

Preface by the Series Editor

The 8th volume of the OREA series about *Landscape Archaeology in Southern Caucasasia* represents the proceedings of a workshop held at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) in 2016. This 10th anniversary of the ICAANE took place from 25th to 29th of April in Vienna, hosted and organized by the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Altogether 800 participants from 38 different countries found their way to Vienna to celebrate the 10th anniversary of ICAANE with 8 scientific sections, 28 workshops, round tables, a huge poster exhibition and a special section about “Cultural Heritage under Threat”.

The topics of the 10th ICAANE covered traditional, as well as new fields, in relation to state-of-the-art approaches and methodologies. The general themes of transformation and migration, cultural landscapes, religion and rituals, environmental shifts, contextualized images, economies and societies, Islamic archaeology, as well as current excavations and field reports, have been discussed in large sections published as the 10th ICAANE proceedings with the Harrassowitz Publishing House. A special element was new scientific input discussed in the additional 28 workshops, focused on more detailed questions in relation to our broad scientific fields. The engaged discussions of internationally high-ranked experts with young scholars was essential for the success and open atmosphere of the 10th ICAANE in Vienna.

I would like to thank W. Anderson, K. Hopper and A. Robinson, who not only organised the workshop about *Landscape Archaeology in Southern Caucasasia. Finding Common Ground in Diverse Environments*, but also edited these proceedings as a volume for the internationally peer-reviewed OREA series.

The editors brought together 16 authors for ten contributions focussing on different aspects of Caucasian Landscape Archaeology, accompanied by a detailed introduction providing a good overview for an audience not familiar with this particular region. The editors succeeded in their aims to present and reflect on some of the current approaches in Landscape Archaeology based on site and regional studies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, parts of eastern Turkey and north-west Iran. By drawing attention to the Southern Caucasus as a zone of cultural contacts with its particular environmental and cultural conditions, the editors and authors offer a new perspective of this fascinating region to a broader readership. Moreover, their consideration of future research directions demonstrate the potential of southern Caucasian archaeology and the impact of “Finding Common Grounds in Diverse Environments”.

My sincere thanks for financial support of the conference go to several Austrian and international institutions, which are The Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the University of Vienna, the City of Vienna, the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), the Austrian Orient Society Hammer-Purgstall and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. For the publication of this volume, I would like to thank Ulrike Schuh for the coordination, Angela Schwab for the layout, Hazel Harrison for English language editing and the Publishing House of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

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