

**MICHELE MINARDI**  
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Sex Male | Date of birth 19/05/1980 | Nationality Italian

## ARCHAEOLOGIST

### Associate Professor

Archaeology and Art History of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia  
"L'Orientale" University of Naples, Italy  
Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (DAAM)

LAST UPDATED: 15 FEB. 26

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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- **03/2025 Italian National Scientific Habilitation (ASN)** for Full Professor roles in the research area "Cultures and Languages of Central and Eastern Asia" (10/ASIA-01)
- **03/2018 Italian National Scientific Habilitation (ASN)** for Associate Professor roles in the research area "Cultures and Languages of Central and Eastern Asia" (10/ASIA-01), "Archaeology and History of Art of India and Central Asia" (ASIA-01/A)
- **07/2009 – 06/2013 University of Sydney, PhD in Archaeology of pre-Islamic Central Asia**  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Archaeology  
Dissertation: "Ancient Chorasmia: a polity between the semi-nomadic and sedentary cultural areas of Central Asia. Cultural interactions and local developments from the VI century BC to the I century AD". Supervisor: Alison V.G. Betts.
- **2007 University of Rome "La Sapienza", MA in Greek and Roman History of Art and Archaeology**  
Faculty of Humanities (*Scienze Umanistiche*), Department of Archaeology  
Thesis: "Archaeological analysis and topographical reconstruction of the urban landscapes of the third Augustan *regio* of Rome *Isis et Serapis*". Supervisor: Andrea Carandini.
  - Grade average: 30 out of 30 (all exams passed with full marks according to the Italian Grading System)
  - Degree score: 110 out of 110 cum laude
- **2001 – 2005 Formative archaeological fieldwork** ("La Sapienza", Rome, and other academic institutions)  
Field archaeologist in +12 excavation campaigns at the sites of: Rome, Palatine Hill & Roman Forum; Pompeii, "Triangular Forum" & Temple of Venus; Anzio, *villa Neronis*; Veii, *Campetti*; Cencelle (VT); Zeytinli Bahçe (Urfa, Turkey) and others.

## POSITIONS

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### Current

- **02/2025 – present Associate Professor**, Archaeology and Art History of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia, "L'Orientale" University of Naples.
- **02/2022 – present Adjunct Professor**, Iranian Archaeology, & (since 12/2023) Iranian and Central Asian Archaeology, *Dipartimento di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale*, University of Salerno, Italy.
- **06/2023 – present Director**, Joint Italian-Karakalpak Archaeological Mission in Ancient Chorasmia, ISMEO-NUKUS.
- **10/2020 – present Field Director**, ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan.

### Completed

- **02/2022 – 01/2025 Assistant Professor (R.t.d. "B")**, Iranian Archaeology and Art History, & (since 09/2024) Archaeology and Art History of Iran and pre-Islamic Central Asia. DAAM, "L'Orientale" University of Naples, Italy.
- **2010 – 2023 Field Director and Survey Manager**, Karakalpak-Australian Expedition to Ancient Chorasmia  
University of Sydney & Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Karakalpak branch, Nukus.
- **2019 – 2021 Research Fellow/Associate Researcher** Centre for Classical and Oriental Archaeology, Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, Faculty of Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia.
- **2017 – 2019 Director** of the excavations and surveys on the Sultan-uiz-dag range of Karakalpakstan (Australian Research Council Discovery Project grant 170101770).
- **2017 – 2018 Research Associate**, Ausonius UMR 5607 CNRS University of Bordeaux Montaigne, France.
- **2016 Director**, Uzbek-French Archaeological Expedition to Karakalpakstan  
Excavations at Angka-kala, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Karakalpak branch, Nukus & University of Bordeaux.
- **11/2014 – 11/2016 Excellence Initiative Bordeaux Postdoctoral Fellow**  
(ANR-10-IDEX-03-02), University of Bordeaux/Bordeaux Montaigne, Ausonius Institute UMR 5607 CNRS.
- **08/2013 – 10/2014 Research Associate**, University of Sydney, Australia  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Archaeology.

- **03/2008 – 01/2009 Survey Engineer (onshore/offshore) & Archaeology Advisor** Geomarine S.r.l. (via della Darsena 9, 60019 Senigallia, Italy).
- **08/2008 – 05/2009 University spin-off member**, University of Rome "La Sapienza" Department of Archaeology. Member of the university spin-off "Archi Web". Archi Web was created to develop a database related to information systems (GIS) capable of collecting documentation linked to archaeological finds in urban and rural areas for commercial purposes.
- **03/2005 – 02/2008 Research Project Manager**, University of Rome "La Sapienza" Department of Archaeology. Stipendiary position in the "Imago Urbis" research team led by A. Carandini focusing on the study of the development of the ancient urban landscapes of Rome from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. In charge of the third Augustan district of Rome (*Isis et Serapis*), and cataloguer of the unpublished material held in the Italian state archives of *EUR*, *S. Maria Nova*, *Palazzo Attempo*, and *Museo della Calcografia Nazionale*.

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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- **06/2024, 2025 Grantee**, ISMEO: funding for the Joint Italian-Karakalpak Archaeological Mission in Ancient Chorasmia.
- **06/2023 Grantee**, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI) and ISMEO: funding for the Joint Italian-Karakalpak Archaeological Mission in Ancient Chorasmia.
- **12/2021 – 12/2024 Co-Investigator**, ALIPH project proposal 2021-2173: "Bazira/Barikot: Safeguard and Study Project of the Acropolis" (with Luca M. Olivieri and Elisa Iori).
- **05/2019 – 03/2023 Grantee/Principal Investigator**, "Old Kandahar: an archaeological reappraisal". Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East.
- **07/2017 – 07/2019 Co-Principal Investigator**, "Shifting the foundation of Zoroastrian History: a fresh focus on Chorasmia" Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant DP170101770 (with A. Betts F. Grenet & M. Karlybaev).
- **2016 Recipient of Public Funding for the Organization of the 'Ancient Chorasmia' Conference**  
Founding bodies: French Republic Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche, Grantee of the Programme ACCES; Ausonius Institute UMR 5607 CNRS; LabEx of Archaeological Sciences of Bordeaux (LaScArBx, ANR-10-LABX-52); University of Bordeaux Montaigne (Direction de la Recherche); Regional Council of Aquitaine (Direction de la Recherche, de l'Enseignement supérieur et du Transfer de technologie); Bordeaux Excellence Initiative Programme (IdEx, ANR-10-IDEX-03-02).
- **11/2014 & 11/2015 IdEx Bordeaux Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants**  
(employed for: 05/2015, research survey in Iran; 2016, Uzbek-French archaeological mission to Karakalpakstan).
- **07/2009 – 12/2012 PhD scholarship**. Tuition fees and stipend (100%).  
University of Sydney International Scholarship (USydlS).
- **2011 University of Sydney Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS)**, travel grant 2012.
- **07/2008 – 08/2008 Junior Research Fellow, University of Rome "La Sapienza"**  
Department of Archaeology. Fellowship No. 34/2008: analysis and digitalization of the data held in the historical and archaeological Italian state archive of EUR Rome "*Archivio Gatti*".
- **2006 Merit Scholarship** for outstanding MA dissertation awarded by *Banca di Credito Cooperativo del Metauro* (Orciano, PU, Italy).

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- **2022 – present** Member of *Centro Studi su Asia Centrale, Caucaso, Turchia, Tibet e Iran (CSACTI)*, Centre of Excellence, DAAM, "L'Orientale" University of Naples.
- **2016 – present** Member of **EASAA** (European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art).
- **2013 – present** Member of **ISMEO** (*Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente*), Rome, Italy.
- **2015 – 2025** Member of the **Silk Road Studies Group**, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney, Australia.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses)

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### At "L'Orientale" University of Naples, Italy

Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies (DAAM):

- **2025 - present Archaeology and Art History of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia**.  
Undergraduate courses: 72 hrs per semester. From 2026: 54 hrs.
- **2025 - present Iranian Archaeology**. Graduate courses: 48 hrs.
- **2022 – 2025 Iranian Archaeology and Art History**. Undergraduate courses: 72 hrs.

- **2022 – 2025 Iranian Archaeology and Art History.** Graduate courses: 48 hrs.

#### At the University of Salerno, Italy

*Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione in beni archeologici Orientale – Salerno:*

- **12/2023 – present Iranian and Central Asian Archaeology.** PhD-level/Postgraduate courses: 30 hrs.
- **2022 – 11/2023 Iranian Archaeology.** PhD-level/postgraduate courses: 30 hrs.

#### At the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Centre for Classical and Oriental Archaeology, Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, Faculty of Humanities:

- **2019 – 2021 Archaeology of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia.** Master's Programme: Classical and Oriental Archaeology. Graduate courses: 30 hrs.

#### SERVICE

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- **Since 2025:** "external reviewer" for the Italian national "Research Quality Assessment" survey (*revisore esterno per la Valutazione Qualità della Ricerca – VQR*).
- **01/2025 – present Member,** selection panels for postdoctoral positions, "L'Orientale" University of Naples.
- **11/2024 – present President** of the "Internship and Other Educational Activities Committee" for the bachelor's degree programme in archaeology (*Presidente della commissione tirocini e altre attività didattiche del corso di studi di laurea triennale "Archeologia: Asia Africa e Mediterraneo"* then *"Culture antiche e archeologia: Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo"*), "L'Orientale".
- **Since 2024** online guidance for prospective students, bachelor's degree programme in archaeology, "L'Orientale".
- **01/2024 – 11/2024 Member** of the AQ committee (*Gruppo di gestione e assicurazione della qualità – quality control*), Ancient Civilizations and Archaeology Degree Programme (*Civiltà Antiche e archeologia: Oriente e Occidente/Culture antiche e archeologia: Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo*), "L'Orientale".
- **10/2023 – 10/2024 Member** of the OFA commission (*Obblighi Formativi Aggiuntivi*) for the evaluation and support of first-year students, DAAM, "L'Orientale".
- **Since 2023 PhD supervisor,** "L'Orientale".
- **Since 2023 postgraduate tutor,** *Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione in beni archeologici "Or. Sa."*, "L'Orientale" & The University of Salerno.
- **Since 2023 thesis supervisor & co-supervisor** for several undergraduate and graduate students, "L'Orientale"; Ca' Foscari University of Venice.
- **Since 2022 Member** of PhD review panels and PhD thesis evaluator, "L'Orientale", University of Bologna, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Islamabad Quaid-i-Azam University, Mansehra Hazara University, and others.
- **04/2023 – present Collaborator,** *Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione in beni archeologici Or.Sa.:* Erasmus+ agreement between the Departments of Civil Engineering (DICIV) and of Cultural Heritage Sciences (DISPaC) at the University of Salerno (Italy), and the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Transportation (CET) and Foreign Languages (FGN) at the University of Isfahan (Iran).
- **02/2022 – present Member,** Antiquity Area Educational Board Commission (*Collegio area didattica di Antichistica*), "L'Orientale", DAAM.
- **02/2022 – present Board Member,** ancient civilizations and archaeology undergraduate degree programme (*Corso di laurea Civiltà Antiche e Archeologia: Oriente e Occidente*, then *Culture Antiche e Archeologia: Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo*), "L'Orientale", DAAM.
- **02/2022 – present Board Member,** Postgraduate School of Archaeology "Or.Sa." ("L'Orientale" & University of Salerno).
- **2023 – present Editorial Board Member.** *Journal of Asian Civilizations.* Taxila Institute of Ancient Civilizations (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan).
- **2022 – present Scientific Board Member.** *Journal of Asian Civilizations.* Taxila Institute of Ancient Civilizations (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan).
- **2020 – present Editorial Board Member.** *Persica Antiqua. The International Journal of Iranian Studies.*
- **2017 – present Expert peer reviewer** of grant applications for the National Centre of Science and Technology Evaluation, Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Kazakhstan.
- **2019 – 2021 Contributor** to the bibliographical journal *Abstracta Iranica (Institut Français de Recherche en Iran (Téhéran)/UMR 7528 CNRS, Mondes iranien et indien, Paris).*

+ **peer-reviewer** for international scientific journals (including *World Archaeology*, *East and West*, *Iran*, *The Journal of Persianate Studies* and others), monographic and edited works.

## As convenor

- [03-04/2026](#), Near Eastern Doctoral **Seminar Series** 2026 (with Romolo Loreto, Noemi Borrelli, Michele Cammarosano, Gian Pietro Basello and Giulia F. Grassi), "L'Orientale".
- [03-04/2025](#), Near Eastern Doctoral **Seminar Series** 2025 (with Romolo Loreto, Noemi Borrelli, Michele Cammarosano and Gian Pietro Basello), "L'Orientale".
- [19/03/2025](#), **lecture** by Stefan Baums (Munich): "Gandhara, Central Asia, China: the transmission of a Buddhist and administrative scribal culture", "L'Orientale".
- [23/04/2024](#) (with Manuel Castelluccia), **lecture** by Askold Ivantchik (CNRS/Bordeaux): "The funeral of Scythian kings: Herodotus and archaeology", "L'Orientale".
- [25-27/03/2024](#) (with Gian Pietro Basello), **lecture series** by Emad Matin, with Pierfrancesco Callieri: "*Le residenze reali del Fars achemenide in una prospettiva di pianificazione urbana*", "L'Orientale".
- [23/11/2023](#), **lecture** by Fabrizio Sinisi (Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna): "*La documentazione iconografica come fonte per la storia culturale del mondo iranico preislamico*", "L'Orientale".
- [23/03/2023](#) (with Gian Pietro Basello), **lecture** by Kiumars Alizadeh (Berlin-Paris): "From Hanni to Kidin-Hutran the son of Kurluṣ: a new look into the Arjān bronze bowl", "L'Orientale".
- [17-18/10/2016](#) **International Conference**, "Ancient Chorasmia, Central Asia and the Steppes. Cultural relations and exchanges from the Achaemenids to the Arabs", Ausonius Institute UMR 5607 CNRS, University of Bordeaux Montaigne & University of Bordeaux, France.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs (● = peer-reviewed)

1. **Minardi, M.** (in prep.). *Old Kandahar: An Archaeological Reappraisal on account of the British Excavations 1976-1978 directed by S.W. Helms. With contributions of A.V.G. Betts, L.M. Olivieri, E. Iori, R. Salomon, S. Baums and J. Cribb*, ISMEO: Rome.
2. Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E., **Minardi, M.** and Pinelli, M. 2025. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 3 Vols., Sang-e-Meel Publications: Lahore.
3. **Minardi, M.** 2015. *Ancient Chorasmia. A polity between the semi-nomadic and sedentary cultural areas of Central Asia. Cultural interactions and local developments from the sixth century BC to the first century AD*, (Acta Iranica 56) Peeters: Leuven. ●
4. Bilyalova, G., Yarygin, S., **Minardi, M.** & Bonora G.L. (in collaboration with Khabdulina, K., Sviridov, A. and Tleugabulov, D.) 2014. *Multilingual dictionary of archaeological terms (Kazakh-Russian-English-Italian)*, "L.N. Gumilev" Eurasian National University Press: Astana.

### Edited volumes

1. Pubblici, L., Castelluccia, M. & **Minardi, M.** (eds.) (in prep.). *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Eurasian Nomads in Ancient and Medieval Caucasia*, Bloomsbury, London.
2. **Minardi, M.** & Ivantchik, A. (eds.) 2018. *Ancient Chorasmia, Central Asia and the Steppes. Cultural relations and exchanges from the Achaemenids to the Arabs. Proceedings of the international conference held in Bordeaux, France, 17-18 October 2016*, (Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia 24/1-2, special issue), Brill: Leiden.

### Chapters in edited books and monographs

1. Olivieri, L.M. and **Minardi, M.** (in prep.). "The Bīr-Koṭ-Ghwaṇḍai in the Late Antique Period: an updated report on the Šāhi fortress of the acropolis of Barikot". In: *Cultural Formation and Transformation: Shahi Art and Architecture from Afghanistan to the West Tibetan Frontier at the Dawn of the Islamic Era*, Vienna.
2. Colombo, F., Iori, E., **Minardi, M.** and Olivieri, L.M. 2025 "The conservation project 'Saving the Archaeological Site of Bazira' (2022-2024). Phase I. Season 4", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 73-74.
3. Iori, E., **Minardi, M.** and Olivieri, L.M. 2025 "The conservation project 'Saving the Archaeological Site of Bazira' (2022-2024). Phase I. Season 5", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 75-79, vol. 2, 57-100.
4. Iori, E., **Minardi, M.** and Olivieri, L.M. 2025. "The conservation project 'Saving the Archaeological Site of Bazira' (2022-2024). Phase III. Seasons 10-11", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 88, vol. 2, 121-130.
5. Pinelli, M., Iori, E., **Minardi, M.** and Olivieri, L.M. 2025. "The conservation project 'Saving the Archaeological Site of Bazira' (2022-2024). Phase III. Season 12", in Olivieri, L.M. 2025 (with the collaboration of Elisa Iori, Michele Minardi and Marco Pinelli) *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 88, vol. 2, 121-130.
6. **Minardi, M.** 2025. "The local staff", in Olivieri, L.M. 2025 (with the collaboration of Elisa Iori, Michele Minardi and Marco Pinelli) *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 98; vol. 2, 131-135.

7. **Minardi, M.** 2025. "The Fortress on the Hilltop (Trenches BKG 14 and 15)", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 117-122; vol. 2, 157-161; pls. XVI-XVIII.
8. **Minardi, M.** and Prota, M. (2025). "BKG 24.1" [The Islamic Graveyard outside the Terrace W] in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 160-165; vol. 2, 225-234.
9. **Minardi, M.**, Olivieri, L.M. and Vidale, M. 2025. "Macrophase 1: a Prehistoric Slab", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 239-242; vol. 2, 301-304.
10. Iori, E. and **Minardi, M.** 2025 "Macrophase 7: a Huna Sealing", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 249-250; vol. 2, 309-310.
11. Baums, S., **Minardi, M.** and Prota, M. 2025. "Macrophase 9a: Late Buddhist *tsha tshas*", in Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E. Minardi, M. and Pinelli, M. *Vajirasthāna, Archaeology of the Barikot Hilltop (Swat, Pakistan)*, 265-270; vol. 2, 327-334.
12. **Minardi, M.** 2023. "The northeastern regions of the Persian Empire: Bactria, Sogdiana, Margiana, Chorasmia, Aria, Parthia, the Sakas and the Dahae", in K. Radner, N. Moeller & D. T. Potts (eds.), *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East Volume 5: The Age of Persia*, Oxford University Press, 784-836.
13. **Minardi, M.** 2021. Entry in exhibition catalogue: "Silver plate with depiction of the goddess Hariti on a lion-throne and other celestial beings", in U. Franke, I. Sarikhani and S. Weber (eds.), *Iran - Kunst und Kultur aus Fünf Jahrtausenden, James Simon Galerie, Berlin December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 to March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022*, Hirmer Verlag, 132-133.
14. **Minardi, M.** & Ivantchik, A. 2018. "Preface", in M. Minardi & A. Ivantchik (eds.) 2018, *Ancient Chorasmia, Central Asia and the Steppes...* (Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia 24/1-2, special issue), Brill: Leiden, V-VIII.
15. **Minardi, M.** 2009. "L'Ipogeo di Piagge. Uno studio preliminare", in Volpe, G. & Polverari, G. (eds.) 2009, *Piagge*, Fano: 92-109.

#### Peer-reviewed journal articles & other refereed contributions [● = Italian *MUR* tier-A journal]

1. **Minardi, M.** and Bektulaev, A. 2024. "Report on the first campaign of excavations of 2023 at Bazar-kala, with additional considerations on the urbanism of Ancient Chorasmia", *East and West* 64/2: 63-92. ●
2. **Minardi, M.** 2023. "Ossuary burials of the Sultan-Uiz-Dag. Some considerations on the relation between archaeology and *Vendīdād*", *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 29/1: 86-132. ●
3. **Minardi, M.**, Betts, A.V.G. and Iskanderova, A. 2023. "Of crowns and diadems: new pictorial evidence from Akchakhan-kala", *East and West* 63/1: 119-152. ●
4. Olivieri, L.M., Iori, E., **Minardi, M.**, Lant, E. & Vidale, M. 2022. "Barikot, Swat: excavation campaign 2021-2022, preliminary Report. Trenches BKG 16, BKG 17, and BKG 18", *East and West* 62/2: 67-194. ●
5. Olivieri, L.M., **Minardi, M.** & Vidale, M. 2022. "A Note on the Discovery of a Prehistoric Maskoid on the "Barikot Top-hill" (Barikot-ghwandai, Swat, KP)", *Ancient Pakistan* 33: 65-75.
6. **Minardi, M.** 2022. "'Persian riders' on a post-Achaemenid terracotta mould from the Bhir Mound, Taxila", *Mesopotamia* 52: 123-136. ●
7. **Minardi, M.** 2021. "Notes on the elaboration and transmission of iconographic elements in Central Asia and India before the Kushans: the Zoroastrian 'bird-priests', *kinnaras* and sirens". *East and West* 61/1: 81-113. ●
8. **Minardi, M.** 2021. "The north-eastern border of the Achaemenid Empire: introducing the Chorasmian Late Iron Age", in J. Lhuillier (ed.), *Archaeology of Central Asia during the 1st millennium BC, from the beginning of the Iron age to the Hellenistic period. Proceedings from the workshop held at 10th ICAANE 2016 (Oriental and European Archaeology 18)*, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften: 71-88.
9. Grenet, F. & **Minardi, M.** 2021. "The image of the Zoroastrian god Srōsh: new elements", *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 27/1: 154-173. ●
10. **Minardi, M.**, Betts, A.V.G. & Khozhaniyazov, G. 2020. "Recently discovered painted imagery of horses with 'grooms' at Akchakhan-kala: observations on their art, symbolic meaning and context", *Topoi. Orient-Occident* 23: 61-101. ●
11. **Minardi, M.** 2020. "Achaemenid 'echoes' at Akchakhan-kala, Chorasmia, and their broader significance for Central Asia". *Journal of Asian Civilizations* 43/2: 1-41. ●
12. **Minardi, M.** 2020. "The Ancient Chorasmian unbaked-clay modelled sculptures: Hellenistic cultural 'impacts' on an Eastern Iranian polity", in L. Greaves & A. Hardy (eds.), *Religion, Society, Trade and Kingship. Art and Archaeology in South Asia along the Silk Road 5500 BCE-5th Century CE* (South Asian Archaeology and Art 2016, Volume 1), Dev Publishers, New Delhi: 195-208.
13. **Minardi, M.** 2018. "The Oxus route toward the south: Persian legacy and Hellenistic innovations in Central Asia", in M. Minardi & A. Ivantchik (eds.) 2018, *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 24/1-2, 87-154. ●
14. **Minardi, M.** & Amirov, S. 2017. "The Zoroastrian funerary building of Angka Malaya", *Topoi. Orient-Occident* 21/1: 11-49. ●
15. **Minardi, M.**, Betts, A.V.G. & Khozhaniyazov, G. 2017. "Columned halls in Ancient Chorasmia", *Iran. Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* 55/2: 208-226.
16. Betts, A.V.G., Grenet, F., Yagodin, V.N., Kidd, F., **Minardi, M.**, Bonnat, M. & Khashimov, S. 2016. "The Akchakhan-kala wall paintings: new perspectives on kingship and religion in Ancient Chorasmia", *Journal of Inner Asia Art and Archaeology* 7: 125-165. ●
17. **Minardi, M.** 2016. "New data on the Central Monument of Akchakhan-kala", *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 26: 133-158. ●
18. **Minardi, M.** 2016. "Elite, wine consumption and status symbols in Ancient Chorasmia", *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 22/2: 262-294. ●
19. **Minardi, M.** 2016. "The Hellenistic Chorasmian *ketos* of Akchakhan-kala", *Iranica Antiqua* 51: 165-200. ●

20. **Minardi, M.** & Khozhaniyazov, G. 2015. "The Central Monument of Akchakhan-kala: fire temple, image shrine, or neither?", *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 25: 121-146. ●
21. Betts, A.V.G., Bonnat, M., Kidd, F., Grenet, F., Khashimov, S., Khozhaniyazov, G. & **Minardi, M.** 2015 [in gender & alphabetic order]. "Des divinités avestiques sur les peintures murales d' Akchakhan-kala, Ouzbékistan", *Comptes rendus des séances de l' Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* III: 1369-1396. ●
22. **Minardi, M.** 2015. "A silver rhyton from Afghanistan held in the Cleveland Museum of Art and its historical context", *Journal Asiatique* 303: 59-86.
23. **Minardi, M.** 2013. "A four-armed goddess from Ancient Chorasmia. History, iconography and style of an Ancient Chorasmian icon", *Iran. Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* 51: 111-143.
24. **Minardi, M.** & Carandini, A. 2007. "La casa privata di Servio Tullio e la sua Fortuna", *Workshop di Archeologia Classica* 4: 17-52.

#### Festschriften (● = peer-reviewed)

1. **Minardi, M.** (2025). "On a possible progenitor of *ketos* at Kelermes: observations on the origin and iconographic transmissions of a Greek mythical creature", in Mordvintseva, V., Ivanova, A. and Smirnov, S. (eds.) *Greeks and Barbarians Networking on the Shores of the Black Sea and Beyond. Ἐπισκῆθισον: Studies Presented to Askold Ivantchik on His Sixtieth Birthday, May 2, 2025*, Brill, Leiden-Boston: 271-286. ●
2. Olivieri, L.M. & **Minardi, M.** 2023. "Scavare a Bīr-koṭ-ghwanḡai. Le fasi tardo-antiche", in Colliva, L., Filigenzi, A. and Olivieri L.M. (eds.) *Le forme della città: Iran, Asia centrale e Gandhara* (Nuova Serie Orientale Roma), ISMEO, Rome: 601-635.
3. Grenet, F. & **Minardi, M.** 2022. "An illustration of the *āb-zōhr* and of some Avestan formulas on a wall painting at Akchakhan-kala (Chorasmia, early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)", in A. Cantera, M. Macuch and N. Sims-Williams (eds.), *The Reward of the Righteous. Festschrift in Honour of Almut Hintze* (Iranica 30), Harassowitz, Wiesbaden: 195-212.
4. **Minardi, M.**, Betts, A.V.G., Grenet, F. & Khashimov, S. 2018. "A new Chorasmian wall painting from Akchakhan-kala", in S. Gondet & E. Haerincq (eds.), *L'Orient est son jardin. Hommage à Rémy Bouchardat* (Acta Iranica 58), Peeters, Leuven: 305-324. ●

#### Non-peer-reviewed contributions & notes

1. **Minardi, M.** 2025. "Missione Archeologica Congiunta Italo-Karakalpaka in Corasmia", *Notiziario della Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione in Beni Archeologici 'Tra Oriente e Occidente'* 1: 28.
2. **Minardi, M.** 2025. "ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Missione Archeologica Italiana in Pakistan", *Notiziario della Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione in Beni Archeologici 'Tra Oriente e Occidente'* 1: 28.
3. Filigenzi, A., Sernicola, L., Beldados, A., Loreto, R., **Minardi, M.** & Castelluccia, M. (2023). "Archaeology and sustainable development: a covenant for the future", *Journal of Universities and International Cooperation* 1-2: 19-45.
4. Iskanderova, A., Betts, A., **Minardi, M.** et al. 2023. "Раскопки на городище Акшахан-кала в 2022 году", *Archaeological Researches In Uzbekistan* 15: 90-94.
5. **Minardi, M.** 2025. Note for ISMEO Activities 2025, *East and West* 65/2
6. **Minardi, M.** 2024. Note for ISMEO Activities 2024, *East and West* 64/2
7. **Minardi, M.** 2023. Note for ISMEO Activities 2023, *East and West* 63/2, p. 205.
8. **Minardi, M.** 2019. "The Karakalpak-Australian Expedition Archaeological Survey on the Sultan-uiz-dag/Sultan-uvais range: a brief overview", in A. Iskanderova (ed.) 2019, *Istorija i arkheologija Priaral'ja*, Nukus: 152-158.
9. Amirov, Sh., Betts, A.V.G., Khozhaniyazov, G. and **Minardi, M.** 2019. "Arkheologicheskoe obledovanie gor Sultanuizdaga", in A. Iskanderova (ed.) 2019, *Istorija i arkheologija Priaral'ja*, Nukus: 47-55.
10. **Minardi, M.** 2016. "The recent contributions of archaeology to the study of Zoroastrianism in Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan", *Актуальные вопросы археологии, этнографии, истории и историографии южного Приаралья [Current issues of Archaeology, Ethnography, History and Historiography of the Southern Pre-Aral Areal, Ajiniyaz State Pedagogical Institute, Nukus, 22-23 November 2016]*, Nukus: 10-14.

#### Book reviews (invited)

1. For *Topoi. Orient-Occident* (École française d'archéologie d'Athènes), 28, 2026: *Kings of Cities and Rulers of the Steppes: Representations of Kingship in Pre-Islamic Central Asia*, by Michael Shenkar, Schriften zur vorderasiatischen Archäologie 22, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2025.
2. For the *Bulletin of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies* (IICAS, UNESCO), 29, 2020: "Masters" and "Natives": *Digging the Others' Past*, edited by Svetlana Gorshenina, Philippe Bornet, Michel E. Fuchs, and Claude Rapiin, De Gruyter, Berlin 2019.
3. For the *American Journal of Archaeology* 121.1, 2017: *The Greeks in Asia*, by John Boardman, Thames & Hudson, London 2015.
4. For *The Classical Review* 2015: *Greco-Scythian Art and the Birth of Eurasia. From Classical Antiquity to Russian Modernity*, by Caspar Meyer, Oxford Studies in Ancient Culture & Representation, Oxford.

### Non-academic articles (in specialized magazines)

1. "Missione Congiunta Italo-Karakalpaka in Antica Corasmia". *Archeo Monografie* n. 56 (Agosto/Settembre 2023: L'archeologia italiana nel mondo).
2. (With L.M. Olivieri and E. Iori) "Passaggio in Swat. Antichità buddhista. Archeologia in Oriente". *Archeologia Viva* 213 (maggio/giugno 2022 – Anno XL).
3. "Antica Corasmia", *Archeologia Viva* 207 (maggio/aprile 2021 – Anno XL).
4. (With L.M. Olivieri) "Acropoli di Barikot. Un microcosmo di riflessi asiatici", *Archeologia Viva* 206 (marzo/aprile 2021 - Anno XL).

## CONFERENCES & TALKS

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### As invited speaker/lecturer

1. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale" & the University of Salerno](#)  
**"Or.Sa." (postgraduate school of archaeology Orientale-Salerno) conference series**, 28 January 2026  
"Barikot: lo scavo di un centro urbano dell'antico Uddiyāna (Swat, Pakistan)"
2. [Castel Madama \(Rome\), ISMEO & Ca' Foscari University of Venice](#)  
**The Ways of Swat: 70th Anniversary Celebration of the ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan**, 13 December 2025. Chairman/moderator of Session 3.
3. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale" University](#)  
**Workshop: Water, Society and Human Security in Central Asia**, 27-28 November 2025  
"L'Orientale' in Central Asia: cooperation and perspective in the fields of Archaeology and Ancient History" (@roundtable).
4. [Paris-Nanterre University, France](#)  
**Workshop: "De la 'tiare' à la couronne"**, 5 December 2025  
"Martial vs. Courtly Attire in the Achaemenid World: From Diadems, Kyrbasia, and the 'Saka Hood' to the Concept of Function-Specific Dress"
5. [Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik, Innsbruck University, Austria](#)  
**International conference: The Achaemenid Persian Empire and its Non-Western Borderlands: A Change of Paradigm**, 20-23 November 2025.  
"How Persian Was Chorasmia? Reassessing the Achaemenid imprint in northeastern Central Asia Through Fieldwork"
6. [Xi'an, China, Northwest University](#),  
**International conference: Southern Central Asia: Crossroads of Civilizations, Landscapes and Innovations**, 25-29 June 2025.  
"Power, economy and territoriality in the early periods of Ancient Chorasmia: landscape and landmarks in context".
7. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Roundtable: from Field to File**, 20 May 2025.  
"From field to file: an overview of ongoing research".
8. [Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Mashad, Iran](#)  
**ISMEO Conference Series**, 9 April 2025.  
"Urbanism and fortifications in Ancient Chorasmia: reflections on pre-Islamic settlement patterns and military behaviour in Central Asia".
9. [Wrocław/Breslau, Poland](#)  
**International conference: Transformation of Empire from the Seleucids to the Umayyads: Between and Beyond Empires (2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BCE – 7<sup>th</sup> cent. CE)**, 3-7 December 2024.  
"The Origins of Chorasmian Art: A Socio-Cultural Inquiry." [Participation cancelled by the invitee due to unforeseen fieldwork circumstances].
10. [The Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism, USA](#)  
**Talk/presentation** (on-line), 20 July 2024.  
"Exploring the archaeology of early Zoroastrianism: insights from fieldwork in Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan (Ancient Chorasmia)."
11. [Sessa Aurunca \(NA\), Italy](#)  
**ISMEO, "L'Orientale" and INALCO Summer School: Language, History, Culture, and Archaeology of Afghanistan**, 8-12 July 2024. "Achaemenid and Alexandrian Afghanistan: written sources and archaeology."
12. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**CSACTI Summer School: Power, Economy and Society in Central Asia: Past and Present**, 2-5 July 2024.  
"The Achaemenids in Central Asia: written sources and archaeology".
13. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Doctoral Seminars on the Ancient Near East**, 16 May 2024.  
"The Achaemenid cultural legacy in Central Asia and India in the period following Alexander's conquest".

14. [Nukus, Uzbekistan](#)  
**International conference: Goodwill Ambassadors of the Aral Sea**, 17 April 2024.  
"Archaeological fieldwork in Karakalpakstan; joint projects and future perspectives".
15. [University of Toronto, Canada](#)  
**Materiality and Practice in Buddhism: Gandhara and Beyond**, 8-9 March 2024.  
"The East Huns in Uddiyana: builders and patrons of Buddhism. New and old data from archaeological fieldwork".
16. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Bronzeworking Centres of Eurasia**, webinar series organized by M. Castelluccia, M. Ciffarelli & J. Curtis, 27 February 2024.  
"Central Asia from the late II millennium BC to 539 BC".
17. [University of Salerno, Italy](#)  
**Round Table: L'ellenismo orientale: fatti e fattoidi**, 19 February 2024. With A. Filigenzi & L. Gallo.
18. [Almaty, Kazakhstan, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University](#)  
**International Symposium, Faculty of International Relations**, 6 October 2023.  
"Current archaeological fieldwork of "L'Orientale" in Central Asia and further possible new collaborations in the area".
19. [Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Italian Embassy in Uzbekistan & World Diplomacy University](#)  
**International Conference: History and Archaeology. Cultural Heritage and Valorization of Territories**, 10 October 2023.  
"Archaeological activities of the newly founded ISMEO Italian-Karakalpak Archaeological Mission in Ancient Chorasmia".
20. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Nowruz 1402. L'Iran tra storia, cultura e società**, 20-21 March 2023.  
"Note sulla possibile celebrazione di un Nowruz corasmio nel I secolo d.C."
21. [University of Salerno, Italy](#)  
**Talk/presentation** to the students of the postgraduate school of archaeology ("*Scuola di Specializzazione interateneo Orientale-Salerno*"), 3 March 2023. "*Attività di scavo e ricerca della cattedra di Archeologia iranica*".
22. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale" & ISMEO](#)  
**Round table: Imperi vs. confederazioni: realtà o mito?**, 21 December 2022. Convener: G.P. Basello; moderator: A. Rossi.
23. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale" & the Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences](#)  
**CSACTI (Centro Studi su Asia Centrale, Caucaso, Turchia, Tibet e Iran) Lectures**, 1 December 2022.  
"Archaeological fieldwork in Karakalpakstan: a contribution to the reconstruction of the religious history of pre-Islamic Central Asia".
24. [Naples, Italy, Szeged University, "L'Orientale" & ISMEO](#)  
**European Workshop on Mediaeval Nomadism**, 23-25 November 2022.  
"The East Huns in Uddiyana: builders and patrons of Buddhism. A case study from the urban context of ancient Bazira".
25. [Venice, Italy, Ca' Foscari University](#)  
**Lecture for Master's students**, 17 May 2022, chair of Archaeology of India and Central Asia, Professor Luca M. Olivieri.  
"The 'Painted House' of Old Kandahar in context".
26. [Naples, Italy, University Federico II & "L'Orientale"](#)  
**7<sup>th</sup> CUCS (Italian University Network for Development Cooperation) Conference**, 21-23 April 2022.  
Round table: "Archaeology and sustainable development: a covenant for the future".
27. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Talk/presentation** at the postgraduate school of archaeology (*Scuola di Specializzazione interateneo Orientale - Salerno*), 24 January 2022. "Zoroastrianism and Archaeology".
28. [Zahedan, Iran, University of Sistan and Baluchestan](#)  
**Archaeology of Iran and of the adjacent regions**, 20-21 July 2020.  
"Chorasmia and the *Vendīdād*. Funerary archaeology and Avestan prescriptions".
29. [Venice, Italy, Ca' Foscari University](#)  
**Lecture for Master's students**, 29 April 2020, chair of Archaeology of India and Central Asia, Professor Luca M. Olivieri.  
"Eastern Hellenism in Central Asia: the case of Chorasmia".
30. [Biruni, Uzbekistan](#)  
**The Pre-Aral Area, crossroads of civilization/Приаралье на перекрестке цивилизации**,  
20 September 2019. "The image of the Zoroastrian god Srōsh: some new elements" (with Frantz Grenet).
31. [Berlin, Germany, Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin](#)  
**Re-Search. Archäologie in Zentralasien und im Südkaukasus**, 4-5 June 2019.  
"Architecture and imagery at Akchakhan-kala".
32. [Nukus, Uzbekistan, Academy of Sciences](#)  
**Talk in honour of G. Khozhaniyazov's 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee**, 7 September 2018. "Professor Khozhaniyazov's contribution to the scientific achievements of the Karakalpak-Australian Expedition to Ancient Chorasmia".
33. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**Lecture for PhD students**, 27 June 2018. *Nomadi-Sedentari (un dualismo che caratterizza le società antiche. Come le diverse discipline studiano queste componenti attraverso lo studio di casi specifici?)*. "*Il nomadismo dei corasm*".
34. [Mumbai \(Bombay\), India, K. R. Cama Oriental Institute](#)  
**From Nisa to Niya: reappraising cultural conduits and commercial centres along the Silk Road**, 6-7 January 2018. "Wall paintings and modelled sculptures from Central Asia: on the origin of their iconography and on its transmission".

35. [Oxford, UK, Corpus Christi College](#)  
Seminar for the **Empires of Faith Project** (British Museum & Oxford University), 15 November 2017.  
"Chorasmian gods. Images of Zoroastrian deities throughout antiquity".
36. [Berlin, German Archaeological Institute](#)  
**Ritual matters: archaeology and religion in Hellenistic Central Asia**, 2-4 November 2017.  
"Chorasmian ritual and funerary spaces: recent discoveries and new lines of research".
37. [Ellikala, Uzbekistan, town hall](#)  
**Culture and tourism day**, 8 September 2017.  
"Sultain-uiz-dag 2017: current archaeological activities on the 'Black Mountains' of Karakalpakstan".
38. [Bordeaux, France, Ausonius Institute UMR 5607](#)  
*Journée des idées*, 5 September 2017.  
"*Interactions culturelles complexes en Asie centrale. Le paradigme chorasmien*".
39. [Nukus, Uzbekistan, Ajiniyaz State Pedagogical Institute](#)  
**Current issues of Archaeology, ethnography, history and historiography of the Southern Pre-Aral Area**, 22-23 November 2016. "The recent contributions of archaeology to the study of Zoroastrianism in Uzbekistan/Karakalpakstan".
40. [Bordeaux, France, Ausonius Institute UMR 5607](#)  
**Ancient Chorasmia, Central Asia and the steppes**, 17-18 October 2016 (organizer, member of the scientific committee).  
"Ancient Chorasmia and the Oxus route toward the south".
41. [Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences](#)  
**10th ICAANE** (International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East), 25-29 April 2016.  
"The north-eastern border of the Achaemenid empire: introducing the Chorasmian Late Iron Age".
42. [Oxford, UK, Wolfson College](#)  
**A Central Asian trade hub: Khwarazm in the Late Antique and Early Islamic period**, 29 November 2014.  
"The Chorasmian Era and the end of Zoroastrianism in Ancient Chorasmia: a re-examination of the available evidence".
43. [Sydney, Australia, University of Sydney](#)  
**Near Eastern Seminar Series (NESS)**, 24 November 2011. "A four-armed goddess from Chorasmia: Ancient Chorasmia in Late Antiquity in the light of the Siberian finds".

#### Other talks & peer-reviewed presentations

44. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**L'Orientale Open Week 2026, 10 February 2026**  
"Introduzione all'Archeologia dell'Asia centrale".
45. [Ca' Foscari, University of Venice, Italy](#)  
**ASIAC (Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia) conference: Connections, Mobilities, and Infrastructures in Central Asia and the Caucasus throughout the Centuries**, 10 December 2024.  
"A road to Asia in Late Antiquity: the neglected norther branch of the so-called Silk Road". [Participation cancelled by the invitee due to unforeseen fieldwork circumstances].
46. [Naples, Italy, "L'Orientale"](#)  
**EASAA (European Association of South Asian Archaeology) Conference 2018**, 2-6 July. Peer-reviewed presentation, "Notes on the formation of Zoroastrian imagery at Akchakhan-kala".
47. [Cardiff, UK, Cardiff University](#)  
**EASAA (European Association of South Asian Archaeology) Conference**, 4-8 July 2016.  
Peer-reviewed presentation, "The Ancient Chorasmian unbaked-clay modelled sculptures: Hellenistic cultural impacts on an Iranian polity".
48. [Vienna, Austria, Austrian Academy of Sciences](#)  
**10th ICAANE** (International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East), 25-29 April 2016.  
Peer-reviewed presentation, "New data on the Central Monument of Akchakhan-kala in Ancient Chorasmia".
49. [Atlanta, USA](#)  
**ASOR (American Schools of Oriental Research) Annual Meeting**, 18-21 November 2015.  
Peer-reviewed presentation, "Excavations in Ancient Chorasmia: The Central Monument of Akchakhan-kala in the light of the 2014 and 2015 excavation seasons".
50. [Genève & Bern, Swiss, University of Genève & University of Bern](#)  
**61st RAI (Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale)** 22-26 June 2015.  
Peer-reviewed presentation, "Excavations in Ancient Chorasmia: The Central Monument of Akchakhan-kala".
51. [Sydney, Australia, University of Sydney](#)  
**Ancient History Study Day**, 1 June 2011. Talk to the Lucas Height Community School students: "Archaeology of Central Asia".

+ [Nukus/Tashkent/Biruni, Uzbekistan & Barikot/Saidu Sharif, Pakistan](#): **several press** and **TV interviews** aired on Uzbek and Pakistani national and local television channels.

+ panel [chairman](#) in several international events.

## PERSONAL SKILLS

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Mother tongue: **Italian**

Other languages:

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening - Reading		Spoken interaction - Spoken production		
<b>English</b>	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
<b>French</b>	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
<b>Russian</b>	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user. Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

### Job-related skills and software proficiency

Field archaeologist/archaeological surveyor with experience in topographic survey, photogrammetry, and 3D documentation. Skilled in using total stations (Leica, Trimble etc.), GPS equipment, drones, lidar and laser scanners and related software. Additionally proficient in software such as AutoCAD (with professional experience), MetashapePro, QGIS, Adobe Illustrator & Photoshop, CorelDraw, Blender, Meshlab, CloudCompare and SketchUp.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- [Driving licence](#) categories A and B.