



SFB 1070 RESSOURCENKULTUREN. Soziokulturelle Dynamiken im Umgang mit Ressourcen

Forschungskolloquium WS 2018/19

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**'Mesopotamian cities at the dawn of history,
3100-2750 BC: new approaches to the city seal evidence'**

In this lecture we will discuss the application and results of new approaches to the earliest evidence for inter-city interactions from ancient Mesopotamia: the so-called 'City Seal' evidence, which takes the form of seal impressions on proto-cuneiform clay tablets and clay sealings from a range of sites in southern Iraq. This evidence dates to the late fourth and early third millennia BC, at the time of the formation of early cities. Through systematic analysis of the clay composition of sealed tablets and sealings, using portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF), integrated with iconographic and functional analyses, we are generating new interpretations of the nature and context of early Mesopotamian inter-city engagements.