

Curriculum Vitae - Dr ANDREA POLCARO, MA, PhD

Personal informations

Nationality: Italian

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Current Positions

- Contract professor in Near Eastern Archaeology at Perugia University (*Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue, Letterature e Civiltà antiche e moderne*) since 2008 to date (10 years).
- Research fellow since 1st July 2016 at Perugia University (*Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue, Letterature e Civiltà antiche e moderne*) in Near Eastern Archaeology on the project: Inside Ancient Materials through Non-Destructive Spectroscopic Analysis. The same position was renewed on 1st July 2017 to date (2 years).
- President of the Center of Excellent Studies and Archaeological Research of Rome (Ass.Cult.CE-SAR). The center is actually involved in the Spanish-Italian Archaeological Expedition to Jebel al-Mutawwaq and in the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP), in Jordan.

Past positions

- Researcher (RtD, A type). Fixed-term researcher (three years) since 20 May 2013 to 20 May 2016 at Perugia University (*Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue, Letterature e Civiltà antiche e moderne*) in Near Eastern Archaeology, in relationship to the project “Time through Colors” (FIRB 2012) funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research (MIUR).
- PhD student (with fellowship) at Rome Sapienza University since 2003 to 2006.

Instruction

- Graduated in Archaeology and History of Art of the Ancient Near East, defending the thesis “Necropolis and Funerary Costumes in Early Bronze III Palestine”, on the 24th April 2003 at “Sapienza” University of Rome, with the degree mark of 110/110 *cum laude*.
- On the 18th May 2007 he discussed the PhD thesis on Oriental Archaeology (XIX cycle): “The prodromes of the urbanization in the Early Bronze I Jordan: funerary and settlement analysis”, at “Sapienza” University of Rome.

Teaching experiences

- Since Academic Year 2008/2009 to date he holds an annual course of 36 hours on “Archaeology of the Ancient Near East” at Perugia University (*Università degli Studi di Perugia, Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue, Letterature e Civiltà antiche e moderne*).
- Since the Academic Year 2013/2014 to date he held a laboratory of “Pottery Drawing” and one of “Applied Sciences for Cultural Heritage” at Perugia University (*Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue, Letterature e Civiltà antiche e moderne*), of 75 hours.

Research activities and archaeological excavations

His main research activities are archaeological excavations and surveys in the Near East, studies on the Early Bronze Age urbanization, megalithism, funerary archaeology, archaeoastronomy and studies on ancient Near Eastern religions.

Direction of archeological excavations

- Since 2014 to date he co-directs, with Dr Davide Nadali (Rome “Sapienza” University), the Italian Archaeological Expedition to Tell Zurghul, the ancient Sumerian city of Nigin, in Iraq (Dhi-Qar Province); the project, under the patronage of the Department of Antiquities of Iraq, is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Embassy in Baghdad and by Rome “Sapienza” University. The MAIN (Missione Archeologica Italiana a Nigin) is an ASOR CAP affiliated project.
- Since 2012 to date he co-directs, with Juan Muniz (Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain), the Spanish-Italian Archaeological Expedition to Jebel al-Mutawwaq (Jordan). This archaeological project, under the patronage of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, consists in the study and valorization of a settlement and a dolmen field, with hundreds of still preserved monuments, dated to the Early Bronze Age I. From the 2014 the expedition achieved the institutional acknowledgment and support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participation to archaeological excavations and research projects

- Since 1998 to 2013 he has been member of the Italian Archaeological Mission at Tell Mardikh-Ebla (Syria), under the direction of Prof. P. Matthiae (Rome “Sapienza” University). Here he worked in different areas, digging public contexts - as the Southern Palace (FF Area), the “Temple of the Rock” (HH Area), the Western Palace (Q Area), the E Palace on the Acropolis, the AA Fortress and the South-western Gate (A Area) - and funerary contexts, as the pit-tomb P.8680 (FF Area).
- Since 2004 to 2007 he has been a member of the “*Sapienza*” *Archaeological Expedition to Palestine and Jordan*, directed by the Prof. L. Nigro (Rome “Sapienza” University). In this framework, he has directed the excavation of the B Area at Khirbet al-Batrawy (Jordan) for three years and he has collaborated to the archaeological surveys on the Wadi az-Zarqa (Jordan).

- Since 2004 to 2007 he participated to the PADIS Project (Palestine Archaeological Databank and Information System) conducted by Rome “La Sapienza” University in collaboration with the UNESCO and the Palestinian Department of Antiquities.
- Since 2006 to 2008 he participated to the ARCANE Project (Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean) of the Tuebingen University.
- Since 2013 to 2016 he directed the Perugia University research unit inside the project “Time Through Colors: Analysis of Painted Artifacts in Their Archaeological, Historical and Sociological Contexts”, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research (FIRB 2012). The project was coordinated by Rome “Sapienza” University (*Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità*), and includes other research units in Cagliari University (*Dipartimento di Fisica*) and the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford. The project concerns the analyses of painted ceramics materials from the archaeological excavations of the involved Italian institutions and from the oriental collection of the Ashmolean Museum, by Raman and Micro-Raman spectroscopy.
- Since 2011 to date he is a member of the Ebla Project, concerning the study and the publication of the archaeological materials coming from the past excavations of Tell Mardikh, Syria.

Direction of Cultural Heritage management and valorization projects

- Since 2015 to date he co-directs, with Douglas Clark (La Sierra University of California), Suzanne Richard (Gannon University of Pennsylvania), Marta D’Andrea (Rome “Sapienza” University), the Jordanian-Italian-American project MRAMP (Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project). The project, coordinated by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and funded by the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) of Amman and by the SCHEP-USAID American Fund, concerns the valorization of the Madaba Archaeological Park West and the set up of a new archaeological museum in the area. The new museum is designed to host collections of artifacts coming from the whole excavations in the Madaba Region. The MRAMP is an ASOR CAP affiliated project.

Organization of exhibitions

- In 2012 he organized the photographic exhibition: “*Jebel al-Mutawwaq e l’enigma dei dolmen, la Giordania agli inizi dell’Età del Bronzo*” at Perugia University, Palazzo Manzoni. During this exhibition photographic panels, showing the results of this archaeological expedition in Jordan, have been exposed.
- In 2014 he organized the exhibition: “*Ex Oriente. Scavi e ricerche dell’Università degli Studi di Perugia nel Vicino e Medio Oriente: Giordania, Kuwait e Iraq*”, held in Perugia University, Palazzo Murena, where archaeological models of the site and of a burial from Jebel al-Mutawwaq were exposed.

Awards

- In 2005 he won of the Italian CNR (*Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*) award “*Progetto Promozionale Ricerca*” for the publication of his thesis as a monograph in the CMAO series (vol. XI, 2006).
- In 2012 he won with Davide Nadali (Rome “Sapienza” University) and Daniele Chiriu (Cagliari University) a national competition (FIRB 2012, *Futuro in Ricerca*) of the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research, with a three years project, started in 2013, named: “Time Through Colors: Analysis of Painted Artifacts in Their Archaeological, Historical and Sociological Contexts”. The project, coordinated by Rome “Sapienza” University (*Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità*), involves Perugia University (*Dipartimento Uomo e Territorio*), Cagliari University (*Dipartimento di Fisica*) and the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford.
- In 2016 he won the 2016 annual award of Perugia University for young researchers for the best publication of the Department of Literature, with the article: “Dolmen 317 and Its Hidden Burial: An Early Bronze Age I Megalithic Tomb from Jebel al-Mutawwaq (Jordan)”, published in 2014 on the peer-reviews journal *Bulletin of American Schools of Oriental Research* no. 372.

Participation to international scientific congresses

He participated to numerous international scientific congresses on archaeology and archeoastronomy, with several papers and posters:

- International Congress on Archaeology of Ancient Near East (ICAANE: Rome 18th-23rd March 1998, Copenhagen 21st-25th May 2000, Paris 15th-19th April 2007, Berlin 29th April-3rd March 2004, Madrid 3rd-8th April 2006, Rome 5th-10th May 2008, London 12th-16th April 2010, Warsaw 30th April-4th 2012, Basel 9th-13th June 2014, Wien 25th-29th April 2016, Munich 3rd-7th April 2018).
- Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR: San Diego 19th-22nd November 2014; Atlanta 18th-21st November 2015; Boston 15th-18th 2017).
- Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI: Barcelona 26th-30th July 2010; Rome 4th-7th July 2011).
- International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ: Berlin 5th-11th May 2013; Amman 22nd-27th May 2016; Florence 21st-25th January 2019).
- Annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA: Maastricht 30th August - 3rd September 2017; Barcelona 5th-8th September 2018).
- Annual meeting of the Italian Society of Archaeoastronomy (SIA: Rome 28th-29th September 2007, Ferrara 17th-18th October 2008, Bologna 28th-29th October 2011; Albano Laziale 4th-5h October 2012; Rome 6th-8th September 2017).

- Annual Meeting of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC: Rhodes 2008, Alexandria 2009; Ljubljana 2012; Rome 2015; Rome 2017).

Invited scientific meetings

- International workshop on the tourist enhancement of the archaeological site of Jericho in Palestine (International Training Workshop, held by the UNESCO at Ariha, 7th-11th February 2005).
- Conference “Cielo e Cultura Materiale”, held in Paestum for the *XIII Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico*, 18th-20th November 2010.
- Conference “Missioni Archeologiche Italiane in Giordania”, held in Paestum for the *XIX Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico*, 28th October 2016.
- The International Dolmen Workshop, held in Copenhagen University, Denmark, 29 March 2017.
- The 8th International Conference on Science and Technology in Archaeology and Conservation, held in Amman, Jordan, 21-25 May 2017.
- International Conference “Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East”, held in Yerevan, Armenia, 13-17 November 2017.

Scientific committee of international congresses

- International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, held in Florence, 21st-25th January 2019.
- 17th annual meeting of the Italian Society of Archaeoastronomy held in Rome 6th-8th September 2017.
- Conferenza Programmatica CPAVO: Conferenza Programmatica degli Archeologi del Vicino Oriente Iraq e Siria. Il Patrimonio Archeologico tra Rischi e Prospettive Firenze, Palagio dei Capitani di Parte Guelfa 16-17 dicembre 2016.

Organization of workshops in international congresses

- In 2017 he organized, together with Dr. Michael Templer (University of Neuchâtel) the workshop “Transition in Prehistory”, scheduled at the 23rd annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, held in Maastricht.
- In 2017 he organized, together with Dr. Sara Pizzimenti (Rome Sapienza University) and Dr. Vito Francesco Polcaro (National Institute of Astrophysics) the workshop “Ex Oriente: Mithra and the others. Astronomical contents in the cults of Eastern origin in ancient Italy and Western Mediterranean”, scheduled at the 17th annual meeting of the Italian Society of Archaeoastronomy, held in Rome.
- In 2016 he organized, together with Dr. Davide Nadali (Rome Sapienza University) and Prof. Holly Pittmann (Stanford University) the workshop “Ancient Lagash: a Workshop on Current Research and Future Trajectories”, scheduled at the 10th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, held in Wien.

- In 2015 he organized, together with Prof. Douglas Clark (La Sierra University), the “Madaba Museum Workshop”, scheduled at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research and finalized to the presentation of the “Madaba Archaeological Museum Project” (MRAMP), held in Atlanta.

Membership of Scientific Societies

He is a member of several Scientific Societies such as the ASOR (American Schools of Oriental Research), EAA (European Association of Archaeologists), IPP (Istituto di Preistoria e Protostoria), SIA (Società Italiana di Archeoastronomia); SEAC (Société Européenne pour l’Astronomie dans la Culture).

List of publications

EDIT BOOKS

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A. (eds.), *Archeologia della Mesopotamia antica*, Carocci Editore, Roma 2015.

Polcaro, A., Muniz, J (eds.), *Jebel al-Mutawwaq. A 4th Millennium BCE Village and Dolmen Field. Five Years of Spanish-Italian Excavations (2012-2017)* (LEMA - Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant and Eastern Mediterranean 1), Brepols, Turnhout 2019 (*in prep*).

MONOGRAPHS

Polcaro, A., *Necropoli e costumi funerari in Palestina dal Bronzo Antico I al Bronzo Antico III* (=Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale XI), Rome 2006.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Archaeological Discoveries in the Ancient State of Lagash: Results from the Italian Excavations at Tell Zurghul/Nigin in Southern Iraq, in *Ash-Sharq* Vol. 2 No. 1, 2018: 24-124.

Casado, A.M., Muniz, J.R., Polcaro, A., Alvarez Martinez, V., Casadei, E., del Rio, J.G., Perri, G., Gonzalez, S.R., Piedra, G.S., Zambruno, P., Corrada Solares, M., Qareisan Spring: Jebel Mutawwaq dolmen field and Bronze Age site. Trabajos de excavación arqueológica en Jebel Mutawwaq, Jordania. Campaña de 2015, in *Informes y Trabajo. Instituto de el Patrimonio Cultural de España* 14, 2016: 276-289.

Polcaro, A., The Middle Bronze Age Cemetery of Eblaite Royal Artisans: a Re-analysis of Area G South of Tell Mardikh, in *Les Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes*, Vol. 57-58, 2014-2015: 205-215.

Muñiz, J., Polcaro, A., Álvarez V., Preliminary Results of the 2013 Excavation Season at the EB I Site of Jabal al-Mutawwaq in Middle Wadi az-Zarqa, in *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 58, 2017: 423-434.

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Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Nigin, alle origini della civiltà, in *Archeologia Viva*, vol. 183, 2017: 40-49.

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., The Early Stages of the Sumerian City at Tell Zurghul: New Results from Recent Excavations, in *Origini* 39, 2016: 75-100.

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., The Sky from the High Terrace: Study on the Orientation of the Ziqqurat in Ancient Mesopotamia, in *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry* 16/4, 2016: 103-108.

César González García, A., Belmonte, J.A., Polcaro, A., A Diachronic Analysis of Orientation of Sacred Precincts Across Jordan, in *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry* 16/4, 2016: 133-141.

Belmonte, J.A., González García, A.C., Polcaro, A., Rodríguez-Antón, A., Schaltout, M., Orientatio ad Sidera (OAS): Highlights of a Decade of Archaeoastronomical Research in the Mediterranean Region and Beyond, in *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*, 16/4, 2016: 93-101.

Muniz, J., Polcaro, A., Jebel al-Mutawwaq, in *Arqueología Bíblica* 91, 2016: 39-47.

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Verderame, L., New Inscriptions of Gudea from Tell Surghul / Nigin, Iraq, in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 106 (1), 2016: 16-21.

Chiriu, D., Ricci, P.C., Carbonaro, C.M., Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Mocci, F., Drying oil detected in mid-third Millennium B.C. Mesopotamian clay artifacts: Raman spectroscopy and DFT simulations study, in *Microchemical Journal* 124, 2015: 386-395.

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Il Rinascimento sumerico. Nuove scoperte archeologiche in Iraq Meridionale, in *Forma Urbis*, vol. XX, 2015: 18-26.

Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Nigin. La città delle acque, in *Archeologia Viva*, vol. 173, 2015: 30-40.

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Chiriu, D., Nadali, D., Polcaro, A., Braconi, P., Lanzi, D., Ricci, C., 2014, Raman Study on Pompeii Potteries: The Role of Calcium Hydroxide on the Surface Treatment, in *Journal of Spectroscopy*, Vol. 2014, 2014: 1-10.

Polcaro, A., Muniz, J., Alvarez, V., Mogliazza, S., Dolmen 317 and Its Hidden Burial: An Early Bronze Age I Megalithic Tomb from Jebel al-Mutawwaq (Jordan), in *Bullettin of American Schools of Oriental Research* 372, 2014: 1-17.

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Alvarez, V., Muniz, J., Polcaro, A., Preliminary results of the first Spanish-Italian excavation campaign to the Jabal al-Muṭawwaq dolmen field, August-September 2012, in *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 57, 2013: 409-424.

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Belmonte, J. A., Gonzalez-Garcia, A. C., Polcaro, A., On the Orientation of Megalithic Monuments of the Transjordan Plateau: New Clues for an Astronomical Interpretation, in *Journal of the History of Astronomy* 44, 2013: 429-455.

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Polcaro, A., Polcaro V.F., Early Bronze Age Dolmens in Jordan and their Orientations, in *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2006: 165-171.

Polcaro, A., Architettura Funeraria della necropoli di Bab edh-Dhra' dal BA I al BA III. Funzione e significato dei cambiamenti architettonici delle tombe nell'ambito dello sviluppo urbano dell'insediamento, *Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale X*, Rome 2005: 209-267.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS

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Polcaro, A., Architettura templare e orientamenti astronomici: analisi della tipologia nord-siriana dell'"Antentempel" nel Periodo Protosiriano, in: S. Pizzimenti, L. Romano (eds.), *Šime ummiānka Studi in onore di Paolo Matthiae in occasione del suo 75° compleanno offerti dall'ultima generazione di allievi (Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale XVI)*, 2014: 155-198.

Polcaro, A., Fertilità e morte, il simulacro della dea degli inferi: significato simbolico del "Rilievo Burney", in R. Dolce (ed.), *Raccolta di studi in onore di Anton Moortgat*, Palermo 2010: 291-309.

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Polcaro, A., La Tomba A: stratigrafia, corredi e rituale funerario del Bronzo Antico, in L. Nigro (ed.), *Tell es-Sultan/Gerico alle soglie della prima urbanizzazione: il villaggio e la necropoli del Bronzo Antico I (3300-3000 a.C.)*, (= Rome La Sapienza Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan 01), Roma 2005: 49-70.

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PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

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Polcaro, A., Muniz, J., Preliminary Results of the 2014-2015 Excavations Campaigns at the Early Bronze Age I Settlement of Jebel al-Mutawwaq, Middle Wadi az-Zarqa, Area C, in *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan 13. Proceedings of the International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Amman Princess Sumaya University 22-26 May 2016*, Amman 2018, *in press*.

Polcaro, A., Muniz, J., Dolmen 534: A Megalithic Tomb of the Early Bronze Age II in Jebel al-Mutawwaq, Jordan. Preliminary results of the 2014 Spanish-Italian expedition in Area Cc South, in B. Horejs et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 10th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 25-29 June 2016, Vienna*, Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2018: 589-600.

Polcaro, A., Muniz, J., Jebel al Mutawwaq, the Mountain Surrounded by Water. The Importance of Water Resources During the 4th Millennium BC in the Transjordanian Highlands, in L. Nigro, M. Nuccioti, E. Gallo (eds.), *Precious Water. Paths of Jordanian civilizations as seen in the Italian archaeological excavations. Proceedings of the International Conference held in Amman, October 18th 2016* (ROSA-PAT 12), Rome 2017: 15-27.

Polcaro, A., Muniz, J., Alvarez, V., The New Spanish-Italian Expedition to the EB I site of Jebel al-Mutawwaq, Middle Wadi az-Zarqa, Jordan: Preliminary Results of the 2012–2013 Campaigns, in Rolf A. Stucky et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 9-13 June 2014, Basel*, Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2016: 1633-1645.

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Polcaro, A., Un culto solare nel IV millennio a.C. nei dipinti di Tuleilat al-Ghassul, in L. Lozito, F. Pastore (eds.), *Cielo e Cultura Materiale. Recenti scoperte di archeoastronomia nel bacino del Mediterraneo*, XIII Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico, Paestum 20 Novembre 2010, Salerno, 2011: 37-48.

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