

## Dr Hervé RECULEAU, Associate Professor of Assyriology

Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures  
–West Asia & North Africa–  
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Modern languages: French (native); English, German (fluent); Russian (beginner)  
Ancient languages: Akkadian (major); Sumerian (minor); Hurrian (basic)

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

History of Climate, Environment and Landscapes; History of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Management; Social and Economic History; Syrian and Mesopotamian History; Akkadian Lexicography; Old Babylonian; Amorite; Middle Assyrian.

### EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-present **University of Chicago: Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures – West Asia & North Africa, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, & the College**  
Associate Professor of Assyriology (with tenure)
- 2015-2019 **University of Chicago: Oriental Institute, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, & the College**  
Second-term Assistant Professor of Assyriology
- 2014-2015 **Lycée (senior high school) François-Arago (Villeneuve-St-Georges, France)**  
Qualified teacher (*professeur agrégé*) in History and Geography
- 2011-2012 **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Paris)**  
Full-time Researcher with ANR/DFG project *HIGEOMES. La géographie historique de la Haute-Mésopotamie du IIe millénaire av. J.-C. : projet de recherche interdisciplinaire*
- 2008-2010 **Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie / Excellence Cluster 264 – TOPOI: The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilisations**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow: “Climate-related Data from Middle and Neo-Assyrian Cuneiform Sources of Upper Mesopotamia (13th-10th c. BCE)”
- 2007-2008 **Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow)**  
Lecturer for Assyriology and the History of the Ancient Near East
- 2005-2007 **Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Altorientalistik**  
Teaching and Research Assistant (*Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter*) for Assyriology
- 2003-2005 **Université Paris 1 – Panthéon/Sorbonne**  
Teaching and Research Assistant (*ATER*) for Ancient History
- 2001-2003 **Collège de France, Institut d’Assyriologie**  
Teaching and Research Assistant (*ATER*) for Assyriology

### EDUCATION

- 2001-2006 **École Pratique des Hautes Études, Section des Sciences Historiques et Philologiques (Paris)**  
**Ph.D. (Doctorat)** in Assyriology, under supervision of D. Charpin. Passed with distinction (very honorable with the unanimous recommendation of the examiners).  
Dissertation: *Les paysages ruraux du Moyen-Euphrate et de ses affluents au IIe millénaire av. n. è.*, Thèse de doctorat de l’École Pratique des Hautes Études, IV<sup>e</sup> section, 2006, 1234 pp.
- 2000-2001 **École Pratique des Hautes Études, Section des Sciences Historiques et Philologiques (Paris)**  
**M.A.S. (DEA)** in Assyriology, under supervision of J.-M. Durand. Passed with distinction.  
Dissertation: *Rythmes et pratiques de l’agriculture à Mari (XIXe-XVIIIe s. av. n. è.)*, Mémoire de DEA de l’École Pratique des Hautes Études, IV<sup>e</sup> section, 2001, 161 pp.
- 1996-2000 **École Normale Supérieure (Fontenay/St-Cloud) & Université Paris 1 – Panthéon/Sorbonne**  
**B.A. (Licence)** in History and Geography and **M.A. (Maîtrise)** in History. Successful preparation for national competitive teaching diploma “Agrégation” in History.

## PUBLICATIONS

## 1. Monographs

- 2018 *Florilegium marianum XVI. L'agriculture irriguée au royaume de Mari : essai d'histoire des techniques.* Mémoires de NABU 21. Paris: SEPOA (2 vol., 535 p.) [1.3]  
*Mittelassyrische Urkunden aus dem Archiv Assur 14446.* Keilschrifttexte aus mittelassyrischer Zeit 10. WVDOG 130. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (co-authored with B. Feller; 78 p., 32 pl.) [1.2]
- 2012 Reviews by: Y. Bloch, *Aula Orientalis* 31 (2013): 369-373; S. Gaspa, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie* 104 (2014): 113-114; J. N. Postgate, *Orientalische Literaturzeitung* 109 (2014): 190-201; J. Llaup, *Die Welt des Orients* 45 (2015): 114-118; J. J. De Ridder, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 166 (2016): 229-233; S. Maul, *Zeitschrift für Altorientalische und Biblische Rechtsgeschichte* 22 (2016): 29-45; S. Salin, *Journal of Semitic Studies* 62 (2017): 248-249.
- 2011 *Climate, Environment and Agriculture in Assyria in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BCE.* Studia Chaburensia 2. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (290 p.) [1.1]  
 Reviews by: A. Bagg, *Berytus* 53-54 (2010-2011): 233-236; A. Dornauer, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie* 103 (2013): 245-250.

## 2. Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- in press The Fluidity of Empire: Hydraulics of Neo-Assyrian canal systems in relation to their possible uses, *Water History* (with Alexis Stampoulzidis, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, Ronald P. Van Nooijen, & Maurits W. Ertsen) [2.3]
- 2018 On Some Metrological Issues Affecting Yield Estimates in Second Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia. *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 70: 87-114. [2.2]
- 2009 Le point sur la “plante à huile” : réflexions sur la culture du sésame en Syrie-Mésopotamie à l’âge du Bronze. *Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes* 13: 13-37. [2.1]

## 3. Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Edited Volumes

- submitted, awaiting peer-review Assessing the Role of Climate Change in the Neo-Assyrian to Neo-Babylonian Transition, in Ch. W. Jones & J. Gardner (ed.), *Collapse from the Ground Floor: Approaching the Neo-Assyrian to Neo-Babylonian Transition from Below.* Studia Chaburensia. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. [3.16]
- submitted, awaiting peer-review A Hundred and Twenty Years Since the Laws of Hammurabi: The legacy of J.-V. Scheil in Old Babylonian Studies, in A. Winitzer (ed.), *The Spirit of Scholarship: The Roman Catholic Background of Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies and Its Legacy.* Modern Catholicisms. Leiden: Brill. [3.15]
- submitted, awaiting peer-review Environmental Aspects of the Neo-Assyrian Forced Migrations. in M. A. Halvorson-Taylor and M. W. Hamilton (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Exile and Forced Migrations.* Oxford: OUP. [3.14]
- 2024 Agriculture, in L. Culbertson & G. Rubio (ed.), *Society and the Individual in Ancient Mesopotamia.* Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records 33. Berlin-New York: de Gruyter, 61–146. [3.13]
- 2023 De l’influence des conditions météorologiques sur les communications en Haute Mésopotamie, in A. Otto & N. Ziegler (ed.), *Entre les fleuves – III. On the Way in Upper Mesopotamia. Travels, Routes and Environment as a Basis for the Reconstruction of Historical Geography,* 35–49. BBVO 30. Gladbeck: Peter Werner. [3.12]
- 2023 Old Babylonian Nippur in its Environmental and Historical Settings, in S. Paulus (ed.), *Back to School in Babylonia,* 19–29. Chicago: ISAC Publications. [3.11]
- 2022 Assyria in the Late Bronze Age, in N. Moeller, D. Potts & K. Radner (eds.), *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East: Volume III, From the Hyksos to the Late Second Millennium BC,* 707–800. Oxford: OUP. [3.10]
- 2022 “Opener of Canals, Provider of Abundance and Plenty.” Royal Investment in Large-Scale Irrigation in Second Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia, in S. Rost (ed.), *Irrigation in Early States: New Perspectives,* 209-268. Oriental Institute Seminars 13. Chicago: Oriental Institute. [3.9]
- 2021 Esclaves domestiques, prisonniers de guerre et citoyens endettés : Mari et la haute Mésopotamie, XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant notre ère, in P. Ismard, B. Rossi & C. Vidal (eds.), *Les mondes de l’esclavage. Une histoire comparée,* 19-27. Paris: Seuil. [3.8]
- submitted, awaiting peer-review Twelve Early Old Babylonian Tablets from Tell Muqdadīya, in H. A. Hamza, *Tell Muqdadīya, Iraqi Excavations in the Diyala Region I,* Translated by Mark Altaweel, Edited and annotated by McGuire Gibson. A Joint Publication of the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Chicago: Oriental Institute. [3.7]
- 2016 Claiming Land and People: Conceptions of Power in Syria and Upper Mesopotamia during the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE, in S. Schmidt-Hofner, Cl. Ambos and P. Eich (ed.), *Raum-Ordnung. Raum und soziopolitische*

- Ordnungen im Altertum*, 175-214. Akademiekonferenzen 18, Heidelberg: Winter. [3.6]
- 2015 Middle Assyrian Agrarian Management in the West in the Light of its Forerunners, in B.S. Düring (ed.), *Understanding Hegemonic Practices of the Early Assyrian Empire. Essays dedicated to Frans Wiggermann*, 199-219. PIHANS 125. Leiden: NINO. [3.5]
- 2010 The Lower Ḫābūr before the Assyrians: Settlement and Land Use in the First Half of the Second Millennium BCE, in H. Kühne (ed.), *Dūr-Katlimmu 2008 and Beyond*, 187-215. Studia Chaburensia 1. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. [3.4]
- 2009 Über den Beitrag der historischen Geographie zum Verständnis der Sesshaftigkeit am Beispiel des Mittleren Euphrat-Raumes im 2. Jt. v.Chr., in E. Cancik-Kirschbaum & N. Ziegler (ed.), *Entre les Fleuves I. Untersuchungen zur historischen Geographie Obermesopotamiens im 2. Jahrtausend*, 303-322. BBVO 20. Gladbeck: Peter Werner. [3.3]
- 2008 Tell Hariri/Mari: Textes. V. Environnement et occupation de l'espace. II. Les sédentaires. *Supplément au Dictionnaire de la Bible XIV* (fasc. 77-78): 324-356. [3.2]
- 2002 Lever d'astres et calendrier agricole à Mari, in J.-M. Durand & D. Charpin (ed.), *Florilegium Marianum VI. Recueil d'études à la mémoire d'André Parrot*, 517-538. Mémoires de NABU. 7, Paris: SEPOA. [3.1]

#### 4. Chapters in Conference Proceedings and Non-Peer-Reviewed Edited Volumes

- 2024 Entre mythe et histoire : écrire (sur) les origines en Mésopotamie ancienne, in *La fabrique des Sociétés*, ed. Catherine Courtet, Mireille Besson, Françoise Lavocat & François Lecerle, 97–121. Rencontres Recherches et Création 10. Paris: CNRS Editions. [4.7]
- 2019 Tablettes paléo-babyloniennes de la collection R. F. Harper conservées à l'Oriental Institute de l'Université de Chicago, in G. Chambon, M. Guichard & A.-I. Langlois (ed.), *De l'argile au numérique. Mélanges assyriologiques en l'honneur de Dominique Charpin* (2 vol.), 469-489. PIPOAC 3. Leuven: Peeters (with A. Jacquet) [4.6]
- accepted, awaiting publication Patrimonial and Official Land Tenure in 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia, in S. Procházka, L. Reinfandt & S. Tost (ed.), *Land and Power in the Ancient and Post-Ancient World. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference of the NFN Imperium & Officium (Vienna, 2013)*. Wien. [4.5]
- 2014 The Sutean Nomads in the Mari Period, in D. Morandi Bonacossi (ed.), *Settlement Dynamics and Human-Landscape Interaction in the Dry Steppes of Syria*, 209-226. Studia Chaburensia 4. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (co-authored with N. Ziegler). [4.4.]
- 2010 Périphérique ou local ? Le vocabulaire des paysages de la vallée de l'Euphrate au II<sup>e</sup> millénaire av. n. è. *Babel und Bibel* 4/1: 505-520. [4.3]
- 2009 L'implantation sédentaire dans la vallée de l'Euphrate à l'âge du Bronze: un modèle centre/périphérie? Le cas du Royaume de Mari (Syrie) au XVIII<sup>e</sup> s. av. n. è., in J.-M. Durand & A. Jacquet (ed.), *Centre et Périphérie: Approches nouvelles des Orientalistes*, 57-81. CIPOA 1. Paris: Maisonneuve. [4.2]
- 2008 Late Bronze Age Rural Landscapes of the Euphrates according to the Emar Texts, in L. d'Alfonso, Y. Cohen & D. Sürenhagen (ed.), *The City of Emar among the Late Bronze Age Empires. History, Landscape, and Society. Proceedings of the Konstanz Emar Conference, 25.-26.04. 2006*, 129-140. AOAT 349, Münster: Ugarit Verlag. [4.1]

#### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2013 **Prix Saintour de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres** for *Climate, Environment and Agriculture in Assyria in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BCE*, Studia Chaburensia 2, Wiesbaden (2011).
- 2008-2010 **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Excellence Cluster 264 – TOPOI: The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilisations (Berlin)

#### GRANTS

- 2021 **Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago**  
\$3,275 for two-days conference *Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity* (December 4–5, 2021)
- 2020 **Laying the groundwork for a corpus-based dictionary of Old Babylonian**, funded by the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Paris, France) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Moscow, Russia).  
€ 10,300
- 2023 Principal Investigators: Dr. Nele Ziegler (CNRS, Paris) & Dr Ilya Arkhipov (HSE University, Moscow)  
Role: **Collaborator**

- 2018-2024 **Computational Research on the Ancient Near East (CRANE)**, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada [2nd round] (<https://www.crane.utoronto.ca/>). \$2,499,150.00  
Principal Investigator: Prof. Timothy Harrison (University of Toronto)  
Role: **Collaborator** on project *Simulation Modeling* (project PI: Lynn Welton, University of Toronto)
- Collaborative project: “**Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity: Comparative Approaches between Empiricism and Theory.**” The **Humanities Without Walls** consortium, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (<http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu>). \$136,302.  
Role: **Principal Investigator.**  
Collaborators: Catherine Kearns, Nadine Moeller (University of Chicago); Michele R. Buzon (Purdue University); Jay Crisostomo, Gary Beckman (University of Michigan).  
Student Collaborators: Thalia Lysen, Émilie Sarrazin (University of Chicago); Jenail Marshall, Katie Whitmore (Purdue University); Timothy Leonard (University of Michigan).

## EDITORIAL WORK AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Editorial Work

- 2019-pr. Member of the Editorial Board of the *Barcino Monographica Orientalia* Series (Universitat de Barcelona Press)
- 2017-pr. Member of the Editorial Board of the *Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East* Publications (produced and distributed by Brill).

### Professional Organizations

- 2020-pr. Member of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)
- 2018-pr. Member of the International Association for Assyriology (IAA)
- 2015-pr. Member of the American Oriental Society (AOS)
- 2013-pr. Research Associate, UMR 7192 : Proche-Orient – Caucase : langues, archéologie, cultures (Paris)

## CONFERENCE TALKS AND INVITED LECTURES (SELECTION)

- 2023 **29th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Queen’s University, Belfast**  
 Theme: Net Zero Archaeologies – Sustainability in the Past, Present and Future  
 Session: Archaeology and the Climate Crisis: Resilience, Activism, and Pedagogy  
 Presentation: Climate Research and the Archaeology of Southwest Asia: Towards a New Pedagogical Approach (with Lynn Welton)
- 2023 **Festival d’Avignon – Rencontres Recherche et Création**  
 Lecture: À l’origine des villes : repenser la “révolution urbaine” en Mésopotamie
- 2023 **Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, University of Haifa**  
 Conference: *THALASSOCRACY - The Explanatory Power of the Mediterranean. An International Conference Marking Seven Years of Activity*  
 Session: Mediterranean Societies and Climate Change: Where We Are and Where Are We Headed?  
 Presentation: Climate-Induced Factors for the Fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire and the Transition Towards Babylonia?
- 2023 **Collège de France, Paris**  
 Conference: *Archives paléo-babyloniennes : 140 ans de publication et d’étude*  
 Presentation: From the Tablets to the Lemma. Old Babylonian Archives as a Source for a Corpus-Based Dictionary of Akkadian
- 2023 **13th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) – University of Copenhagen**  
 Presentation: Fertile Ground: How We Can Estimate Ancient Agricultural Productivity—And Why It Matters (with L. Welton [presenter], S. Riehl, & D. Lawrence)
- 2023 **Northwestern University, Evanston (IL)**  
 James Lecture Workshop: Writing the History of Middle Bronze Anatolia: Sources, Perspectives, Periodization, State Formation, and Historiography  
 Presentation: The “*Kārum* Period” and its Aftermath: A Perspective from Upper Mesopotamia
- 2023 **233rd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS), Los Angeles**  
 Plenary Session Presentation: How Climate Change Impacted the History of First Millennium BCE Mesopotamia—and How it Likely Did Not

- University of Notre Dame / Tantur Ecumenical Institute (Jerusalem, Israel)**  
2022 Conference: *The Spirit of Scholarship: The Roman Catholic Background of Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies and Its Legacy*  
Presentation: A Hundred and Twenty Years Since the Laws of Hammurabi: The Legacy of J.-V. Scheil in Old Babylonian Studies
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR), Boston**  
2022 Workshop: *The Transition from the Neo-Assyrian to the Neo-Babylonian Periods*  
Presentation: Reassessing the Role of the ‘Assyrian Megadrought’ in the Neo-Assyrian to Neo-Babylonian Transition
- University of Chicago, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation**  
2022 Workshop: Beyond Cities. A Comparative Approach to Ancient Urban Hinterlands  
Presentation: Between the Mountain, the River, and the Steppe: The Bronze and Early Iron Age Urban Hinterlands of Upper Mesopotamia
- Collège de France, Paris**  
2022 Workshop: Akkadian Language Analysis and Tools for Research  
Presentation: Prolegomena to an Updated Comprehensive Dictionary of Akkadian: the eCAD project
- University of Chicago: Oriental Institute & Franke Institute for the Humanities**  
2021 Conference: *Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity: Comparative Approaches Between Empiricism and Theory*  
Co-organizer (with Catherine Kearns); Presentation: Perceptions of Weather and Weather Events in Mesopotamia (2nd—1st millennia BCE) (with C. J. Crisostomo); Presentation: Rapid Climate Change in Upper Mesopotamia: Revisiting the 4.2ka BP, 3.2ka BP, and 7th c. BCE Events
- University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society**  
2021 Workshop: *Ancient DNA (aDNA) and the Ancient Near East*  
Presentation: Kish in the Third Millennium BCE and Population Studies
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR), Chicago**  
2021 Workshop: *The Amorites: Culture, History, and Archaeology*  
Presentation: “Ḫana” and the “Land of Ḫana” in the Amorite and Post-Amorite Ages (20th–11th c. BCE)
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR), Chicago**  
2021 Session: *Environmental Archaeology*  
Presentation: Fertile Ground: Methods for Estimating Ancient Agricultural Productivity (with L. Welton [presenter], S. Riehl, & D. Lawrence)
- Ludwig-Maximilian Universität (Munich) [Remote]**  
2021 Workshop: *Production of Vegetable Oils in the Ancient Near East and Beyond*  
Presentation: Sesame Cultivation in the Middle Bronze Age
- 65th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale – Collège de France (Paris)**  
2019 Workshop: *L’enseignement technique en Mésopotamie*  
Presentation: A Scribal Education in the Palace? The Educational Background of the Šandabakkum of Mari (18th c. BCE)
- University of Chicago: Oriental Institute, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, Franke Institute for the Humanities**  
2019 Conference: *Landscape Studies in the Near East: The Next 100 Years*  
Co-organizer (with J. Osborne & Y. Rowan)  
Presentation: Ancient Cuneiform Texts and the Reconstruction of “Ghost Landscapes” in Alluvial Environments
- Yale University (New Haven, CT)**  
2019 Presentation: Valley Irrigation Along the Syrian Euphrates: A Case Study in Bronze Age Landscapes and Technology
- 37th Meeting of the Harvard History and Archaeology of Ancient Near Eastern Societies Workshop — Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)**  
2019 Presentation: Valley Irrigation Along the Syrian Euphrates: A Case Study in Bronze Age Landscapes and Technology
- 229th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago**  
2019 Presentation: Assyrian Sources and the Assumed Climatic Crisis at the End of the Late Bronze Age (12th–10th c. BCE) [w. C. Jay Crisostomo]