

Movement of artifacts, people and ideas in antiquity

Aren M. Maeir

Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, ISRAEL

arenmaeir@gmail.com

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In this lecture, I will discuss evidence for connectivity in the ancient Near East and beyond during the Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 3rd to late 1st mill BCE). Based on materials finds and historical documents, a broad range of materials were traded over large distances, between disparate regions, from NW Europe to SE Asia and from northern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. I will bring examples of evidence of these wide connections, many only recently revealed through new analytic techniques. I will then discuss the possible cultural implications of these long-term connections, and how it changes our understanding of the ancient concepts of geography.

Reference

Maeir, A. M. (2023) [in press]. "Their voice carries throughout the earth, their words to the end of the world" (Ps. 19, 5): Thoughts on long-range trade in organics in the Bronze and Iron Age Levant, in *"And in Length of Days Understanding" (Job 12:12) - Essays on Archaeology in the 21st Century in Honor of Thomas E. Levy*, edited by E. Ben-Yosef & I. W. N. Jones (Springer, Cham, 2023).