

Curriculum Vitae

Jana Matuszak

Assistant Professor of Sumerology
The University of Chicago
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC)
Department of Middle Eastern Studies (MES)
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ACADEMIC EDUCATION

- 2017 **Ph.D.** in Ancient Near Eastern Philology/Sumerology. University of Tübingen, Germany. *Graduated with distinction (summa cum laude)*
Diss.: “And you, you are a woman?!” Studies in Sumerian literary disputations between women. With a principal edition of *Two Women B*” (in German)
- 2015/02–06 **Visiting Scholar.** Institute for Archaeological Studies, University of Bern, CH
- 2013 **M.A.** in Ancient Near Eastern Philology (major), Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, Comparative Religious Studies (minors). University of Tübingen. *Graduated with distinction*
Thesis: WB 169 – a Sumerian diatribe? (in German)
- 2009–2010 **Visiting Student.** SOAS University of London, UK
- 2007–2013 **M.A. studies** in Ancient Near Eastern Philology (major), Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, Comparative Religious Studies (minors). University of Tübingen
- 2007/07 Birkbeck Summer **Archaeological Training Excavation** at Syon Abbey, Brentford, Middlesex, UK. Birkbeck, University of London, UK

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2023–present **Assistant Professor** of Sumerology (second term tenure track). University of Chicago. ISAC & MES
- 2021–2022 *Akademische Rätin* (≈ Assistant Professor) of Sumerology (tenured). University of Tübingen. Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- 2018–2020 **Lecturer** in Ancient Near Eastern Studies. SOAS University of London, UK. School of History, Religions and Philosophies. Department of History
- 2015–2018 *Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin* (≈ Assistant Professor, fixed-term). University of Jena, Germany. Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- 2014–2018 **Research Associate** at the project “Disputation literature in the Ancient Near East,” PI Prof. Catherine Mittermayer. University of Geneva, CH
- 2013–2019 **Research Assistant.** University of Tübingen. Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Sumerian literature, grammar, and lexicography
- Gender, education, legal thought, and religion in ancient Iraq
- Sumero-Babylonian rhetoric and poetics
- Critical text editions (Sumerian and Akkadian)
- Bilingualism (Sumerian and Akkadian)
- Late Sumerian (development of Sumerian after its death as spoken language)

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 2025 **Old World: Journal of Ancient Africa and Eurasia (Brill) Prize** for the best academic article on ‘Women of the Pre-Modern World’ (\$ 1,000)
Read the announcement here: <https://bnu-uicrchc.com/news/188.html>
- 2019 **Johannes Zilkens Dissertation Prize** of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation for the best dissertation in Humanities and Social Sciences (5,000 €)
Video portrait: <https://vimeo.com/334427620>
- 2018 **Dissertation Prize of the International Association for Assyriology** (1,500 €)
- 2007 **Distinction Award** from the Saxon State Ministry of Culture for excellence in the General Higher Education Entrance Qualification (*Abitur* grade: 1.0 $\approx$ A+)

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2025–2026 **ISAC Research Grant** for the project “The Chicago Catalogue of Sumerian Literature” (\$ 23,400)
- 2024–2025 **Faculty Residential Fellowship (AY 2024–25)**, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago ($\approx$ \$ 50,000)
- 2021 **Athene Grant** from the University of Tübingen (10,000 € $\approx$ \$ 12,000)
- 2021 **Travel Stipend** from the Max Weber Foundation for studying cuneiform tablets in London, Oxford, Istanbul, and Philadelphia (ca. 10,000 € $\approx$ \$ 12,000)
- 2020 **Being Human Festival Small Award** for the live storytelling performance “Are you a woman?” (£ 2,000 $\approx$ \$ 2,480)
- 2020 **Outreach Grant** for a film production on the world’s oldest debate between women from the London Centre for the Ancient Near East (£ 1,500 $\approx$ \$ 1,930)
- 2020 **Outreach Grant** for a film production on the world’s oldest debate between women from the Institute for Classical Studies London (£ 500 $\approx$ \$ 640)
- 2018 **Conference Attendance Grant** from the German Academic Exchange Service for attending the 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Innsbruck, Austria (771 € $\approx$ \$ 890)
- 2014–2016 **Full PhD Scholarship** from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (60,000 € $\approx$ \$ 82,584 + funding for research trips)
- 2015 **Research Grant for Language Study** at the Turkish Language Center in Izmir, Türkiye, from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (1,200 € $\approx$ \$ 1,330)
- 2015 **Erasmus Scholarship** for one semester of study at the University of Bern, Switzerland (2,000 € $\approx$ \$ 2,260)
- 2012 **Research Grant for Language Study** at the ScudIT Language School in Rome from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (1,200 € $\approx$ \$ 1,595)
- 2010–2013 **M.A. Scholarship** from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (4,650 € $\approx$ \$ 6,380)
- 2009–2010 **Year Abroad Scholarship** from the German Academic Exchange Service (12,300 € $\approx$ \$ 17,620 + tuition, insurance, and travel costs)

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

- In prep. *Sumerian Mock Hymns and the Poetics of Subversion: Parody, Pedagogy, and Performance in The Evil Mouth* (working title)
- In prep. *Doing and Undoing Gender in Babylon: The Construction of Gender in Sumerian Literature from the Early 2nd Millennium BCE* (working title)
- 2021a ‘Und du, du bist eine Frau?!’ *Editio princeps und Analyse des sumerischen Streitgesprächs ‘Zwei Frauen B’*. (“And you, you are a woman?!” Principal edition and analysis of the Sumerian disputation ‘Two Women B’). *Untersuchungen zur Assyriologie und vorderasiatischen Archäologie* 16. Berlin: De Gruyter.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES, DOUBLE-PEER REVIEWED

- Under review “Establishing Guilt in Sumerian School Texts at the Intersection of Law and Morality.” Submitted for an edited volume in honor of a colleague.
- In press a “A Woman’s Place is in the House? Perspectives on Women’s Mobility in Sumerian Didactic Literature.” In *Mobility in Antiquity: Rethinking the Ancient World through Movement*, edited by Elena Isayev et al. London: Routledge.
- In press b “Between Conservatism and Creativity: The Old Babylonian Transmission of the *Early Dynastic Proverb Collection 1*.” In *Scribal Worlds: Scholarship and Classification in Cuneiform Cultures*, edited by Jay Crisostomo, Eduardo Escobar, and Kiersten Neumann. London: UCL Press.
- 2025a “Doing Gender in Babylon: The Construction of Ideal Womanhood in Sumerian Literature from the Early 2nd Millennium BCE.” *Old World: Journal of Ancient Africa and Eurasia* 5, no. 2: 1–40. DOI [10.1163/26670755-00502002](https://doi.org/10.1163/26670755-00502002) (open access). [Winner](#) of the 2024 article competition “Women of the Pre-Modern World.”
- 2025b “Of Captive Storm Gods and Cunning Foxes: New Insights into Early Sumerian Mythology, with an Edition of Ni 12501.” *Iraq* 86: 79–109. DOI [10.1017/irq.2024.19](https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2024.19); Addenda et Corrigenda: DOI [10.1017/irq.2025.4](https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2025.4) (open access). Extensive media coverage, e.g.: phys.org, archaeology.org, arkeofili.com, archaeologymag.com, aktuelarkeoloji.com, anthropology.net, greekreporter.com, newsbreak.com, news.uchicago.edu, sciencepost.fr, colombiaone.com, [Polish TV channel Teleexpress](https://PolishTVchannel.Teleexpress), Instagram (> 73k likes), X.com (> 100k likes), Atlas, etc.
- 2024 “Law, Morality, and Subversion in Sumerian Prose Miniatures.” In *Wisdom Between East and West: Mesopotamia, Greece and Beyond*, edited by Francesco Sironi and Maurizio Viano, 271–96. Venice: Edizioni Ca’Foscari. DOI [10.30687/978-88-6969-776-0/014](https://doi.org/10.30687/978-88-6969-776-0/014) (open access).
- 2024 **Jana Matuszak** and Hanan A. Alessawe, “A Sargonic Exercise Tablet Listing “Places of Inanna” and Personal Names.” *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 76: 27–52. DOI [10.1086/730480](https://doi.org/10.1086/730480).
- 2023a “Humour in Sumerian Didactic Literature.” In *The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East*, edited by Robert Rollinger, Irene Madreiter, Martin Lang and Cinzia Pappi, 581–96. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press.

- 2022 “A Complete Reconstruction, New Edition and Interpretation of the Sumerian Morality Tale ‘The Old Man and the Young Girl’.” *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie* 112, no. 2: 184–218. DOI [10.1515/za-2022-0002](https://doi.org/10.1515/za-2022-0002) (open access).
- 2020a “‘She was dumbstruck and took it to heart.’ Form and Function of Insults in Sumerian Literary Disputations between Women.” In *Disputation Literature in the Near East and Beyond*, edited by Enrique Jiménez and Catherine Mittermayer, 57–74. Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records 25. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- 2019a “Es streite, wer kann! Ein neuer Rekonstruktions- und Interpretationsversuch für das sumerische Schulstreitgespräch ‘Dialog 1’ (Debate if you can! A new attempt at reconstructing and interpreting the Sumerian disputation ‘Dialogue 1’).” *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie* 109, no. 1: 1–47. DOI [10.1515/za-2019-0001](https://doi.org/10.1515/za-2019-0001).
- 2018a “Assessing Misogyny in Sumerian Disputations and Diatribes.” In *Gender and Methodology in the Ancient Near East: Approaches from Assyriology and Beyond*, edited by Stephanie L. Budin, Megan Cifarelli, Agnès Garcia-Ventura, Adelina Millet Albà, 259–72. Barcelona: Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona.
- 2018b “La imagen de la esposa ideal según la literatura didáctica sumeria (The Image of the Ideal Wife According to Sumerian Didactic Literature, translated by Agnès Garcia-Ventura).” In *Las mujeres en el Oriente cuneiforme* (Women in the Cuneiform Orient), edited by José J. Justel and Agnès Garcia-Ventura, 141–58. Alcalá de Henares: Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Alcalá.
- 2017 “Don’t Insult Inana! Divine Retribution for Offense against Common Decency in the Light of New Textual Sources.” In *Fortune and Misfortune in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Olga Drewnowska and Malgorzata Sandowicz, 359–70. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns.
- 2016a “‘She is not fit for womanhood’: The Ideal Housewife According to Sumerian Literary Texts.” In *The Role of Women in Work and Society in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Brigitte Lion and Cécile Michel, 228–54. Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records 13. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- 2012 “A New Version of the Babylonian Ritual Against the Evil Portended by a Lightning Strike.” *Die Welt des Orients* 42: 135–52. DOI [10.13109/wdor.2012.42.2.135](https://doi.org/10.13109/wdor.2012.42.2.135) (open access).

SHORT ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS (DOUBLE-PEER REVIEWED)

- Under review “zu₂ keše₂ / *kašāru(m)* ‘to compile; to edit; to compose.’” In *Philological Practices: A Comparative Historical Lexicon*, edited by Anne Eusterschulte, Glenn W. Most, and Martin Kern. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- In press c “women, Mesopotamian.” In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, edited by Lucy Grig. New York: Oxford University Press.
- In press d “education, Mesopotamian.” In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, edited by Lucy Grig. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2025c “Enheduana.” *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, digital ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. DOI [10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.9150](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.9150).

ACADEMIC ARTICLES, TRANSLATIONS, CATALOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS (NON-REFEREED)

- 2025d Contribution to Forum Discussion for: Shana Zaia, “Humor as Pedagogy: Cases from Mesopotamia in the First Millennium BCE.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 84, no. 1: 149–150. DOI [10.1086/735029](https://doi.org/10.1086/735029).
- 2024 **Jana Matuszak** and Pascal Attinger, “Notes on CUSAS 23, 205: Ama’ušumgal’s death and return, with an excursus on ug₅ “to kill someone (sg.)” and /u₃/ - + imperfective in the 3rd millennium BCE.” *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2024, no. 1: 5–8.
- 2023a “What did they learn about women?” In *Back to School in Babylonia*, edited by Susanne Paulus, 191–98. ISAC Museum Publications 1. Chicago, IL: Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures ([open access](#)).
- 2023b “Dialogue 1.” In *Back to School in Babylonia*, edited by Susanne Paulus, 408–11. ISAC Museum Publications 1. Chicago, IL: Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures ([open access](#)).
- 2020b “And you, you are a woman?!” In *Women at the Dawn of History*, edited by Agnete Wisti Lassen and Klaus Wagensonner, 94–95. Yale Babylonian Collection. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 2015 Pascal Attinger and **Jana Matuszak**, “Dumuzis Traum” (Dumuzi’s Dream). In *Erzählungen aus dem Land Sumer*, edited by Konrad Volk, 399–414. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016b Review of Kai Lämmerhirt, *Die sumerische Königshymne Šulgi F.* Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2012. *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 111: 16–28.

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS (OPEN ACCESS)

- 2021b Online edition and English translation of *Two Women B*.
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dsst/Q000771>
There you also find translations I commissioned from May Alaseel (Arabic), Kave Ghadery (Sorani), and Azra Koçer (Turkish).
- 2019b Online edition and English translation of *Dialogue 1*.
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dsst/Q000767>
- 2016a Irene Deubelbeiss and **Jana Matuszak**, “Online edition of *Diatribes A*.”
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dsst/Q000772>
- 2016b Irene Deubelbeiss and **Jana Matuszak**, “Online edition of *Diatribes B*.”
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dsst/Q000773>
- 2016c Irene Deubelbeiss and **Jana Matuszak**, “Online edition of *Diatribes C*.”
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dsst/Q000774>

EDITORIAL WORK

- 2025–present Book Review Editor for *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (University of Chicago Press)
- 2024–present Member of the editorial board of *Isin Journal for Archaeology, History and Ancient Languages*, published by The University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq.

- 2024 Guest editor of the academic journal *Iraq* (Cambridge University Press) vol. 86. Together with Mark Weeden I oversaw the peer reviewed publication of the proceedings of the workshop *Approaches to Cuneiform Literature*.
- 2021–2024 Co-editor of the biannually published academic journal *Altorientalische Forschungen* (De Gruyter); responsible for Assyriology and Sumerology. Across eight fascicles (vol. 48, no. 1, through vol. 51, no. 2), I oversaw the peer review and publication of 25 articles, which accounted for more than 40% of individual papers published.
- 2020 Jessica Baldwin and **Jana Matuszak**. *mu-ṣu an-ṣa₃-še₃ kur-ur₂-še₃ he₂-gal₂*. *Altorientalistische Studien zu Ehren von Konrad Volk* (Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Konrad Volk). dubsar 17. Münster: Zaphon.

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURE SERIES

- 2023/11 **Workshop** “The Aims of Scribal Education in the Ancient Middle East” Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Overseas Research (hybrid). 13 international speakers; co-organized with Prof. Susanne Paulus (Chicago)
- 2023/03 **Two-day Conference** “Approaches to Cuneiform Literature, part II” University College London, UK. 14 international speakers; co-organized with Prof. Mark Weeden (London)
- 2021/06 **Two-day e-Conference** “Approaches to Cuneiform Literature, part I” 10 international speakers; co-organized with Prof. Mark Weeden (London)
- 2020/10–12 **e-Seminar Series** “Text & Performance in Ancient Mesopotamia and Beyond” London Centre for the Ancient Near East. 9 international speakers; co-organized with Dr. Sam Mirelman (London)

INVITED LECTURES

- 2025/
11/12–13 Lecture: “Doing and Undoing Gender in Babylon, ca. 1800 BCE”
Seminar: “Before Aristotle: Appreciating Babylonian Poetics on Its Own Terms”
Abraham Sachs Lecture in Assyriology 2025/26, Brown University, Providence
- 2025/11/06 “Discussions on Ideal Womanhood in Sumerian Literary Disputations” (in German)
Chicago Columbia Club
- 2025/10/13 “Cunning Foxes & Not-So-Immortal Gods: New Research on Sumerian Mythology”
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC) Volunteer Day
- 2025/07/14 “Discussions on Ideal Womanhood in Sumerian Literary Disputations” (in German)
Würzburger Altertumswissenschaftliches Zentrum, Würzburg, Germany
- 2025/04/09 “Doing Gender in Babylon: The Construction of Ideal Womanhood in Sumerian Literature from the Early 2nd Millennium BCE”
Beijing Normal – Hong Kong Baptist University, China (online)
- 2025/02/11 “Debating Gender in Babylon: Constructions of ideal womanhood in Sumerian debate poems from the Old Babylonian period (2000–1600 BCE)”
Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
- 2023/12/06 “Law and Morality in Sumerian Satirical Tales” ([available on YouTube](#); >8k views)
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC) Members’ Lecture, Chicago

- 2023/10/11 “On Cuneiform and the Construction of Gender”
Franke Institute for the Humanities, Chicago
- 2023/09/20 “Of Fruitless Marriages, Superfluous Calves, and Battered Burglars: Law and Morality in Old Babylonian Legal Satires” (in German)
Friends and Patrons of the German Academic Research Foundation (online)
- 2023/08/15 ““Are you a woman?!” Defining Femininity in Sumerian Literary Texts, 2000 BCE”
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC) Volunteer Day
- 2022/07/02 “School in Babylon” (in German)
Theme Night at the Arche Nebra Museum, Nebra, Germany
- 2022/04/06 “Parodying Songs of Praise: Towards an Understanding of Sumerian Mock Hymns”
Orient-Institut Istanbul, Türkiye (hybrid)
- 2022/01/12 “Defining the Ideal Woman, 2000 BCE: A Perspective from Sumerian Literature”
Women’s History Network, UK (online)
- 2021/12/09 “Parodying Songs of Praise: Towards an Understanding of Sumerian Mock Hymns”
HEKA Lecture, University of Leiden, Netherlands (online)
- 2021/04/09 “Innana and Dumuzi Between Myth and Ritual, Official Cult and Popular Religion”
Al-Muthanna University, Samawah, Iraq; Department of Archaeology (online)
- 2020/07/08 “Ideal Women According to 4,000 Years Old Sumerian Texts”
St. Mark University, Lima, Peru; Seminar of World History (online)
- 2020/06/12 “Women of Babylon – a New Perspective from Sumerian Literature”
University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq; Department of Archaeology (online)
- 2020/04/28 “Sumerian Mock Hymns: Scholarly Parodies or Apotropaic Charms?”
University of Cambridge, Department of Archaeology (online due to Covid-19)
- 2019/12/17 “Sumerian Mock Hymns: Scholarly Parodies or Apotropaic Charms?” (in German)
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Institut für Assyriologie
- 2019/11/12 “Sumerian mock hymns: scholarly parodies or apotropaic charms?”
University of Oxford, Oriental Institute
- 2019/05/10 Lecture: “Sumerian Literary Disputations;”
Seminar: “The Sumerian Literary Disputation Between Women *Two Women B*, ca. 1800 BCE” (in German)
Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2019/04/29 “The Conception of Ideal Femininity in Sumerian Didactic Literature”
British Museum Lunchtime Lecture. Department of the Middle East
- 2019/04/12 Guest seminar for postgraduate students: “Reading Sumerian Literature: from Cuneiform Tablets to Historical Gender Studies”
Boğaziçi University & Istanbul Archaeological Museums, Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2018/06/28 ““And you, you are a woman?!” The Model of Femininity in Sumerian Didactic Literature from the Early 2nd Millennium BCE” (in German)
Studium Generale. Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany
- 2018/03/15 “The Ideal Housewife According to Sumerian Didactic Literature”
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye

- 2017/05/17 “‘Are you a woman?!’ Sumerian Literary Debates Defining the Ideal Woman”
University of Geneva, Switzerland, Unité des études mésopotamiennes
- 2016/07/13 “Ethics in Mesopotamia?”
Global Ethic Institute, Tübingen, Germany
- 2016/04/26 “The Sumerian Idea of an Ideal Woman” (in German).
University of Jena, Germany; Seminar für Altorientalistik
- 2015/10/28 “Sumerian Literary Texts on the Definition of the Ideal Woman” (in German).
University of Leipzig, Germany, Altorientalisches Institut
- 2013/08/23 “WB 169 and Duplicates – a Sumerian Diatribe?” (in German).
University of Göttingen, Germany, Seminar für Altorientalistik
- 2012/01/19 “A Late Babylonian Ritual Against the Evil Portended by Lightning” (in German).
University of Würzburg, Germany, Lehrstuhl für Altorientalistik

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025/11 “Approaching hypertextuality in Old Babylonian encounters with Sumerian literature”
Workshop: “Experiments in Critical Reading: Ancient Literature and Modern Theory,” *American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting*, Boston
- 2025/10 “Doing and undoing gender in Babylon”
Queer Lit / Theory Workshop, Part 2. CSGS, University of Chicago
- 2025/07 “Ex negativo definitions and the pedagogical power of parody”
70th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2025/04 “From parody to paradigm? (De-)familiarization and its relevance for emic genre concepts in Sumerian literature”
International Workshop on Science, Literature and Technology in the Ancient Near East, Tübingen, Germany
- 2025/02 “Enlil and the Fox: Nippurite tales of ambition, trickery, and deceit”
6th Conference of Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq
- 2024/11 “Establishing guilt in Sumerian model court cases and related texts”
American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston
- 2024/06 “Deviant orthographies and the creation of meaning(s)”
Deviant Readings: Local and Communal Variation in the Sumerian Reading Tradition, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Nanterre, France
- 2024/05 “‘Are you a woman?!’ Sumerian literary dialogues defining ideal womanhood”
The Female Voice in Philosophical Dialogues Through the Ages, Australian Catholic University’s Rome Campus, Italy
- 2024/03 “Old Babylonian literary creations as a means of understanding the Sumerian legacy of the 3rd millennium BCE”
American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2024/03 “Bringing Sumerian literature back to life: an English-Arabic performance of a Sumerian debate between two women”
5th Conference of Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq

- 2023/11 “Sumerian literature between scribal education and scholarship”
Workshop: “The Aims of Scribal Education in the Ancient Middle East”
American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2023/07 “Inequality by interpretation: the case of Early Dynastic proverbs”
68th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Leiden, Netherlands
- 2023/03 “Old Babylonian literary creations as a means of understanding the Sumerian legacy of the 3rd millennium BCE, part I”
Approaches to Cuneiform Literature, University College London, UK
- 2023/03 “Insights into early Sumerian mythology”
4th Conference of Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq
- 2022/10 “Law and morality in collections of Sumerian wisdom texts”
Wisdom between East and West: Mesopotamia, Greece and Beyond, University of Torino, Italy
- 2021/10 “The adversary at court. Slander, repudiation, and trust in the representatives of justice in an Old Babylonian ‘model court case’”
Biblical Job in the Motif Network of ANE Literature. University of Tartu, Estonia
- 2021/06 “Old Babylonian literary creations as a means of understanding the Sumerian legacy of the 3rd millennium BCE, part I”
Approaches to Cuneiform Literature. SOAS University of London, UK
- 2021/06 “‘Are you a woman?’ Thoughts on how to communicate research on gender in the Ancient Near East to the public”
4th Workshop on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East. University of Helsinki
- 2019/07 “Practical education in Sumerian disputations and ‘diatribes’”
65th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. Paris, France
- 2019/05 Response paper for: Michela Piccin, Motifs distribution in Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi and Babylonian Theodicy
Reframing Wisdom Literature. Problematising Literary and Religious Interactions in Ancient Wisdom Texts. King’s College London, UK
- 2019/04 “Defining female professions in Sumerian literary disputations between women”
Professional Women in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. UCL Special Seminar in Conjunction with the Sorbonne Paris. University College London, UK
- 2018/07 “Humour in Sumerian literature, or: *Schadenfreude* as a pedagogical tool”
64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. University of Innsbruck, Austria
- 2018/02 “‘She was dumbstruck and took it to heart.’ Form and function of insults in Sumerian disputations between women”
4000 mille ans de disputes: de l’Orient à l’Occident. University of Geneva, Switzerland
- 2017/02 “Assessing misogyny in Sumerian advice literature, dialogues, and diatribes”
2nd Workshop on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East. University of Barcelona, Spain
- 2015/06 “The image of the ideal wife according to Sumerian didactic literature”
61st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. Geneva and Bern, Switzerland
- 2014/07 “Don’t insult Inana! Divine retribution for offence against common decency in the light of new textual sources”
60th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. University of Warsaw, Poland

- 2014/03 “/nunus/ vs. munus – Some remarks on the use of Emesal in the literary debate *Two Women B*” (in German).
Emesal-Colloquium. University of Innsbruck, Austria
- 2013/02 “How to deal with old-fashioned proverbs? Old Babylonian bilingual editions of the Early Dynastic Proverb Collection 1”
Translation and Bilingualism in Ancient Near Eastern Texts. University of Oxford, UK

CLASSES TAUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- Ancient Empires VII: Sumerians & Akkadians (Core Class) (Spring 2023; 2024; 2026)
- Elementary Sumerian 1 (Winter 2023; 2024; 2026)
- Elementary Sumerian 2 (Spring 2023; 2026)
- Readings in Emesal (Winter 2023)
- All About Kings: Sumerian Royal Inscriptions, Correspondence, and Hymns (Winter 2024)
- Dumuzi’s Dream (Spring 2024)
- Wisdom Literature in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Beyond (Graduate Seminar co-taught with Prof. Margaret Geoga, Egyptology) (Winter 2026)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY, ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

Ancient Languages of Anatolia Summer Program

- 5-day workshop ‘Introduction to Sumerian’ (2021/08; 2022/08; 2023/08; 2024/08; 2025/08)
- 3-day workshop ‘Introduction to Sumerian’ (2020/08)
- workshop ‘Introduction to Cuneiform Epigraphy’ co-taught with Prof. İlgi Gerçek, Bilkent University Ankara, using either the collections of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums (2022/08; 4 days) or of the Sadberk Hanım Müzesi (2025/08; 2 days)

UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN, GERMANY

- Introductory Sumerian, part 1 (Summer 2014; 2021; 2022)
- Introductory Sumerian, part 2 (Summer 2021; Winter 2021/22)
- Introductory Hittite, part 1 (Winter 2021/22)
- Introductory Hittite, part 2 (Summer 2022)
- Sumerian Sources for the History of the 3rd Millennium BCE (Summer 2021; Winter 2022)
- Sumerian Cosmogonic Texts (Graduate Seminar) (Summer 2022)
- Sumerian Laws and Legal Documents (Graduate Seminar) (Winter 2021/22)
- Research Colloquium: Reading unpublished Sumerian literary texts (every semester, 2021–22)
- Introduction to Copying Cuneiform Tablets (Winter 2014/15)

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, UK

- Introductory Sumerian, part 1 (Fall 2019)
- Introductory Sumerian, part 2 (Spring 2020)
- Introductory Hittite, part 2: The Apology of Hattusili III (Spring 2019)
- Introductory Hittite, part 3: The Illuyanka Tales (Spring 2019)
- Akkadian Texts 1: Ishtar’s Descent to the Netherworld (Fall 2018; Fall 2020)

- Akkadian Texts 1: Old Babylonian Gilgamesh (Spring 2019)
- Akkadian Texts 2: The 8th Campaign of King Sargon II (Fall 2019)
- Akkadian Texts 2: The Babylonian Epic of Creation (Spring 2020)
- Akkadian Texts 2: Amarna Letters (Spring 2020)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: Old Akkadian royal inscriptions and letters (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2020)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: The Umma-Lagas border conflict: Enmetena cone inscriptions (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2020)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: The Sumerian myth Enlil and Ninlil (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2020)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: The victory stele of Utuhegal; Codex Ur-Namma (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2018)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: Gudea Cylinder A (Graduate Seminar) (Spring 2019)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures A: the 3rd Millennium BCE: The ‘Great Revolt’ against Naram-Suen (Graduate Seminar) (Spring 2019)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures C: the 1st Millennium BCE: The Epic of Erra and Ishum (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2018)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures C: the 1st Millennium BCE: King Nabonidus’ Cylinder YOS 1, 45 (Graduate Seminar) (Spring 2019)
- Mesopotamian Languages and Literatures C: the 1st Millennium BCE: Bilingual (Sumerian-Akkadian) incantations against headache: sag.gig.ga.meš 9 (Graduate Seminar) (Spring 2019)
- Literatures of the Near and Middle East (Undergraduate; 1 lecture and 1 seminar) (Fall 2018; 2019)
- Religions of the Early Near and Middle East (Undergraduate; 1 lecture and 1 seminar) (Fall 2019)
- Death and the Meaning of Life (Undergraduate; 1 lecture and 1 seminar) (Spring 2019)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, UK

- Cuneiform Copying Masterclass (full-day cuneiform epigraphy masterclass for graduate students; 2020/02/28)
- Lecture: *Innana’s Descent to the Netherworld* in the context of Sumerian literature (course: Mesopotamian culture I: Literature; 2020/01/17)

UNIVERSITY OF JENA, GERMANY

- Introductory Sumerian, part 1 (Winter 2015/16; Summer 2017; Summer 2018)
- Introductory Akkadian, part 1 (Winter 2017/18)
- Introductory Akkadian, part 2 (Summer 2018)
- Babylonian Hymns and Prayers (Graduate Seminar) (Winter 2017/18)
- The Old Babylonian Atramhasis Epic (Graduate Seminar) (Winter 2016/17)
- Early Dynastic Proverbs and their Reception (Graduate Seminar) (Summer 2016)
- Introduction to Copying Cuneiform Tablets from the Hilprecht Collection (Graduate Seminar, co-taught with Prof. Manfred Krebernik) (Summer 2016)

STUDENT ADVISING & EXAMINING

2023–present	PhD Committee Chair: Drew Younger “Invoking Myth as a Purification Strategy in Mesopotamian Consecration Incantations” (UChicago)
2023–present	PhD Committee Member: Jane Gordon “Ways of Telling Time in Akkadian and Sumerian Literature” (UChicago)
2025	External Senior Thesis Examiner: Sylvia Byars “Queen, Goddess, Hero: The Story of Inanna” (Veritas Scholars Academy)
2023–2024	MA Advisor: Natalie Rudin “Betwixt and Between: Cultic Personnel of Innana-Ištar” (UChicago)
2023–2024	Second reader of MA thesis: Anthony Ray “Hidden Wealth and Public Display. The Function of Silver Rings in Bronze Age Mesopotamia” (UChicago)
2020	MA Advisor: Claire Weir “Traps, doors and wands from Sumerian <i>ĝeš-búr</i> to Babylonian <i>gišparru</i> ” (SOAS University of London)
2020	External MA Thesis Examiner: Shymaa Algboury “A Study of Unpublished Cuneiform Texts from the Ancient Babylonian Period (Confiscated) from the Iraqi Museum” (University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq)
2018	External MRes Thesis Examiner: Igor Novokreshchenov “Geographical Narratives in Sumerian Hero Myths” (University of Birmingham, UK)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT

2025–present	Workshop “Navigating the Academic Job Market” for graduate students in Cuneiform Studies, Egyptology, and Archaeology, co-organized with Prof. Margaret Geoga, Prof. Mehrnoush Soroush, Prof. Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek
2025–2026	Interdisciplinary reading group “Middle Eastern Poetry and Poetics” co-organized with Prof. Pamela Klasova, MES, UChicago
2025–2026	Cuneiforum (cuneiform text edition research colloquium) co-organized with Dr Nicholas Gill, ISAC, UChicago
2025	Session on “Teaching the Sumerian Flood Story” for instructors of “Humanities & Social Sciences 1: The Freshman Seminar,” The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York City
2024–present	Teaching a class on “Gender in the Ancient Near East” for the UChicago MA class “Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East (NEHC 30625)”
2024–present	Session on “Teaching Gilgamesh” for instructors of UChicago Core class “Human Being and Citizen” (HUMA 12300-12500)
2023–2024	Interdisciplinary reading group “Emic Concepts and Practices in Literature(s)” co-organized with Prof. Mark Payne, Dept. of Comparative Literature, UChicago

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2025–present	Book Review Editor for <i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i> (University of Chicago Press)
2023–present	Committee Chair: Oppenheim Fund for Assyriology
2024	Search Committee Member: PostDoc in Hittitology

- 2023–2024 Committee Member: NELC PhD Admissions
 2023–2024 Committee Member: ISAC Publications Review

UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN, Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (IANES)

- 2022 Member of the task group ‘Implementation of the Code on Good Research Practice of the German Research Foundation at the University of Tübingen’
 2021–2022 IANES Undergraduate and Graduate Study Advisor
 2021–2022 Supervisor of IANES Departmental Library in charge of book acquisition

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, School of History, Religions & Philosophies

- 2019–2020 Graduate Program Convenor – Ancient Near Eastern Languages
 2019–2020 Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Tutor – Ancient Near Eastern Studies
 2019–2020 Research Excellence Framework (REF) Advisory Panel member; History Unit of Assessment
 2018–2020 Undergraduate and Graduate Study Advisor
 2018–2020 Book acquisition for the library

UNIVERSITY OF JENA, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies

- 2017–2018 Search Committee Member: Professorship in Ancient Near Eastern Studies
 2016–2018 PONS (German Student Exchange Program) Coordinator
 2015–2018 Study Abroad and Erasmus Student Exchange Program Coordinator
 2015–2018 Undergraduate and Graduate Study Advisor
 2015–2018 Supervisor of the Departmental Library in charge of book acquisition
 2015–2018 Member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Near Eastern Studies, Indo-European Studies and the Archaeology of Prehistory to the Early Middle Ages

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022–present Committee Member: The International Association for Assyriology Fund for *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* Conference Attendance for Recent PhDs (annual competition)
 2019–present Article and book manuscript reviews for Yale University Press, Routledge (*Ancient Biographies*), De Gruyter (*Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records*), *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, *Altorientalische Forschungen*, *Iraq*, *Orbis Litterarum*, *Uitgaven van het Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten te Leiden*, *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*
 2024; 2023 Ambizione Grant evaluations for the Swiss National Science Foundation (Member of Evaluation Body)
 2023 Emmy Noether Programme grant evaluation for the German National Research Foundation
 2019 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship grant evaluation
 2018–2020 Board Member: London Centre for the Ancient Near East

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- 2024 **Book talk** with Sophus Helle: “Enheduana: The Complete Poems of the World’s First Author,” Seminary Co-op Bookstore
(info [here](#); recorded for the production of a podcast episode)
- 2022–2024 **Film Production** “Are you a Woman? / هل أنتِ امرأة؟” A Storytelling Performance in English and Arabic.
Introduction and Translation from Sumerian by Dr Jana Matuszak; Script Editing and Performance by Zipang Storytellers June Peters, Badia Obaid and Fran Hazelton; Produced and Directed by Richard Wilding.
Sponsors: London Centre for the Ancient Near East (£ 1,500), Institute of Classical Studies (£ 500), Enheduana Society (£ 500), Eye on Heritage (£ 500).
English versions: [Introduction](#); [Performance](#)
Arabic versions: [Introduction](#); [Performance](#)
- 2023a **Invitation to Podcast:** [Seed Catalog: Teaching. Learning. Hope](#), by Kit Nicholls. Season 1, Episode 1: “Tablet House.”
- 2023b **Invitation to Podcast:** Ways of Knowing, Season 2: [Cosmic Visions](#), by Chris Hoff and Sam Harnett.
- 2023c **Invitation to Podcast:** [Thin End of the Wedge](#), Episode 58: “Looking back at RAI Leiden: on conferences, and catching up with guests.”
- 2021–2022 **Coordination of Social Media Channels** (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @ianestue) of the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Tübingen
- 2020 **Live Performance** “Are you a woman?!” Introduction to, and English-Arabic live performance of, the Sumerian literary disputation *Two Women B* in cooperation with Zipang.org for the Being Human Festival 2020.
[Watch the recording on YouTube.](#)
- 2020a **Invitation to Podcast:** [Thin End of the Wedge](#), episode 2: “Misogyny and the ideal Sumerian woman.”
- 2020b **Invitation to Podcast:** The Know Show. [Verbal Duels in Sumerian Literature - Dr Jana Matuszak.](#)
- 2019 **Podcast interview:** Digital Hammurabi. [A Sumerian Cat Fight: Discussing a Debate between Two Women with Dr Jana Matuszak](#)
- 2019 **Invited Blog Post:** Winner of the second IAA Dissertation Prize [“And you, you are a woman?!”](#)
- 2017 **Co-organizer of the exhibition** “Objects from the Oriental Collections of the University of Jena,” University of Jena, Germany

SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANCY

- 2019 **Sumerian transcriptions and translations** for a short film by Philip Johnston and Caitlin Koller (Raw Moon Productions)
- 2019 **Sumerian transcriptions and translations** for Torsten Rasch’s 4th opera “Die andere Frau” (The Other Woman)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

Modern	• German (native) • English (native fluency) • French (confident) • Turkish (confident) • Modern Standard Arabic (elementary) • Italian (elementary)
Ancient	• Sumerian (all dialects; research and teaching) • Akkadian (all dialects; research and teaching) • Hittite (all dialects; teaching) • Ugaritic, Phoenician, Biblical Aramaic (one semester of study each) • Classical Greek (one semester of intensive study) • Latin (four years in high school)

LANGUAGE STUDY, INTERNSHIPS AND FIELD EXPERIENCE

2025/02	Epigrapher for the Chicago Archaeological Excavation at Nippur, Al-Qādisiyyah Governorate, Iraq
2015/08	Turkish Language Center (TLC) in Izmir, Turkey Three-Week Intensive Turkish Language Program
2012/03	Scud'IT Scuola d'Italiano Roma in Rome, Italy Three-Week Intensive Italian Language Program
2010/05–08	British Museum, Department of the Middle East. London, UK Four-month internship. Bibliographical work, updating databases and catalogues (Babylon Collection), photo editing for the Ashurbanipal Library Project
2007/08	Archaeological Historic Monuments Protection Authority. Göttingen, Germany Three-week fieldwork internship at the Roman camp at Hedemünden, Germany
2007/07	Museum of London Archaeological Archive. London, UK Two-week internship. Sorting archaeological artefacts, updating databases

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Association for Assyriology
- American Oriental Society
- American Society of Overseas Research
- Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft
- London Centre for the Ancient Near East (Board Member from 2018–2020)