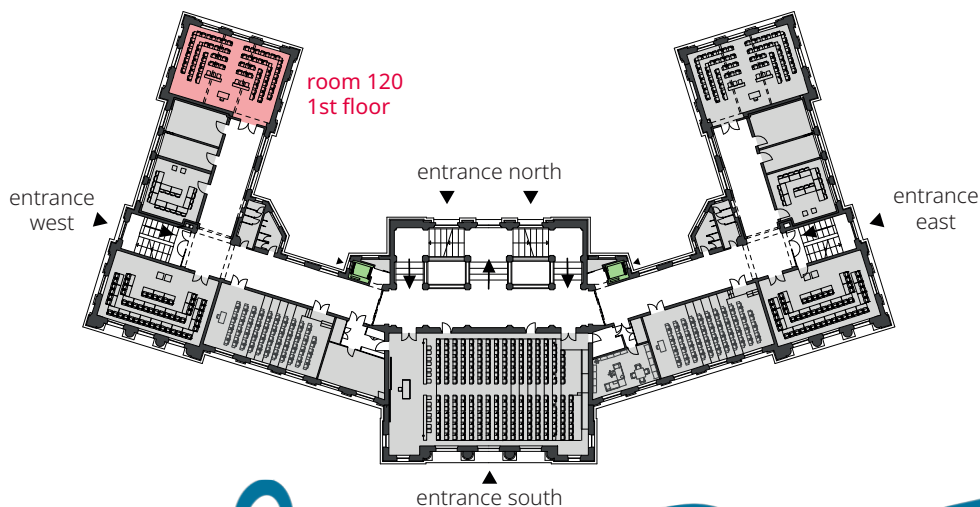
Research group philology: Ingo Schrakamp, Adva Bensoussan, Nina Gavriljuk

University main building

Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern

Public opening lecture: Room 120 (first floor)

Elevators are located close to the entrance north (see area marked in green)

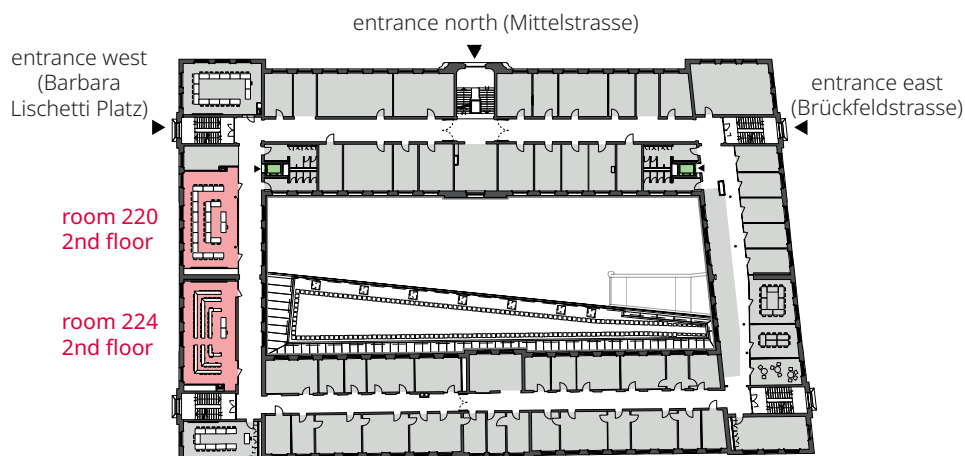


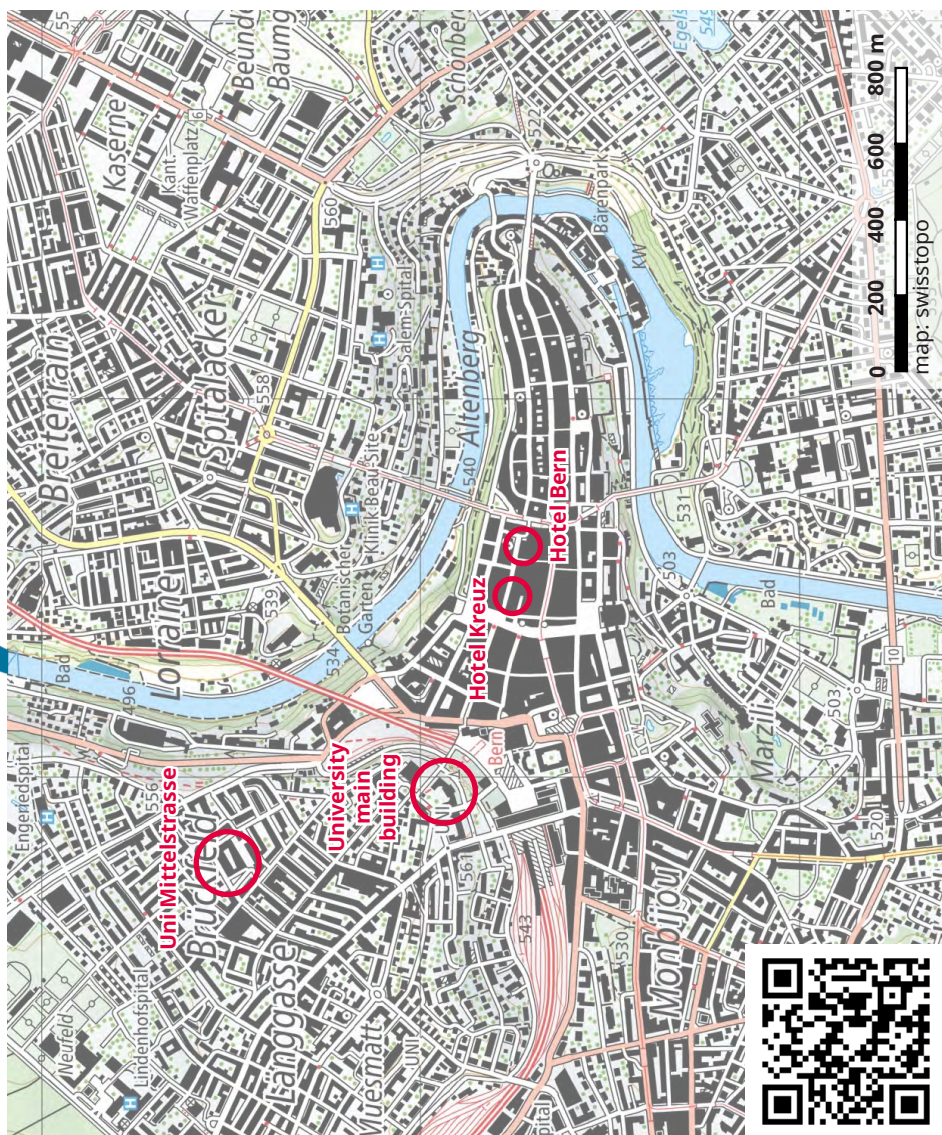
Uni Mittelstrasse

Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern

Friday: Room 220 (second floor), Saturday and Sunday: Room 224 (second floor)

Elevators are located close to the entrances east and west (see area marked in green)





Contact: info@hymes.ch

Website and registration: <http://hymes.ch/conference-2025>

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Supported by the Swiss Academy
of Humanities and Social Sciences
www.sagw.ch

