The third edition of GeMANE (Workshop on Gender, Methodology and the Ancient Near East), which took place in Ghent (Belgium) April 8–10, 2019, was hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the Ghent University and was organized in cooperation with the “Centre of Excellence in Ancient Near Eastern Empires” of the University of Helsinki. The organizing committee consisted of Katrien De Graef (Ghent University, Belgium), Agnès Garcia-Ventura (University of Barcelona – University Autònoma of Barcelona, Spain), Anne Goddeeris (Ghent University, Belgium), and Saana Svärd (University of Helsinki, Finland). The scientific committee consisted of the above-mentioned scholars together with Beth Alpert Nakhai (University of Arizona, USA) and Megan Cifarelli (Manhattanville College, USA), two scholars linked from the very beginning to the GeMANE meetings.

GeMANE 3 was a continuation of GeMANE 1 (held in Helsinki in October 2014) and GeMANE 2 (held in Barcelona, Spain, in February 2017) and the initiative will have continuity from now on as a biannual conference. GeMANE 4 will be held in Helsinki in Spring 2021. Exact dates and an open call for papers will be announced in due time. Moreover, some nominations for GeMANE 5 and GeMANE 6 have been submitted, which will ensure the continuity and success of this series of workshops and meetings on gender studies.

GeMANE 3 lasted three days and featured 27 communications delivered by scholars from various universities in twelve countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, and the United States. It also featured two outstanding keynote lectures. The first, entitled “Grandmother’s Tablets. Some Reflections on Female Landowners in Nuzi,” was delivered by Brigitte Lion (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France). The second, entitled “‘Perhaps it Was Always Already Gender’: Dressed Bodies in the Archaeological Record,” was delivered by Megan Cifarelli.

Furthermore, following an initiative first tested in the second GeMANE, during the last afternoon of the conference a Project Panel was organized to present and discuss ongoing projects on gender, methodology, and the ancient Near East. On this occasion it featured four presentations by Beth Alpert Nakhai, Amy Gansell, Ann Guinan, and Cheryl Morgan.

The Project Panel was followed by the GeMANE Study Group Panel where it was announced that the fourth GeMANE will be...
held in Helsinki (as noted above). Furthermore, in this panel were launched the proceedings and volumes related to previous meetings: *Studying Gender in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Saana Svärd and Agnès García-Ventura (2018, Eisenbrauns/ Penn State University Press), and *Gender and Methodology in the Ancient Near East: Approaches from Assyriology and Beyond*, edited by Stephanie Lynn Budin, Megan Cifarelli, Agnès García-Ventura and Adelina Millet Albà (2018, Barcino Monographica Orientalia 10 — Universitat de Barcelona Edicions). This second volume is dedicated to Ann Guinan. As chance would have it, Ann celebrated her seventieth birthday in February 2017 while GeMANE 2 was taking place at the University of Barcelona. Taking advantage of that serendipity sparked the proposal to dedicate this work to her, a brilliant scholar committed to the engendering of Assyriology.

The main aim of the third GeMANE workshop, as for those previous, was to discuss different methodological and theoretical approaches to gender within the framework of ancient Near Eastern studies (including archaeology, art history, and text studies), including, for example, neighboring disciplines such as Egyptology, Phoenician and Punic studies, and biblical studies (see the full program below). This diversity enabled debates on wide-ranging topics such as gendered spaces, gendered characters in Sumerian and Akkadian literature, the adequacy of binary male/female framework of analysis for certain research topics (and thus the applicability of queer perspectives), gender studies perspectives applied to coroplastic studies, queenship and queens in Mesopotamian sources, the role of women in the economy as attested in cuneiform tablets, approaches to biographical profiles of pioneer women of the field, network analysis and its interactions with gender studies, and law and gender. Luckily, this diversity of disciplines, approaches, and topics resulted in a rich exchange of ideas following each communication. As in the previous meetings, the atmosphere was collegial and friendly, despite some healthy differences of opinion.

As a tangible outcome of GeMANE 3, pictures of all speakers and a group photo of all participants can be found at both the website of the event (www.gemane3.ugent.be) and its facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/GeMANE3/). Moreover, some communications and debates were recorded by Anne Goddeeris, which can be found on YouTube. Finally, we plan to publish a proceedings volume. The editors will be (in alphabetical order): Beth Alpert Nakhai, Katrien De Graef, Agnès Garcia-Ventura, and Anne Goddeeris.

The organizers and participants of GeMANE 3 are already looking forward to the next meeting. We hope to have the chance to see you there!

---

**Notes**

1. For an overview of the genesis of these meetings and some information about the first two, see A. Garcia-Ventura and S. Svärd, “Studying Gender in the Ancient Near East: First Steps and Future Prospects,” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79.3 (2016), 222–23.
2. We encourage all those interested on being included in the mailing of the GeMANE Study Group to send an email to agnes.ventura@gmail.com.

---

**Full programme of the Third Workshop on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East, Ghent University (Belgium), 8–10 April 2019**

**Monday, 8 April 2019**

**Welcoming Session**

09:30-09:40 Welcome by Gita Deneckere, Dean of the Faculty of Arts

09:40-10:00 Welcome by Katrien De Graef on behalf of the organizing committee

**First Keynote Lecture**

10:00-10:30 Brigitte Lion (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Grandmother’s Tablets. Some Reflections on Female Landowners in Nuzi

**Session 1: Gendered Spaces & Spheres**

Chair: Agnès Garcia-Ventura

11:00-11:30 Lorenzo Verderame (Università degli Studi “La Sapienza” di Roma)

Engendered Cosmic Spaces in Ancient Mesopotamian Myths

11:30-12:00 Laura Cousin (CNRS & Université de Nanterre)

Looking for Gendered Spaces: The Case of Babylon in the First Millennium BC

12:00-12:30 Karolien Vermeulen (University of Antwerp)

Of Cities, Mothers, and Homes. A Cognitiv-Stylistic Approach to Gendered Space in the Hebrew Bible

12:30-13:00 Samuela Stoppa (University of Padua)

Neo-Assyrian Pottery and Gender: A Cultural Female Perspective

13:00-13:30 Saana Svärd (University of Helsinki)

Arabian Queens: Constructing Identity in the Neo-Assyrian Empire

13:30-14:00 Amy R. Gansell (St John’s University)

Images Divinely Sanctioned: Neo-Assyrian Queenship at Nimrud’s Northwest Palace

14:00-14:30 Megan Cifarelli (University of Antwerp)

Images and Sounds of Neo-Assyrian Women

14:30-15:00 Omar N’Shea (University of Malta) & Sophus Helle (Aarhus University)

Soldier of Scholar? Competing Masculinities in the Representation of Ashurbanipal

15:00-15:30 Ann-Kristin Gjøen (University of Oslo)

Neo-Assyrian Women in Scene: A Look at Their Role in Neo-Assyrian Art

15:30-16:00 Katrien De Graef (University of Antwerp)

The Republic of Women: Women, Girls and Marriages in Neo-Assyrian Art

16:00-16:30 Lena Demir (University of Cambridge)

Gendered Life in Neo-Assyrian Textual Sources

16:30-17:00 Anna Carlini (University of Cambridge)

Introducing the Neo-Assyrian Women Project

17:00-18:00 Coffee Break

18:00-19:00 Dinner
Session 3: Sex and Gender
Chair: Saana Svärd
16:00-16:30 Ann K. Guinan (University of Pennsylvania)
Probing the Boundaries of Mesopotamian Heteronormativity: The Case of Tablet 103
16:30-17:00 Natalie N. May (University of Leiden)
Women in Cult in Mesopotamia

Tuesday, 9 April 2019

Second Keynote Lecture
09:00-09:30 Megan Cifarelli (Manhattanville College)
“Perhaps it Was Always Already Gender:” Dressed Bodies in the Archaeological Record

Session 4: Archaeology & Iconography Part I (Then)
Chair: Katrien De Graef
09:30-10:00 Frances Pinnock (Università degli Studi “La Sapienza” di Roma)
The Late Bronze Age in Syria: Was It a Dark Age for Women?
10:00-10:30 Sera Yelözer & Mihriban Özbaşaran (Istanbul University)
Entangled at Death: Beads, Gender, and the Dead at Early Neolithic Aşıkh Höyük

10:30-11:00 Raffaele Frascaralli & Letteria Grazia Fassari (Università degli Studi “La Sapienza” di Roma)
Queering the Past: The Case of the Goddess on Lion at Hasanlu

Session 5: Archaeology & Iconography Part II (Now)
Chair: Anne Goddeeris
11:30-12:00 Beth Alpert Nakhai (University of Arizona)
Ecce Feminae: Excavating at the Convent of Notre Dame of Sion and the Arch of Ecce Homo on Jerusalem’s Via Dolorosa
12:00-12:30 Agnès Garcia-Ventura (IPOA-Universitat de Barcelona / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Women Talking about Women: Digging the Memory of Women in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Session 6: Biblical World
Chair: Beth Alpert-Nakhai
14:00-14:30 Anne Katrine de Hemmer Gudme (University of Copenhagen)
The Aroma of Majesty: Gender and the Hebrew Bible’s Olfactory Cultic Theology
14:30-15:00 Cathleen Chopra-McGowan (University of Chicago)
Lamentations as Indictments of Masculinity: The Complexity of Gender Performance
15:00-15:30 Elizabeth B. Tracy (Ph.D. St Andrews University) 
Vanishing Point: Perspectivity on Women in the 
Book of Exodus

Session 7: Phoenician and Punic Worlds 
Chair: Brigitte Lion 
16:00-16:30 Ana Delgado Hervás & Aurora Rivera (Universitat Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona) 
Rituals of Mothering and Fathering in Phoenician Sacred Places 
16:30-17:00 Mireia López-Bertran (Universitat de València) & Meritxell Ferrer (Universitat Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona) 
Performing Beauty in Phoenician in Punic Cultures: A Gender Perspective

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Session 8: Female Social Networks 
Chair: Ann K. Guinan 
09:00-09:30 Allison Thomason (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) 
Women's Property and Social Networks in Mesopotamia 
09:30-10:00 Anne Goddeeris (Ghent University) 
Women and their Weight: Incorporating Weighted Nodes in a Network Analysis of the Central Redistributive Household of Old Babylonian Nippur 
10:00-10:30 James D. Moore (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin & Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung Berlin) 
Socio-Historical Insights into Women at Elephantine according to the Aramaic Documentary Sources

Session 9: Women in Economy Part I 
Chair: Frances Pinnock 
11:00-11:30 Baptiste Fiette (CNRS & Collège de France) 
Zinû, Wife and Manager in Old Babylonian Larsa 
11:30-12:00 Katrien De Graef (Ghent University) 
Seals on Heels: The Sealing Practice of Female Economic Actors in Old Babylonian Sippar 
12:00-12:30 Ilan Peled (University of Amsterdam) 
Was It Law? Gender Relations and Legal Practice in the Ancient Near East

Session 10: Women in Economy Part II 
Chair: Natalie N. May 
14:00-14:30 Yoko Watai (University of Tsukuba) 
Women Involved in Daily Management in Achaemenid Babylonia: The Cases of Rē’indu and Andiya 
14:30-15:00 Sarah Jarmer Scott (Wagner College) 
The Scorpion and the Spider: Gendered Identities in Early Literate Seals and Sealings 
15:00-15:40 Fumi Karahashi (Chuo University) & Agnès Garcia-Ventura (IPOA-Universitat de Barcelona / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) 
Women's Participation in Socio-Economic Activities in Pre-Sargonic Lagash

Session 11: Ongoing Projects & Future Plans 
16:10-16:50 Project Panel 
Presentation and Discussion of Ongoing Projects on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East 
16:50-17:20 GeMANE Study Group Panel 
Presentation of “Studying Gender in the Ancient Near East vol. II” (proceedings of Barcelona meeting) & planning of 4th Workshop in Helsinki (2021)