



THE HITTITES BEYOND THE TAURUS

Multiculturality and Continuity from the mid-2nd millennium to the mid-1st millennium BCE

"The Hittites Again"

International Hittite Symposium

October 21-23, 2026 | GAÜN Maveria Congress Center, Gaziantep, Türkiye

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DAY 1: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

09:00 - 09:30 Registration and Welcome

09:30 - 10:15 Opening Speeches

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break (15 min)

SESSION 1: Empire, Center, and Roads

Session Chair: Ayşe Tuba Ökse

10:30 Andreas Schachner – *Ruling the Hittite Empire from Its Edge: On the Relations between Hattusa and the Regions South of the Taurus*

10:50 Riko Süssenguth – *Nuzi Beads and Glass Vessels from Kayalipınar/Samuha: Tracing Technology Transfer across the Taurus*

11:10 Sylvia Hutter-Braunsar – *The Dynasty of Išuwa during the Hittite Empire Period*

11:30 Kimiyoshi Matsumura – *Büklükale: Hurrian Elements*

11:50 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch Break (90 min)

SESSION 2: Oylum Höyük Written Texts and Administration

Session Chair: Rotraud Regine Hunziker-Rodewald

13:30 Aydoğan Bozkurt – *The Hittite Administrative Building at Oylum Höyük: Architectural and Archaeological Assessments*

13:50 Metin Alparslan – *Old and New Hittite Cuneiform Texts from Oylum Höyük and Their Interpretation*

14:10 Daniel Schwemer – *New Akkadian Text Finds from Oylum Höyük*

14:30 Meltem Doğan-Alparslan – *Anatolian Hieroglyphic Seals and Seal Impressions Found at Oylum Höyük*

14:50 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee Break (15 min)

SESSION 3: Religion, Cult, Food Processing and Archaeobotanical Heritage

Session Chair: Kimiyoshi Matsumura

15:15 Vincent Blanchard & Alice Mouton – *Some Goddesses through the Ages: Šawoška-s in Anatolia in the Second and the First Millennia BCE*

15:35 Manfred Hutter – *Towards a History of Kubaba: Her Centres South of the Taurus and Her Minor Position in Hattusa*

15:55 Mauro Giorgieri – *Nupatik and Karhuha: Cultural Interaction and Religious Multiculturalism at Karkemish*

16:15 Lucia Mori – *Food and Power: New Evidence of Food Processing in Public Areas at Malizi (Arslantepe) in the Early Iron Age*

16:35 Salih Kavak – *The Archeobotanical Heritage of the Eastern Mediterranean: Subsistence Strategies, Socio-Cultural Continuity, and Paleoclimate from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age*

16:55 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

16:55 - 17:10 Coffee Break (15 min)

SESSION 4: Cilicia and Mediterranean Connections

Session Chair: Andreas Schachner

17:10 Ekin Kozal – *Between Coast and Plateau: Kilise Tepe and Hittite Interaction in Rough Cilicia (ca. 1500–1200 BCE)*

17:30 Aşlı Özyar – *Waxing and Waning Hittite Presence at the Mound of Gözlükule*

17:50 Alexander Ericson Sollee – *The Upper Town of Sirkeli Höyük*

18:10 Serdar Girginer - Özlem Oyman-Girginer – Mehmet Cevher – *From South of the Taurus to the Kızılırmak Bend: New Evidence from Tatarlı Höyük*

18:30 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

DAY 2: Thursday, October 22, 2026

SESSION 5: Euphrates Valley, Carchemish, and Eastern Borders

Session Chair: Miroslav Novak

09:00 Nicolò Marchetti – *Karkemish between Imperial and Late Hittite Times*

09:20 Fikri Kulakoğlu – Elif Genç – *The Neo-Hittites East of the Euphrates and Their Contemporaries*

09:40 Ferhan Sakal – *The Materiality of the Hittite Presence in Emar*

10:00 Federico Manuelli – *The Crisis Beyond the Taurus: Tracking Traces of the 13th-Century BC Hittite Decline in South-Eastern Anatolia*

10:20 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break (15 min)

SESSION 6: Architecture and Regional Centers

Session Chair: Aslı Özyar

10:45 Barbara Helwing – *German Excavations in Zincirli: A Brief History*

11:05 Kay Kohlmeyer – *Hittite Impact on Syrian Culture, a Side Note from Aleppo*

11:25 Miroslav Novak – *What Is Hittite about Neo-Hittite Architecture?*

11:45 Michael Blömer – *Hittite Impact: The Dülük Baba Tepesi Sanctuary and the Continuity of Iron Age Traditions in the Roman Period*

12:05 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

12:15 - 13:30 Lunch Break (75 min)

SESSION 7: Islahiye-Nurdağı Valley and Amuq Plain

Session Chair: Barbara Helwing

13:30 Atilla Engin – *Geopolitical and Geocultural Dynamics Behind the Establishment of the Hittite Sculpture Workshop in Yesemek*

13:50 Özgür Çomak – *Rescue Excavations at Taşlıgeçit Höyük: New Hittite Finds and Their Connection to the Yesemek Sculpture Workshop*

14:10 Timur Demir – *Gerçin Höyük as a Neo-Hittite Center: Cultural Continuity, Monumental Architecture, and Regional Interaction in Light of Recent Research*

14:30 Timothy P. Harrison - Elif Denel – *The Tayinat Sculptures and Neo-Hittite Ritual*

14:50 Murat Akar – *Building a Hittite Social Memory in a Translucent Borderland: The Amuq Valley from the Kingdom to the Empire Period and Beyond*

15:10 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

15:20 - 15:35 Coffee Break (15 min)

SESSION 8: Material Culture & New Methods

Session Chair: Manfred Hutter

15:35 Ayşe Tuba Ökse – *Hittite-Southeast Anatolian Relations through Ceramics*

15:55 Ayşe Çalık-Ross – *Late Bronze Age Ceramic Finds from Gülnar (Mersin) in the Middle Taurus Mountains*

17:15 Deniz Burak Kışniş – *The Hittite Horizon at Oylum Höyük: Evaluating Local and Hittite Traditions in the Pottery Assemblage*

17:35 Rotraud Regine Hunziker-Rodewald – *From Inscription to Knowledge Graph: Modelling Syntax, Semantics, and Cultural Contact*

17:55 Thomas Zimmermann – *There and Back Again – A Critical Archaeometrical Review of 2nd and 1st Millennium BCE Hittite and Early Iron Age Copper-Based Metalwork in the Taurus Catchment and Beyond*

18:15 Session Q&A and Collective Discussion (10 min)

18:25 - 18:55 Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

Friday, October 23, 2026 (Cultural Tour Day)

09:30 Departure for Cultural Tour (Historical Route):

- Zincirli Höyük
- Tilmen Höyük
- Yesemek Hittite Sculpture Workshop



BÜYÜKŞEHİR
GAZİANTEP



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HiTİTLER

TOROSLARIN ÖTESİNDE

MÖ. 2. Binyılın Ortalarından MÖ 1. Binyılın Ortalarına Kadar Çok Kültürlülük ve Süreklilik
"Yeniden Hitit"



International Hittite Symposium / Uluslararası Hitit Sempozyumu



Gaziantep Üniversitesi Mâvera Kongre ve Sanat Merkezi



21.10.2026 - 23.10.2026



hittitesbeyondtaurus@gaziantep.bel.tr



hittitesbeyondtaurus.gaziantep.edu.tr