Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 5 June 2023, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Professor Nicolò Marchetti

Title: 'New discoveries at the Hittite site of Karkemish on the Euphrates (Gaziantep, Turkey)'

Karkemish was an important ancient capital of the northern Levant. At times during its history the city was independent, but it was also part of the Mitanni, Hittite and Neo-Assyrian Empires. Today the ste is crossed by the frontier between Turkey and Syria.The Turco-Italian Archaeological Expedition has been active in the region of Gaziantep since 2003 under the direction of Nicolò Marchetti of Bologna University. Two archaeological and environmental parks were completed and opened to the public in the province of Islahiye, at Tilmen Höyük (in 2007) and at Taşlı Geçit Höyük (in 2010).
A new project at Karkemish was then started by the Universities of Bologna, Gaziantep and Istanbul in 2011, with the support also of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Sanko Holding, in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Gaziantep Governorate and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality: the first ten campaigns have taken place between 2011 and 2021 with Nicolò Marchetti as director and Hasan Peker as deputy director. This was a development which the archaeological community and the interested public had been waiting for almost a century, after the site could no more be explored and visited since becoming a military outpost in 1920. The joint project has an integrated approach to research, conservation and presentation: it foresees the extensive investigation of the urban layout of the Bronze, Iron and Roman periods town and at the same time the conservation of the remains, also in view of touristic enhancement (an archaeological park is open at the site since 2019).

Booking essential: https://nicolo-marchetti-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

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Nicolò Marchetti is Full Professor of Archaeology of the Ancient Near East at the Department of History and Cultures (DiSCi) of the University of Bologna (https://www.unibo.it/sitoweb/nicolo.marchetti/en). He directs archaeological excavation projects in Turkey at Karkemish and in Iraq at Nineveh. He has also coordinated several national and international research projects, including the EU-funded ARCHAIA, HeAT, WALADU, EDUU and, currently, BANUU. He currently coordinates the Volkswagen Foundation-funded project KALAM which aims at protecting endangered archaeological landscapes in Iraq and Uzbekistan (https://site.unibo.it/kalam/en). He is the editor of the open science website https://www.orientlab.net/