

Simonetta Ponchia

*Present position:* Associate Professor of History of the Ancient Near East – University of Verona (since 2001).

*Main fields of research:*

First millennium BC history (especially neo-Assyrian and Syro-Anatolian history); Mesopotamian historiography, administration, law; Mesopotamian literary texts; contacts and cultural transmission in the ancient Mediterranean area.

*Education, degrees and grants awarded:*

1982: MA in Classical Literature - Università degli Studi di Padova;

1990: Fellowship by courtesy - Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore (USA);

1992: PhD in Mesopotamian Studies - Istituto Orientale di Napoli;

1994-96: post-doc. - Istituto Orientale di Napoli;

April 1994, and May 1995: visiting researcher at Institutes d'Assyriologie and d'Étude ouest-sémitique of the Collège de France – Paris;

October 2014: research activities as visiting scholar funded by the university of Verona (Cooperint Project) at the Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie – Ludwig-Maximilians Universität – Munich

2017: Fund awarded: finanziamento delle attività base di ricerca (FARRB)

2018: qualification for the position of full professor

*Membership in scientific committees and direction of research projects:*

since 2004: scientific board of the international journal: *Kaskal: Rivista di storia, ambienti e culture del Vicino Oriente antico*.

since 2005: Assistant Editor and co-editor of the international journal *State Archive of Assyria Bulletin*.

since 2015: member of the scientific board of the Project “*Melammu: The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*”.

since 2017: chair of the international Project “*Melammu: The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*”.

since 2016: scientific director of the Project “I dizionari del Vicino Oriente antico” on behalf of Unione Accademica Nazionale (and Union Académique Internationale).

- Participation in National research projects funded by the Italian Ministry of University as responsible for the research unit of Verona: FIRB 2001 on Assyrian Royal Inscriptions, PRIN 2003 and PRIN 2006 on Food practices in the Ancient Near East.

*Teaching and research supervision experience (2001-2017):*

Teaching in the BA and MA courses of History, Assyriology, History and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (BA and MA courses Universities of Verona and Ferrara).

Member of the collegium of *Dottorato di Beni culturali e territorio*, 2003-2005.

Member of the collegium of *Dottorato di Letteratura e Filologia*, 2006-2012.

Member of the collegium of *Dottorato di Studi storici, geografici, antropologici*, Universities of Padova, Venezia, Verona, since 2013, and of the didactic committee of the same PhD program (since 2017).

- Supervisor of the Department research grants: “La valle dell’Oronte nell’età del Tardo Bronzo” (2013), “La salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale minacciato dalla guerra in Siria e in Iraq: analisi dell’attualità e gestione della memoria storica” (2015); "Database dei siti archeologici nell'hinterland di Aleppo (Siria nord-occidentale)" in the framework of a cooperation project with the University of Udine (DIANET – European Social Fund) (2015-16); “I Dizionari del Vicino

Oriente antico” co-funded by Istituto per l’Oriente – Roma in the framework of the project “Studi e ricerche sulle culture dell’Asia e dell’Africa: tradizione e continuità, rivitalizzazione e divulgazione” of the Italian Ministry of Education and University (2017-18).

*Previous professional experience (1984-2001):*

Full time teaching in secondary level schools (humanities).

*International cooperation:*

- Responsible for Erasmus projects established with the Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie of the University of München, the Bilkent University of Ankara, the Faculty of Humanities of the Leiden University, University of Wrocław.

- Erasmus and other teaching activities abroad: 2012: cycle of lectures at the Bilkent University – Ankara; 2008 and 2013 Erasmus lessons on Assyrian Royal Inscriptions at the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität – Munich.

- Organization of research activities and conferences in the framework of the international cooperation project *Administration in the Ancient Near East*, together with the Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie of München LMU, the Department of Assyriology of the University of Helsinki, the University College of London: "Archives and Administration in the Neo-Assyrian Empire" (Verona 20-21/10/2005), "Administration and Ideology in the Ancient Near East" (Verona 29-30/3/2007), contribution to the organization of the conference "Administration and Law in the Ancient Near East" (Damascus 2008 – the Finnish Institute in the Middle East), "Witnessing in the Ancient Near East" (Verona 15/2/2008), "Administering the Daily Matters" (Verona 22-24/10/2009), "Building History. Forschungsgeschichte on the Ancient Near East" (Verona 28-29/5/2014); Dynamics of Change in Ancient Societies (Verona 2013, 29-30/11 - in cooperation with the Institute for Area Studies of the Leiden University); "Le forme dell’assoggettamento: rapporti di dipendenza e diritti individuali nelle società antiche e moderne" (Verona 17-18/3/2016 in cooperation with Leiden); contribution to organization of the "International Turkic Culture, art and protection of Cultural Heritage Symposium" (Azerbaijan Cultural Heritage Support to Research Association, and Seljuk University Konya: Verona 7-11/9/2015).

*Archaeological research:*

2001-2005 cooperation with the University of Udine for the archaeological research in Qatna (Syria); 2004-2009 participation to the international historical-archaeological project in central Turkey (Yozgat).

*Publications:*

Authored and edited books:

2018: S. Ponchia (ed), *Slavery from Babylon to Rome. Proceedings of the conference "Le forme dell’assoggettamento: rapporti di dipendenza e diritti individuali nelle società antiche e moderne" held in Verona 2016*, in *Journal of Global Slavery* 3.

2014: S. Gaspa, A. Greco, D. Morandi Bonacossi, S. Ponchia, R. Rollinger (eds), *From Source to History: Studies on Ancient Near Eastern Worlds and Beyond Dedicated to Giovanni Battista Lanfranchi on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday on June 23 2014*, (AOAT 412), Münster.

2013: S. Ponchia, M. Luukko, *The Standard Babylonian Myth of Nergal and Ereškigal*, State Archive of Assyria. Cuneiform Texts 8 (The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project), Winona Lake.

2012: G.B. Lanfranchi, D. Morandi, C. Pappi, S. Ponchia (eds), *Leggo! Studies presented to Prof. Frederick Mario Fales on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday* (Leipziger Altorientalistische Studien 2), Wiesbaden.

2009: N. Bellotto, S. Ponchia (eds), *Witnessing in the Ancient Near East, Proceedings of the Round Table held at the University of Verona – February 15, 2008*, Padova.

2007: S. Ponchia (ed), *Papers presented at the workshop "Archive and Administration in the Neo-Assyrian Empire" held in Verona, October 20-21, 2005*, State Archives of Assyria Bulletin 16.

2004: A. Guidi, S. Ponchia (ed), *Ricerche archeologiche in Italia e in Siria – Atti delle giornate di Studio "Ricerche archeologiche in Italia e in Siria - Verona 6-7 maggio 2002*, Padova.

1996: *La palma e il tamarisco e altri dialoghi mesopotamici*, Marsilio, Venezia.

1991: *L'Assiria e gli Stati transeufratici nella prima metà dell'VIII sec. a.C.* (History of the Ancient Near East/ Studies IV bis), Padova.

1992: *Strumenti retorici nelle iscrizioni reali assire*, Unpubl. PhD Dissertation – Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli.

Articles in scientific journals and books:

in print: "Literary texts as a historical source: How to use and to deal with them" in G.B. Lanfranchi, R. Mattila, R. Rollinger (eds.), *Writing Neo-Assyrian History – Proceedings of the Conference held in Helsinki 22-25/9/2014*, State Archives of Assyria Studies.

in print: "Legitimation of war and warriors in literary texts", in K. Dross-Krüpe (eds), *Melammu Symposia 10: Societies at War*.

in print: "Arba'il(-)lāmur! On people from and to Arbela", in R. Mattila (ed), *Ancient Arbela: Pre-Islamic History of Erbil*.

2018: "Chronicles and their Value for Mesopotamian Chronology", in R. Rollinger, S. Fink (eds), *Melammu Symposia 9: Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future*, Münster, 99-123.

2018: "Progetto Dizionari del Vicino Oriente antico", in M. Betrò, S. de Martino, G. Miniaci, F. Pinnock (eds.), *Atti del convegno nazionale di Orientalistica, Pisa 5-6 giugno 2017*, Pisa, 237-242.

2017: "Slaves, serfs, and prisoners in imperial Assyria. A review of written sources", *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 23, 157-179.

2017: N. Bellotto – S. Ponchia, "Zeuge (witness). A. In Mesopotamien". In: *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* Bd. XV Lfg. 5/6, 254-258.

2016: "Describing the Empire: Some Notes on Tiglath-pileser III's Inscriptions", *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 22, 1-37.

2016: "The body of the heroic king in Sumerian literary texts", in G.B. Lanfranchi, R. Rollinger (Eds.) *The Body of the King. The Staging of the Body of the Institutional Leader from Antiquity to Middle Ages in East and West Proceedings of the Meeting Held in Padova, July 6th–9th, 2011* History of the Ancient Near East / Monographs Vol. 16, 39-57.

2016: "Expressive and Reflective Strategies in the Poem of "Erra and Išum" in P. Corò, E. Devecchi, N. De Zorzi, and M. Maiocchi (eds), *Libiamo ne' lieti calici. Ancient Near Eastern Studies Presented to Lucio Milano on the Occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Pupils, Colleagues and Friends*, AOAT 436, Münster, 567-585.

2016: "Routes through the Mountains: Confrontations and Contacts between the Kingdom of Urartu and the Syro-Mesopotamian Regions in the 9<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC", in O. Kunduraci – A. Aytaç (eds), *IX International Turkic Culture, Art and Protection of Cultural Heritage Symposium Activity – Verona September 2105*, Baku, 3-9.

2015: "Response to the session: 'Mesopotamia and the World: Interregional Interaction" in R. Rollinger, E. van Dongen (eds.), *Mesopotamia in the Ancient World: Impact, Continuities, Parallels. Proceedings of the Seventh Symposium of the Melammu Project Held in Obergurgl, Austria, November 4–8, 2013*, Melammu Symposia 7, Münster, 397-409.

2014: "Hermeneutical Strategies and Innovative Interpretation in Assyro-Babylonian Texts: the Case of *Erra and Išum*", *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 20 (2013-14), 61-72.

2014: "Management of food resources in the Neo-Assyrian Empire: data and problems", in L. Milano (ed), *Paleonutrition and Food Practices in the Ancient Near East. Towards a Multidisciplinary approach*. History of the Ancient Near East / Monographs XIV, Padova, 385-412.

2014: "The Neo-Assyrian *adê* protocol and the administration of the empire", In Gaspa, Greco, Morandi Bonacossi, Ponchia, Rollinger (eds.), *From Source to History: Studies on Ancient Near*

- Eastern Worlds and Beyond Dedicated to Giovanni Battista Lanfranchi on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday on June 23 2014*, (AOAT 412), Münster, 501-525.
- 2014: “Le divinità infere nella letteratura neo-assira tra canonizzazione e ricerca”, in I. Baglioni (a cura di), *Sulle Rive dell’Acheronte Costruzione e Percezione della Sfera del Post Mortem nel Mediterraneo Antico*, Roma, 103-115.
- 2013: “Riflessioni a cent’anni dalla polemica *Babel-Bibel*”, *Revue d’Assyriologie* 107, 85-99.
- 2012: “On violence, error and royal succession in Neo-Assyrian times”, in G.B. Lanfranchi, D. Morandi Bonacossi, C. Pappi, S. Ponchia (eds), *Leggo! Studies presented to Prof. Frederick Mario Fales on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday* (Leipziger Altorientalistische Studien 2) Wiesbaden, 653-667.
- 2012: “Administrators and Administrated in Neo-Assyrian Times”, in G. Wilhelm (ed), *Organization, Representation, and Symbols of Power in the Ancient Near East. Proceedings of the 54th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Würzburg 20–25 July 2008*, Winona Lake, 213-224.
- 2012: “Cerimonialità e gestione delle risorse alimentari negli archivi di Alta Mesopotamia”, in L. Milano (ed.), *Mangiare divinamente. Pratiche e simbologie alimentari nell’antico Oriente*, Eothen 20, Firenze, 83-104.
- 2011: “Patterns of relationships in the Syro-Hittite area”, in K. Strobel (ed), *Empires after the empire: Anatolia, Syria and Assyria after Suppiluliuma II (ca. 1200-800/700 B.C.)*, Eothen 17, Firenze, 281-308.
- 2011: S. de Martino, F.M. Fales, S. Ponchia, “Ricognizione archeologica a Yassihuyuk (2004-2009)”, in S. Mazzoni, F. Pecchioli Daddi, G. Torri, A. D’Agostino (eds.), *Ricerche italiane in Anatolia* (Studia Asiana 6), Roma, 59-62.
- 2010: S. de Martino, F.M. Fales, S. Ponchia, “Archaeological investigations at Yassi-huyuk (Yozgat). The site of Yassi-huyuk within the overall picture of hittite geography”, in Y. Hazirlyan, A. Suel (eds), *Acts of the VIIth International Congress of Hittitology*, Corum, 189-197 (189-191).
- 2010: S. Ponchia, “L’Anatolia centrale nei secoli XII-VIII a.C.”, in F. Candelato, C. Moratello (eds.), *Archeologia storia tecnologia. Ricerche storiche e archeologiche dell’Università di Verona*, Verona, 3-13.
- 2010: S. de Martino, F.M. Fales, S. Ponchia, “Ricognizione archeologica a Yassihuyuk (Turchia centrale), in F. Candelato, C. Moratello (eds), *Archeologia storia tecnologia. Ricerche storiche e archeologiche dell’Università di Verona*, Verona, 15-26.
- 2009: “Some reflections of Metaphor, Ambiguity and Literary Tradition”, in M. Luukko, S. Svärd, R. Mattila (eds.), *Of God(s), Trees, Kings, and Scholars. Neo-Assyrian and Related Studies in Honour of Simo Parpola*, (Studia Orientalia 106), Helsinki, 399-407.
- 2009: “Scienza e fama dei Caldei dalla Mesopotamia a Roma”, in H.-J. Gehrke, A. Mastrocinque (eds.), *Rom und der Osten im 1. Jahrhundert v. Chr. (Akkulturation oder Kampf der Kulturen?) Roma e l’Oriente nel I secolo a.C. (acculturazione o scontro culturale?). Atti del Convegno Humboldtiano Verona, febbraio 2004*, Cosenza, 253-297.
- 2009: F.M. Fales, S. de Martino, S. Ponchia, K. Strobel, “Austro-Italian Archaeological Investigations in the Region of Yozgat (Turkey)”, in F. Pecchioli Daddi, G. Torri, C. Corti, *Central-North Anatolia in the Hittite Period. Acts of the International Conference held at the University of Florence (7-9 Febbraio 2007)*, (Studia Asiana 5), Roma, 31-37.
- 2009: “On the Witnessing Procedure in Neo-Assyrian Legal Documents”, in N. Bellotto, S. Ponchia (eds.), *Witnessing in the Ancient Near East 2009*, 131-174.
- 2009: “Witnessing Procedures in the Ancient Near East: Problems and Perspective of Research”, in N. Bellotto, S. Ponchia (eds.), *Witnessing in the Ancient Near East 2009*, 225-251.
- 2008: “Looking for itineraries in Central Anatolia in the first millennium BC”, in K. Strobel (ed.), *New Perspectives on the Historical Geography and Topography of Anatolia in the II and I millennium B.C.*, (Eothen 16), Firenze, 253-280.

- 2007: “Debates and Rhetoric in Sumer”, in M. Dascal, H.-L. Chang (eds.), *Traditions of Controversy*, Amsterdam-Philadelphia, 63-83.
- 2007: “Communicational procedures and administrative system in the Neo-Assyrian empire (part I)”, in “Papers presented at the workshop “Archive and Administration in the Neo-Assyrian Empire” held in Verona, October 20-21, 2005”, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 16, 121-143.
- 2006: “Mountain routes in Assyrian Royal Inscriptions (part II)”, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 15, 193-271.
- 2005: “Notes on the Legal Conventions and on the Practice of the *adê* in the Early Neo-Babylonian Letters from Nippur”, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 14 (2002-2005), 133-167.
- 2005: Ponchia S., Bellotto N., “Il ruolo dei testimoni nella stesura dei documenti legali siro-mesopotamici tra II e I millennio a.C.”, in C. Mora, P. Piacentini (eds.), *L'ufficio e il documento. Atti delle giornate di studio degli Egittologi e degli Orientalisti italiani, Milano – Pavia 17-19 febbraio 2005*, Pavia, 385-398 (392-398).
- 2005: “Costruire e variare il racconto: il caso delle iscrizioni reali assire”, in M.C. Guidotti, F. Pecchioli Daddi (a cura di), *Narrare gli eventi, atti del convegno degli Egittologi e degli Orientalisti italiani in margine alla mostra “La battaglia di Qadesh”, Firenze, 4-6 dicembre 2002*, Roma, 285-312.
- 2005: “Il vino nel Vicino Oriente”, in A. Greco, C. Cremonesi (a cura di), *Atti dell'VIII Colloquio Interuniversitario: I poli culturali del bere: acqua e vino; 16-18 ottobre 2002*; Padova – Conegliano – Lospida, Homo edens VIII, Padova, 111-127.
- 2004: “La creazione dell'uomo nella mitologia mesopotamica”, in A. Omizzolo (a cura di), *Vita del Cosmo, Vita nel cosmo, Atti dei seminari tenuti dal 20 febbraio al 6 maggio 2003, Università di Padova*, Padova, 3-24.
- 2004: “Mountain routes in Assyrian Royal Inscriptions (part I)”, *KASKAL* 1, 139-178.
- 2004: “Sulle orme di Robert du Mesnil du Buisson”, in A. Guidi, S. Ponchia (a cura di), *Ricerche archeologiche in Italia e in Siria – Atti delle giornate di Studio Verona 6-7 maggio 2002*, Padova, 89-103.
- 2002: “Gilgamesh e Odisseo: viaggi a confronto”, in L. De Finis, V. Citti, L. Belloni (a cura di), *Odisseo dal Mediterraneo all'Europa, Seminario di Studio, Trento, 20 febbraio – 20 marzo 2001*, Amsterdam, 9-21.
- 2000: “Strutture retoriche nelle iscrizioni reali di Esarhaddon”, in E. Rova (ed.), *Patavina Orientalia Selecta*, HANEM 4, Padova, 251-260.
- 1990: “Prospettive di analisi del discorso diretto nelle iscrizioni reali assire”, *Critica Storica / Bollettino Associazione Storici Europei* 27/1, Roma, 3-20.
- 1990: “Neo-Assyrian Corn Loans: Preliminary Notes”, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 4/1, 39-60.
- 1989: “Royal Decisions and Courtiers' Compliance: On some Formulae in Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Letters”, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* 3/2, 115-128.
- 1987: “Analogie, metafore e similitudini nelle iscrizioni reali assire: semantica e ideologia”, *Oriens Antiquus* 26, 223-255.

Reviews, publications in reference books, popular publications:

- 2017: review of E. Leichty, “The Royal Inscriptions of Esarhaddon, King of Assyria (680–669 BC) (RINAP 4)”, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 107, 153-161 (DOI 10.1515/za-2017-0012).
- 2016: review of H. Tadmor, Sh. Yamada, “The Royal Inscriptions of Tiglathpileser III (744–727 BC) and Shalmaneser V (726–722 BC), Kings of Assyria (RINAP 1)”, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 106 (DOI 10.1515), 13-26.
- 2015: review of H.D. Baker (ed), *The Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire*, vol. 3/2 (Winona Lake 2011), *Journal of Semitic Studies* 60/2, 482-486.
- 2006: review of B.N. Porter, *Tree, Kings and Politics* (2003), *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 63, 326-331.

- 2005: rec. a Luukko – Buylaere, State Archive of Assyria XVI (Helsinki 2002), *Orientalia* 74, 426-434.
- 2003: rec. a Donbaz – Parpola, Neo-Assyrian Legal Texts in Istanbul (Berlin 2001), *Orientalia* 72, 274-82.
- 2003: rec. a Parpola – Fuchs, State Archive of Assyria XV (Helsinki 2001), *Orientalia* 72, 333-338.
- 2000: *Gilgamesh, il primo eroe*, Roma (2010<sup>2</sup>).
- 1999: review of O. Pedersen, Katalog der beschrifteten Objekte aus Assur (Saarbrücken 1997), *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 51/1-2, 135-7.
- 1999: review of K. Radner, Die neuassyrischen Privatrechtsurkunden als Quelle für Mensch und Umwelt (Helsinki 1997), *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 51/3-4, 386-8.
- 1997: “Oronte”, “Ebla: storia”, “Arslan Tash”, “Carchemish”, “Tell Ahmar”, in F.M. Fales (a cura di), *Siria. Guida all’archeologia e ai monumenti*, Venezia, 16, 53-55, 107-109, 112-114, 116-118.