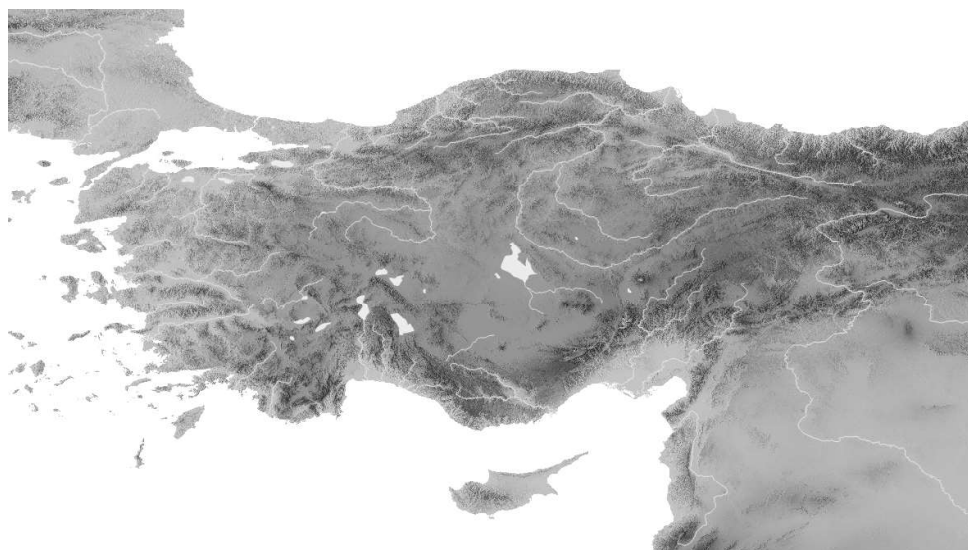


# News from the Lands of the Hittites

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Contact in the Ancient Mediterranean

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FEDERICO GIUSFREDI, ELENA MARTÍNEZ RODRÍGUEZ, ALVISE MATESSI,  
STELLA MERLIN AND VALERIO PISANIELLO

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Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia

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20099 Sesto San Giovanni (MI)

Phone: +39 02 24861657 / 21100089

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## PREFACE

The present volume contains the proceedings of the international conference *Languages and Cultures in Contact in the Ancient Mediterranean*, organized as the final event of the ERC project PALaC, that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement n° 757299). The conference took place in Verona on May 11 and 12, 2023. It concluded a series of workshops that started in February 2019 with the first edition and continued with an online double event in 2021 and with a new physical edition after the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2022. While most of the papers included in this volume are from the 2023 conference, one (by Giusfredi, Merlin and Pisaniello) is the written version of a paper presented during a previous edition that the authors had not, in the meantime, published elsewhere.

Just like the PALaC project, this volume reflects, with its contents, our complex interdisciplinary view on the study of linguistic and cultural contacts in the ancient world, combining historical linguistics and philology, the study of the history of writing systems and that of religions, cultures and polities in and around ancient Anatolia, from the proto-historical phase of the Middle Bronze Age up to the mature stage of the Hellenistic era.

With over forty articles or chapters, a two-volume final monograph and another edited volume, the output of PALaC has been, we believe, quite rich.<sup>1</sup> Still, science is about publishing as much as it is about communicating ideas and promoting discussion among peers. While it would have been impossible for us to publish the proceedings of all the events we organized during the lifetime of PALaC, we are particularly happy to be able to publish at least the proceedings of the last one, and we are, needless to say, extremely grateful to the editors of *News from the Lands of the Hittites* – Stefano de Martino, Massimiliano Marazzi and Clelia Mora – for giving us the opportunity to do so on the pages of this outstanding journal.

Our gratitude also goes to the authors of the contributions in this collection, for offering such a rich variety of papers on so many different topics. The articles collected in these proceedings reflect such variety. The contributions by Dardano, Melchert, Pozza and Fagiolo, Rieken, and Warbinek deal with the Bronze Age Hittite corpus and the areal relationships of the languages represented in it. Those by Adiego, Réveilhac and Vernet deal with the Luwic languages of the late Iron Age, while Marazzi, Repola and Simon concentrate on Hieroglyphic Luwian.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of publications with Open Access links is available at <http://ercpalac.info>.

Giusfredi, Merlin and Pisaniello, and García Ramón explore the problem of Aegean-Anatolian contacts. Finally, the two papers by Cotticelli Kurras and Kölligan take us to a much later stage, and deal, from different perspectives, with the study of the areal context during the age in which the Syriac and Armenian traditions flourished and co-existed with Greek in the late antique stages of the history of Anatolia.

Verona, November 2023

Federico Giusfredi  
Elena Martínez Rodríguez  
Alvise Matessi  
Stella Merlin  
Valerio Pisaniello