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 Mavera 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 **Aslı 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 Kişniş** – *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

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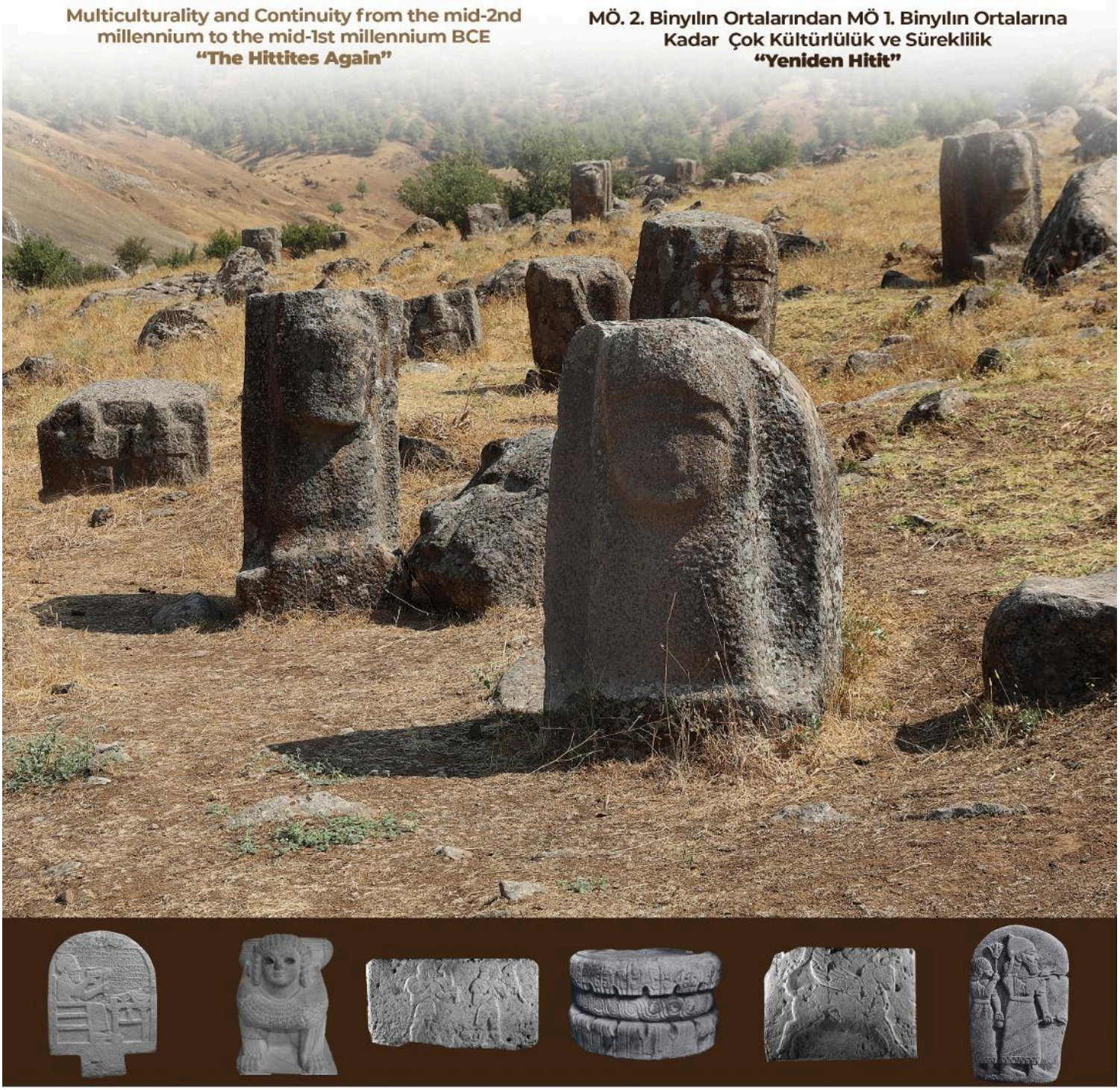
HİTİTLER

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