

Meant to Move

Kinetic Expression in Figurines from Ancient Western Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean

Interdisciplinary workshop conceptualized and organized by **Elisa Roßberger** and **Marina Weiss** (Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology), in cooperation with Régine Hunziker-Rodewald (Straßburg/Berlin), Stephanie Langin-Hooper (Dallas), and Enrica Inversi (London). Supported by EXC 2020 “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective” and hosted by BerGSAS.

22–23 May 2025

BerGSAS Auditorium, Hittorfstr. 18, 14195 Berlin

Made of clay, stone, and other materials, ancient figurines capture postures and gestures, and reflect everyday and ritual actions, practices, and thoughts. Though static, they encapsulate sequences of motion and encode cognitive frameworks and embodied experiences.

This workshop explores figurines from ancient Western Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean during the second and first millennia BCE as markers of action and experience, and thus as entry points for associative thinking within distinct cognitive realms or performative settings. We will examine their role as both representations and active agents, capable of embodied responses and performative engagement.



For more information and program, see the website of the Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology.

Top right: Cypriot figurine of a rider, ca. 600-500 BCE. BM, 1894,1101.89. Photo: Trustees of the British Museum
Left: Cypriot figurine of a ring dance, ca. 900-750 BCE. Louvre, AM 958. Photo: Musée du Louvre/Raphaël Chipault.
Bottom right: Clay figurine from ancient Iraq, early 2nd millennium BCE. ISAC Museum Chicago, A 9369. Photo: E. Roßberger

