

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Luca Volpi



Sex | Date of birth | Nationality

POSITION

PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

07/2022 – 09/2022



Research Fellow

Deutsches Archäologisches Institute (DAI) Berlin - Orient-Abteilung

- DAI Research Fellowship “Global Archaeology, Sustainable Archaeology and the Archaeology of Sustainability”.

Project: “Earthen Architecture Conservation and Restoration Practices in Western Asia: an Analysis”.

Analysis of the practices employed in the conservation and restoration of earthen architecture masonries in the sites of the Ancient Near East.

[Deutsches Archäologisches Institute \(DAI\) Berlin - Orient-Abteilung](#)

04/2022



Research Fellow

Department of Ancient World Studies, Sapienza Università di Roma

- Bando ICE 006/2022: “Study of anthropogenic structures for the management and organisation of water resources in Bronze Age Syria”.

Analysis of wells, cisterns, and other structures for water management at the site of Tell Mardikh/Ebla (Syria) and its surroundings during the Early and Middle Bronze Age.

[Sapienza Università di Roma](#)

09/2021 – 11/2021



Research Fellow

Department of Ancient World Studies, Sapienza Università di Roma

- Bando BS-S 004/2021: “Study of pottery materials of Areas D and E from Tell Zurghul”.

Chrono-typological analysis of the late 3rd Millennium BC pottery from the site of Tell Zurghul/Nigin (Dhi Qar, Iraq).

[Sapienza Università di Roma](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

06/2022 – present

Archaeologist

SO.GE.IN S.r.l

Archaeologist

Commercial Archaeological Society

Archaeological guide

11/2015 – 12/2019

Museum “Roots of the Present”, Assicurazioni Generali Spa, piazza Venezia, 11, Rome

Guide at the archaeological-didactic museum Roots of the Present

Insurance company Assicurazioni Generali Spa

Archaeologist

02/2017 – 09/2017

“Parsifal” cooperativa di Archeologia, Rome

Archaeologist

Archaeological Cooperative Society

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Phd

11/2017 – 07/2021

PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology, XXXIII cycle – Department of Ancient World Studies - Sapienza Università di Roma (IT). Thesis: The “Ubaid” pottery in a regional perspective. Proposals for a reevaluation of the pottery repertoire of central-southern Mesopotamia and for the identification of pottery regional groups within the “black-on-buff horizon” between the VI and the V Millennium B.C.

Tutor: Prof. Davide Nadali

MA (Archaeology)

10/2014 – 01/2017

Master of Arts (Archaeology), Sapienza University of Rome (IT). Thesis: The Cemetery of Ur at the end of the III Millennium B.C.: stratigraphy, recontextualization and typological analysis of materials.

Supervisors: Prof. Davide Nadali; Dr. Agnese Vacca. Final mark: 110/110 summa cum laude.

BA (Archaeological Sciences)

10/2011 – 07/2014

Bachelor of Arts (Archaeological Sciences), Sapienza University of Rome (IT). Thesis: The northern private architecture during the Uruk expansion.

Supervisor: Prof. Marcella Frangipane. Final mark: 110/110 summa cum laude.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)

Italian

Other language(s)

English

German

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
C2	C2	C2	C1	C1
B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

B1.1 Level (Österreich Institut)

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user

[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Communication skills

- Good communication skills gained through my experience in international conferences, meetings, and workshops; my experience in Western Asia archaeological excavations; my work as an archaeological guide at the archaeological-didactic museum “Roots of the Present”.

Organisational / managerial skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership: responsible of students (from 3 to 20 people) gained through informal mentoring at academic level; responsible of workers (from 5 to 20 people) as area supervisor in archaeological excavations. ▪ Organisational skill as area supervisor in archaeological excavations and in commercial archaeology.
Job-related skills	Responsible of data processing laboratories of archaeological excavations at academic level and data management in commercial archaeology.
Computer skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expert command of Microsoft Office™ tools. ▪ Advanced knowledge of Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop softwares. ▪ Advanced knowledge of QGIS, Photoscan, and AutoCAD 2D softwares. ▪ Advanced knowledge in the use of Leica Total Station for topographic survey.
Driving licence	Driving licenses: A2, B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Publications**
- **Volpi, L. 2022.** “Revisiting the South: a Chrono-Typological Approach to the Analysis of the ‘Ubaid’ Pottery Based on the New Data from Tell Zurghul (Dhi Qar, Iraq)”. *Paléorient* 48-1: 175–199. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/paleorient.1765>
 - **Volpi, L. and P. Fragnoli 2021.** “Petrography-Based Discrimination of Production Areas within Southern Mesopotamia: New Data on the Ubaid Pottery from Tell Zurghul (Dhi Qar, Iraq)”. *Origini* XLV, 35–64. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48235/1008>
 - **Volpi, L. 2021.** “Not only painted – a re-examination of the pottery assemblage from the site of Hajji Muhammad in the light of a techno-morphological approach.” In *Neolithic Pottery from the Near East. Production, Distribution and Use. Proceedings of the Third International Workshop on Ceramics From The Late Neolithic Near East, 7-9 March, 2019 – Antalya*, edited by R. Özbal, M. Erdalkiran and Y. Tonoike, 117–140. Istanbul: Koç University Press. <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/N/bo125961395.html>
 - **Volpi, L. 2020a.** “The Royal Cemetery at Ur during the Second Half of the Third Millennium B.C.: Pottery Analysis through the Use of Archival Data, a Case Study.” *Iraq* 82, 227–257. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2020.2>
 - **Volpi, L. 2020b.** “An Assessment on the Ubaid Pottery from Area B, Tell Zurghul (Southern Iraq).” In *The Italian Archaeological Expedition at Tell Zurghul, Ancient Nigin, Iraq. Final Report of the Seasons 2015-2017* (Quaderni di Vicino Oriente XVI), edited by D. Nadali and A. Polcaro, 53–87. Roma: Sapienza Università di Roma.
 - **Casadei, E. and L. Volpi 2020.** “Ceramic Technology between the Third and Second Millennium BC. New Insights from Southern Mesopotamia.” In *The Chaîne opératoire: Past, Present and Future*. (Archaeological Review from Cambridge 35.1), edited by M. Arntz and M. Lewis, 90–111. Cambridge: Cambridge University.
 - **Volpi, L. in press.** “Families Behind Potters? Technological Insights in the Analysis of “Ubaid Pottery” from Southern Mesopotamia and Their Implications for a Social Reconstruction”. *New Insights in Ceramic & Metallurgical Technologies*, edited by A. Dorado Alejos, M. Murillo Barroso and F. Contreras Cortés. Granada: Universidad de Granada.

Conferences (organisation and participation)

Organisation:

- 18th – 19th February 2021. **Organisation of the conference SSDA 2021 - Seminario della Scuola di Dottorato in Archeologia, VIII edition**, with the presentation ““Thinking in terms of gestures”: ricostruire alcuni aspetti socio-economici delle società antiche sulla base di elementi della tecnologia ceramica. I casi-studio di Tell Zurghul (V Mill. a.C.) e Nippur (III-II Mill. a.C.) in Mesopotamia meridionale”. Sapienza University of Rome (IT).
- 12th – 14th February 2020. **Organisation of the conference SSDA 2020 - Seminario della Scuola di Dottorato in Archeologia, VII edition**, with the presentation “Alcune considerazioni sul fenomeno Ubaid: repertori ceramici in contatto fra il VI ed il V mill. a.C. nella Grande Mesopotamia”. Sapienza University of Rome (IT).
- 30th – 31st January 2019. **Organisation of the conference SSDA 2019 - Seminario della Scuola di Dottorato in Archeologia, VI edition**, with the presentation “La ceramica Ubaid in Mesopotamia meridionale: primi tentativi per la ricostruzione di un orizzonte ceramico regionale”. Sapienza University of Rome (IT).

Participation:

- 29th – 30th July 2022. **Workshop: Bridges in Antiquity**, with the presentation “Where to Cross the Tigris River. Dynamics of Mobility across Riversides in the Area of Northern Mesopotamia”. Universität Münster (WWU) - Münster School of Ancient Cultures (MSAC), Münster (DE).
- 7th April 2021. **12th ICAANE** (International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East) 2021, with the presentation “New Perspectives in the Analysis of “Ubaid” Pottery Materials from Southern Mesopotamia: Recent Analyses from the Excavations in Area B, Tell Zurghul (Iraq)”. Online – Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna (IT).
- 8th October 2020. **International Doctoral Summer School 2020: New Insights in Ceramic & Metallurgical Technologies**, with the presentation “A Technological Perspective in the Analysis of the Ubaid Pottery from Southern Mesopotamia through Visual and Scientific Approaches”. Online – University of Granada (ES).
- 7th September 2019. **Lagash Archaeological Project Ceramic Workshop**. Ceramic Studies in the Lagash Region and Beyond: Connecting Legacy Data with New Fieldwork, with the presentation “The Prehistory of the Lagash Region: Ubaid Ceramic Materials from Area B, Tell Zurghul”. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Philadelphia (USA).
- 7th – 9th March 2019. **Third International Workshop On Ceramics From The Late Neolithic Near East**, with the presentation “Not only painted - A Preliminary, Techno-Morphological Approach to the Early Ubaid Pottery in Southern Mesopotamia”. Koç University’s Suna and İnan Kıraç AKMED Research Institute for Mediterranean Civilizations, Antalya (TR).
- 3rd - 7th April 2018. **11th ICAANE** (The International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East), with the poster “Filling the Gap in the Late 3rd Millennium BC Southern Mesopotamia: the Case-Study of Ur”. Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU), Munich (DE).
- 27th - 29th March 2018. **BANEA 2018** - The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology, with the presentation “Research from the Digitalization of Cultural Heritage: Reworking on Some Graves from the Royal Cemetery of Ur, Iraq”. Durham University (UK).
- 24th – 28th July 2017. **63rd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale**, Dealing with Antiquity – Past, Present & Future, with the poster “Dealing with ancient excavations: the final stage of the “Royal Cemetery” of Ur in Woolley’s fieldnotes”. Philipps-Universität, Marburg (DE).
- 10th – 11th March 2017. **GAO – Graduate Archaeology Conference at Oxford**, with the poster “What is a Trade Colony? A comparative analysis of the IV Millennium BC site of Habuba Kabira (Syria)”. University of Oxford (UK).
- 30th September 2016. **International Conference – “The World in Motion: Language, Culture, and Intercultural Communication in Asian and African Studies”**, with the presentation “An Archaeological View For “Movement”: The case of Uruk expansion in the middle of IV millennium BC in Southern Mesopotamia from the perspective of private architecture”. University of Warsaw (PL).

Archaeological excavations

- 2015 – present. **Member of the Italian Archaeological Expedition at Tell Zurghul/Nigin, Dhi Qar, Iraq.** Area supervisor and pottery specialist. Sapienza University of Rome/University of Perugia.
- 2019 – present. **Member of the Turkish Archaeological Expedition at Domuztepe, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey.** Archaeologist and pottery specialist. Hacettepe University, Ankara.
- 2015 – 2017. Fieldwork at the site of **Arslantepe, Italian Archaeological Expedition in Eastern Anatolia, Malatya, Turkey.** Archaeologist. Sapienza University of Rome.
- 2014 – 2018. Member of a research project concerning the **Aurelian Walls of Rome (Italy).** Expert of architectural survey using Total Station and photogrammetry. Sapienza University of Rome.
- 2013 – 2017. Fieldwork at the site of **Peltuinum, L'Aquila, Italy.** Archaeologist. Sapienza University of Rome.
- 09/2013. Fieldwork at the site of **Coppa Nevigata, Foggia, Italy.** Archaeologist. Sapienza University of Rome.
- 05/2012. Fieldwork at the site of **Santa Restituta, Viterbo, Italy.** Archaeologist. Sapienza University of Rome.

Laboratory activities

- 12/2017 – present. Responsible of the **laboratory of graphical documentation work (AutoCAD, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop)** with MAIN (Missione Archeologica Italiana a Nigin, Tell Zurghul, Iraq).
- 2017 – present. Responsible of the **laboratory of graphical documentation work (Adobe Illustrator)** with MAIS (Missione Archeologica Italiana in Siria, Ebla, Syria).
- 02/2017 – 04/2017. **Laboratory of graphical documentation work (Adobe Illustrator)** with MAIN (Missione Archeologica Italiana a Nigin, Tell Zurghul, Iraq).
- 03/2015 – 06/2015. **Laboratory of graphical documentation work (Adobe Illustrator)** with MAIN (Missione Archeologica Italiana a Nigin, Tell Zurghul, Iraq).
- 01/2014 – 06/2014. **Laboratory of pottery drawings** with MAIS (Missione Archeologica Italiana in Siria, Ebla, Syria).
- 01/2014 – 03/2014. **Laboratory of graphical documentation work (Adobe Illustrator)** with Italian Iraqi Archaeological Mission in Iraq (Abu Tbeirah, Nassiriyah, Iraq).
- 03/2012 – 07/2012. **Laboratory of material culture studies (pottery and small finds)** with Veio – Piazza d'Armi excavation (Rome, Italy).

Training School

- 11th – 16th July 2022. Intensive on-line short course on **Thin Section Petrography, Geochemistry and Scanning Electron Microscopy of Archaeological Ceramics**, by Prof. Dr. Patrick Sean Quinn, organised by University College London (UCL; UK).
- 18th – 20th January 2022. **GIS Open Source Advanced (QGIS): Geographical Analysis, Databases, Raster and Vector Geoprocessing, Digital Terrain Models**, organised by TerreLogiche Srl (online), Rome (online).
- 5th – 9th October 2020. **International Doctoral Summer School 2020: New Insights in Ceramic & Metallurgical Technologies**, organised by the University of Granada (ES), Department of Prehistory & Archaeology, Unit of Excellence: Archaeometrical Studies. Inside the artefacts & Ecofacts.
- 12th – 17th February 2018. **GIS (Geographic Information System) Seminar**, by Prof. Carlo Citter (University of Siena, IT), organised by Sapienza University of Rome (IT), Department of Ancient World Studies.

Licences and certifications

- **License UAS OPEN A1-A3** - Proof of completion - online training. ENAC - Italian Civil Aviation Authority.

Awards and grants

- July 2022: **Research Fellow at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institute (DAI) Berlin - Orient-Abteilung**, from 01/07/22 to 30/09/22 (Research Fellowship “Global Archaeology, Sustainable Archaeology and the Archaeology of Sustainability”) for the “Earthen Architecture Conservation and Restoration Practices in Western Asia: an Analysis”.
- April 2022: **Research Fellow at the Department of Ancient World Studies** – Sapienza University of Rome, from 01/04/22 to 30/04/22 (Bando ICE 006/2022 – Rep. 23 Class. VII/16 – Prot. n. 322 del 31/01/22) for the “Study of anthropogenic structures for the management and organisation of water resources in Bronze Age Syria”.
- September 2021: **Research Fellow at the Department of Ancient World Studies** – Sapienza University of Rome, from 01/09/21 to 30/11/21 (Bando BS-S 004/2021 – Rep. 169 – Prot. n. 2091 del 02/07/21) for the “Study of pottery materials of Areas D and E from Tell Zurghul”.
- November 2019: Awarded of the “**Avvio alla Ricerca 2019**” of Sapienza University of Rome, with the project “The Halaf-Ubaid Transition at Tepe Gawra (Iraq): Re-contextualizing Artefacts on the basis of Archival Materials”, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA) - Penn Museum: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.
- April-August 2019: Awarded of the “**Bando per progetti di mobilità di studenti di dottorato di ricerca**” of Sapienza University of Rome, with a joint project “MATTER”, conducted at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA) - Penn Museum: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.
- November 2017: **Doctoral scholarship**, XXXIII cycle, Department of Ancient World Studies – Sapienza University of Rome.
- May 2017: **Excellence Award selected and awarded as one of the four hundred excellent MA students at Sapienza University of Rome for the academic year 2015-2016**.
- 06-08/2016: Scholarship from Sapienza University of Rome for the “**Thesis Abroad**” conducted at the British Museum of London.
- 2016: **Excellence Prize due for the MA in Archaeology**, for having achieved outstanding marks and completed a task additional to the curricular exams.
- 2013- 2016: **Cash-awarded cooperation** with the library of Sapienza’s Department of Oriental Studies.