

## **Summary of the DGJNWQP specialist workshop, held at UrbNet 11 October 2017**

Since 2011, the Danish-German Jerash Northwest Quarter Project has conducted archaeological research in Gerasa/Jerash in northern Jordan. The project has now entered the “final publication”-stage. In connection with this, a “Specialist Workshop” was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. The aim of the workshop was to enable the large group of specialists, who are affiliated with the project and are working on the various material groups, to discuss various themes with each other and exchange insight, ideas, and research methods.

The workshop consisted of short presentations given by each specialist, and all of the presentations were followed by a discussion. The day ended with a workshop, in which the specialists sat in groups in order to discuss material in a more focused and interdisciplinary manner.

The directors of the Danish-German Jerash Northwest Quarter Project and organisers of the workshop, Professor Rubina Raja (Aarhus University) and Professor Achim Lichtenberger (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster), gave the opening presentation, which included a brief introduction of everyone. Their presentation focused on introducing the excavation, the excavation plan, and the aim of the day. The workshop was meant as a knowledge-exchange opportunity for all specialists connected to the project.

Jesper Olsen and Bente Philippsen were the first specialists to give a presentation. The presentation was on AMS dating and Bayesian Statistics. The subsequent discussion centred around which disciplines could be linked to these methods, and how interdisciplinary approaches could provide further information.

Søren Munch Kristiansen and David Stott gave the next presentation. They offered an introduction of how to use LiDAR, and how Remote Sensing can provide information on the architectural features of Jerash. The subsequent discussion dealt with questions about how this helps excavations – e.g. in detecting water management, buildings, and an agriculture layout of the city. Furthermore, it was discussed how Remote Sensing can be combined with other disciplines in the future.

The next presentation was by Gry Barfod, who presented the results of the glass analysis on the material from Jerash. The discussion mainly dealt with the results and what else these can reveal – e.g. trade patterns, change of fuel in glass production, etc.

Christoph Eger gave a presentation on the metal material found in the Northwest Quarter, which included an overview of the material he is currently working on. The discussion focused on various themes, such as the dating of a coin hoard found in the ruins of an earthquake as well as context discussions and military presence in the Northwest Quarter.

Thomas Birch and Vana Orfanou proceeded with a presentation on the metal objects, in which they presented how these were analysed and what the analyses could tell – e.g. if there are differences in the metal from the different periods, how such differences are manifested and what it means, and whether there are traces of recycling of metal, etc. These questions were further addressed in the subsequent discussion.

Signe Krag presented the jewellery and material connected with textile production as well as she presented an overview of the material she is currently working on. Several of the objects, she

presented, were discussed afterwards, including suggestions on which material were used for various objects, how they were produced, and how to further work with and analyse the objects.

The plaster and mortar material were presented by Kristine Damgaard Thomsen. She presented overviews of production, materials found in different trenches, and different examples of painted wall plaster, which were all further discussed after the presentation.

Alex Peterson presented his work on the medieval pottery from Jerash. His work includes defining a chronotypology of the pottery as well as understanding the use of the pottery. The subsequent discussions touched upon topics related to diet and dating of trenches, medieval burials, etc.

The fauna has been analysed by Pernille Bangsgaard. She presented an overview of the results, i.e. statistics of the fauna in the Northwest Quarter, as well as how these varied between the trenches. The discussion dealt with further ways of analysing the bone material – e.g. by doing a stable isotope analysis, etc.

Philip Ebeling presented his ongoing work with the tiles, excavated in the Northwest Quarter project. The tiles have not previously been examined, which makes it relevant and important to include here. His presentation focused on his preliminary results on fabrication, typology, XRF analyses, etc. During the discussion, different suggestions for how to further work with the tiles were made.

Two human skeletons appeared during the excavations in 2016, and these were analysed by Marie Louise Schellerup Jørskov. She presented the results from her analyses, which included age, nutrition, and condition of the bones. She also presented suggestions as to what can be done in the future, which included interdisciplinary work. This was further discussed in relation to burial customs and find contexts.

The final presentation of the day was by Tom Brughmans, Simon Carrignon, and Iza Romanowska. They presented their work on creating a Computational Simulation model of Jerash. The presentation gave an overview of the possibilities, this model provides the projects, and how it can be combined with archaeological material. The subsequent discussion dealt mainly with the ongoing work with the pottery database.

Specialists working on material from the Danish-German Jerash Northwest Quarter Project should feel free to get in touch with each other in order to discuss their material and the best way of presenting it in the upcoming final publications. As agreed on the deadline for submission of the sections and chapters for the final publication is end of January 2018.

Thank you to all the specialists participating in the workshop and helping in creating a great, interdisciplinary environment.

Written and edited by Line Egelund Hejlskov and Ditte Kvist Johnson.