

This year, Radboud University is delighted to host the annual NINO day on Friday January 29th. We look forward to welcoming all scholars working on the Near East for a conference around the topic of:

MAKERS, MATERIALS, AND US
CRAFTS AND INDUSTRIES IN THE NEAR EAST (3000 BCE - NOW)

The ancient world comes down to us primarily through artefacts and monuments. One way or another, all disciplines engaged in studying the Near East analyse these *things* to think and talk about *people*. At this year's NINO day, we invite scholars to focus specifically on the substance of ancient objects and structures, and the hands of their makers.

Canals dug in the Egyptian desert, clay tablets from Ur, hand-made pottery, finely crafted manuscripts, all of these items of use have a story to tell about the context of their creation. The materials and tools selected did not only determine the shape of the object in the past, but they also influence the object's journey through time and space to their current place in, e.g., museum collections.

We invite contributions related to the following topics:

- industries and crafts in the Near East;
- the human experience of making;
- material aspects of text objects;
- conservation of ancient objects.

Contributions can take the shape of a full **paper** (20 mins. talk + 10 mins. for questions) or a **lightning pitch** of 5-10 minutes. We invite advanced students and researchers in the Netherlands in the field of Near Eastern studies – spanning antiquity to the early modern period – to contribute to the 2027 gathering. The meeting offers a lively forum for sharing current projects, discussing new ideas, and connecting with colleagues across disciplines.

Please indicate your preference for a format when sending in your **abstract, of no more than 200 words**, to mark.dekreij@ru.nl. Deadline for abstracts is by the end of the day on **October 16th**.

Please note: We do not offer international travel subventions for speakers or participants in this in-person event.

The keynote lecture will be given by Prof. **Nadine Panayot**:

WHO MAKES AN OBJECT? THE AFTERLIVES OF ANCIENT GLASS

As curator of the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut, she initiated an impressive project after the Beirut explosion of 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-MfgeA7EhI>

The afterlife of ancient objects, and how we, as researchers, engage with them in their current locations, will be the subject of a **roundtable discussion** at the end of the day. Several heritage experts, in addition to our keynote speaker, will take part in this discussion and interact with the public.

Maaïke van Berkel
Lucinda Dirven
Mark de Kreij