

## **Curriculum Vitae - Dr ANDREA POLCARO, MA, PhD**

### **Personal informations**

Nationality: Italian

E-mail: [andrea.polcaro@unipg.it](mailto:andrea.polcaro@unipg.it)

Websites: [www.andreapolcaro.it](http://www.andreapolcaro.it); [www.qreisanproject.org](http://www.qreisanproject.org); [www.archaeoraman.org](http://www.archaeoraman.org);  
[www.tellsurghul.org](http://www.tellsurghul.org)

### **Current Position**

- 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.

### **Past positions**

- PhD student (with fellowship) at Rome Sapienza University since 2003 to 2006.
- Contract professor in Near Eastern Archaeology at Perugia University since 2008 to 2013.
- 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.

### **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*).
- During the Academic Year 2013/2014 he held a laboratory 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 (in particular astronomical orientation analyses of sacred buildings) and studies on ancient Near Eastern religions.

- Since 1998 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 August 2012 to date, as professor of Archaeology of Ancient Near East at Perugia University, he is co-director, together with Juan Muniz (Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain), of the archaeological mission to the dolmen field of Jebel al-Mutawwaq (Jordan). This archaeological project, under the patronage of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, consists in the study and valorization of this huge 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.
- Since 2013 to 2016 he directed the Perugia University research unit of 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 2014 to date he also co-directs with Dr Davide Nadali (Rome “Sapienza” University) a joined project of excavation to the site of Nina/Surgul 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 and the Italian Embassy in Baghdad.

### **Organization of exhibitions and projects of Cultural Heritage management**

- 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.
- In 2015 he starts to coordinate for Perugia University the new "Madaba Archaeological Museum Project", together with the La Sierra University of California, the Gannon University of Pennsylvania and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, concerning the valorization of the Madaba Archaeological Park West and the set up of a new museum in the area.

### **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.

### **Congresses, conference and invited scientific meeting**

He participated to numerous international archaeological conferences, as the 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 March 2012, Basel 9th-13th June 2014), the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (San Diego 19th-22th November 2014; Atlanta 18th-21st November 2015) the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (56

RAI, Barcelona 26th-30th July 2010; 57, RAI Rome 4th-7th July 2011) and archaeoastronomy congresses (VII, VIII and XI Congresso della Società Italiana di Archeoastronomia, Rome 28th-29th September 2007, Ferrara 17th-18th October 2008, Bologna 28th-29th October 2011; 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Conferences of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture, Rhodes 2008, Alexandria 2009; Ljubljana 2012; Rome 2015; Conference “Cielo e Cultura Materiale”, *XIII Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico*, 18th-20th November 2010) with several papers and posters. He has participated as invited speaker to an 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). He presided, together with prof. Douglas Clark (La Sierra University), the “Madaba Museum Workshop”, scheduled at ASOR 2015 and finalized to the presentation of the “Madaba Archaeological Museum Project”.

## List of publication

### EDITED BOOKS

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

### 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

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

Polcaro, A., The Bone Talisman and the Ideology of Ancestors in Old Syrian Ebla: tradition and innovation in the royal funerary ritual iconography, in *Studia Eblaitica* 1, 2015: 179-204.

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.

Daniele Chiriu et al., 2014, Raman Study on Pompeii Potteries: The Role of Calcium Hydroxide on the Surface Treatment, in *Journal of Spectroscopy*, Vol. 2014, 2014: 1-10.

A. Polcaro, J. Muniz, V. Alvarez, S. Mogliazza, 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.

A. Polcaro, J. Muniz, The Early Bronze Age I Site and Necropolis of Jebel al-Mutawwaq, Jordan, in *The Ancient Near East Today*, October 2014, Vol. II., No. 10.

Polcaro, A., Architettura templare e orientamenti astronomici: analisi della tipologia nord-siriana dell'”Antentempel” nel Periodo Protosiriano, in *Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale XVI*, 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, CMAO XVI, 2014: 155-198.

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.

Muñiz Álvarez, J.R., Álvarez Martínez, V., Polcaro, A., Jebel al-Mutawwaq. La evolución del estudio de un yacimiento de la edad del bronce Antiguo I en la estepa jordana, in *ISIMU (Revista sobre Oriente Próximo y Egipto en la antigüedad)* 16 (2013): 79-95.

J. A. Belmonte, A. C. Gonzalez-Garcia and A. Polcaro, 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.

J. A. Belmonte, A. C. Gonzalez-Garcia, A. Polcaro, Light and Shadows over Petra: astronomy and landscape in Nabataean lands, in *Nexus Network Journal* 15 (2013): 487-501.

Polcaro, A. - Polcaro, V.F., Man and Sky: Problems and Methods of Archaeoastronomy, in *Archeologia e Calcolatori*, vol. 20, 2009: 223-245.

Nigro, L. - Sala, M. - Polcaro, A., Preliminary Report of the Third Season of Excavations by the University of Rome "La Sapienza" at Khirbat al-Batrawi (Upper Wadi az-Zarqa), in *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 52 (2008): 209-230.

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

Polcaro A., L'Impero Accadico, in: D. Nadali, A. Polcaro (eds.), *Archeologia della Mesopotamia antica*, Carocci, Roma 2015: 153-189.

Polcaro, A., L'Impero neo-babilonese, in D. Nadali, A. Polcaro (eds.), *Archeologia della Mesopotamia antica*, Carocci, Roma 2015: 385-412.

Polcaro, A., Astronomy in the Levant During the Bronze and the Iron Age, in C.L.N. Ruggles (ed.), *Handbook of Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy*, Springer, Berlin, 2014: 1789-1801.

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.

Nigro, L. - Polcaro, A., Stratigraphy of area B North, in L. Nigro (ed.), *Khirbat al-Batrawy, an Early Bronze Age Fortified Town in North-Central Jordan. Preliminary Report of the Third and Second Seasons on Excavations (2006-2007)* (= Rome La Sapienza Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan 06), Rome 2008: 66-76.

Polcaro, A., Funerary Architecture, Findings and Mortuary Practises in the EB I Jericho Necropolis, in L. Nigro (ed.), *Byblos and Jericho in the Early Bronze I, Social Dynamics and Cultural Interactions*, (= Rome La Sapienza Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan 04), Roma 2007: 95-108.

Polcaro A., Stratigraphy of Area B, in *Khirbet al-Batrawy, An Early Bronze Age Fortified Town in North-Central Jordan, Preliminary Report of the First Season of Excavations (2005)*, in L. Nigro (ed.), *Khirbet al-Batrawi II* (= Rome La Sapienza Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan 03), Roma 2006: 155-166.

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.

Polcaro, A., Le tombe del periodo Proto-Urbano, 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: 129-142.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

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.

Muniz, J., Polcaro, A., Alvarez, V., New Spanish - Italian Excavations to the Dolmen Field of Jabal al-Muṭawwaq in Middle Wadi az-Zarqa. Preliminary Results of 2012 Campaign, in *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan 12. Proceedings of the International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Berlin 5-11 May 2013*, Amman 2016: 477-488.

Polcaro, A. “L’ottavo anno da quando Ishtar si manifestò ad Ebla”. Venere e il suo simbolismo nella città paleo siriana, in V.F. Polcaro (ed.), *Atti del XII° Convegno della Società Italiana di Archeoastronomia, Albano Laziale 5-6 ottobre 2012*, Napoli 2014: 345-362.

Polcaro, A., The Tuleilat al-Ghassul Star Painting: A Hypothesis Regarding a Solar Calendar from the Fourth Millennium BC, in L. Feliu et al. (eds.), *Time and History in the Ancient Near East, Proceedings of the 56th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Barcelona, 26-30 July 2010*, Barcelona 2013: 273-284.

Polcaro, A., J. A. Belmonte, A. C. Gonzalez-Garcia, Study on the Orientation of the Bronze Age Temple of Pella, Jordan: the dying god Baal and the Rituals of the Summer Solstice, in I. Sprajc, P. Pehani (eds.), *Ancient Cosmologies and Modern Prophets, Proceeding of the International Conference of European Society for Astronomy in Culture, Ljubljana, 24-29 September 2012*, Supplement of Anthropological Notebooks 19, Ljubljana 2013: 481-492.

Polcaro, A., Fire and Death: incineration in the Levantine Early-Middle Bronze Age cemeteries as mark of cultural identities, or as technical instrument of purification?, in P. Bieliński et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 8th International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 30 April - 4 May 2012, Warsaw*, Warsaw 2013: 137-148.

Polcaro, A., The Stone and the Landscape: the phenomenon of megalithic constructions in Jordan in the main historical context of Southern Levant at the beginning of the 3rd Millennium BC, in L. Bombardieri et al. (eds.), *Identity and Connectivity. Proceeding of the 16th Symposium On Mediterranean Archaeology, 1st-3rd March 2012 Florence, Italy*, BAR series 2581, Oxford: 127-136.

Polcaro A., Disposal of food funerary offering and reconstruction of funerary banquet rituals in Middle Bronze Age Syria: the tomb P.8680 at Tell Mardikh-Ebla, in R. Matthews et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, London 12-16 April 2010*, Wiesbaden 2012: 321-338.

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.

Polcaro, A., Uruk...Guarda le sue mura, i suoi merli sono come il rame...Mai nessuno, foss'anche un re potrà costruire un monumento che le eguagli, in C. Masseria, D. Loscalzo (eds.), *Miti di Guerra, Riti di Pace (Perugia - Torgiano 4-6 Maggio 2009)*, Bari 2011: 63-74.

Polcaro, A., Jebel Mutawwaq Dolmens: Cult of Ancestors in EB I Wadi Az-Zarqa Valley, Jordan, in P. Matthiae et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 6th ICAANE, Rome 5-10 May 2008*, Volume 2, Wiesbaden, 2010: 553-566.

Polcaro, A. - Mogliazza, S., Death and Cult of Dead in Middle Bronze II Ebla: an Archaeological and Anthropological Study on Shaft Tomb P.8680, near Southern Palace (Area FF), in P. Matthiae et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 6th ICAANE, Rome 5-10 May 2008*, Volume 3, Wiesbaden, 2010: 431-446.

Polcaro, A. - Ranieri, M., La geometria di alcuni edifici del Bronzo Antico di Tell Arad (zone H e M) e di Bab edh-Dhra (Charnel House A44): lo squadro numerico, la composizione armonica e l'unità di lunghezza, in *Mensura Caeli: Territorio, Città, Architetture, Strumenti, Atti dell' VIII Congresso SIA (Ferrara 17-18 Ottobre 2008)*, Ferrara, 2010: 202-213.



Polcaro, A., EB I Settlements and Environment in the Wadi az-Zarqa: Dolmens and Ideology of Death, in J. M. Cordoba et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 5th International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 2 April – 8 April 2006*, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid 2008: 31-48.

Polcaro, A., The Ideology of Ancestors in the EB I Palestine and Transjordan: The Cult of Dead as Social Structure and Factor of Territorial Unification of Early Urban Development, in H. Küne et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 4th International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 29 March – 3 April 2004, Freie Universität Berlin*, Wiesbaden 2008: 521-536.

Polcaro, A., The Jericho Necropolis: Study, Protection and Possible Tourism Exploitation, in L. Nigro - H. Taha (eds.) *Proceedings of the International Training Workshop: Tell es-Sultan in the context of the Jordan Valley: site management, conservation and sustainable development, Jericho - Ariha, 7th - 11th February 2005, ROSAPAT 02, Roma 2006*: 253-266.

#### BOOK REVIEW

Polcaro A. - Polcaro V.F., L. Valdés, Gastiburu: el santuario vasco de la Edad del Hierro, *Archeologia e Calcolatori*, 20, 2009: 423-425.

Polcaro, A., M. Incerti, Mensura Caeli. Territorio, città, architetture, strumenti, *Archeologia e Calcolatori*, 21, 2010: 362-365.