

# BASOR Editorship Proposal

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We firmly believe in the successful concept of Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR) being a peer-reviewed illustrated publication including technical articles covering the entire Near East and eastern Mediterranean world from the Paleolithic period through Islamic times. By connecting the best creative minds, we wish to continue the balanced representation of all fields and regions covered by this journal. At the same time, we encourage leading senior *and* junior scholars alike to contribute with their original and innovative research results to BASOR.

**§1 A JOURNAL FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY:** Our first goal is to consolidate the position of BASOR as a leading academic journal by improving its presence and distribution through modern channels, and by encouraging contributions that include modern digital tools and which suggest innovative methods and theoretical approaches. In line with the current trends in the field, we would like to consolidate the position of the journal as a modern outlet of scientific research by encouraging the submission of contributions pertaining to the so-called Digital Humanities and making use of computational techniques in their analyses. The introduction of digital techniques means that it is possible to work with large amounts of raw data. The solution that is emerging in other scientific fields is to give the authors the option to store such data as online supplements to their articles. In an effort to make the journal more attractive to both readers and authors, we would like to strengthen the impact of open access contributions. Allowing authors to publish their contributions in the form of open access can also contribute to better financial stability of the journal

**§2 STRENGTHENING THE DIVERSITY OF THE JOURNAL BOTH TODAY AND IN THE PAST:** Our second goal is to strengthen the journal diversity both from the perspective of the readership and contributions, and from the perspective of its approaches to the ancient world. A crucial part of BASOR is its review section. Currently, the journal seems to focus mostly on reviews of books in English. In order to improve a more diverse and balanced vision on the research in the field, we would like to increase the number of reviews of books written in other “Wissenschaftssprachen”. We would also like to encourage papers that deal with ancient liminal, transcultural or geographically and socially peripheral realities.

**§3 STRONG POINTS OF THE TEAM:** We are an internationally heterogeneous group of editors with backgrounds in ANE Studies, Egyptology, and Near Eastern Archaeology and the area of expertise of our editorial team covers both archaeology (both concerning excavations and analysis of the material) and written sources (both Egypt and the cuneiform world) as well as history in the three main areas of the Ancient Near East, namely Mesopotamia and Syria,

the Levant, and Egypt. We have plenty of experience in editing (see the attached CVs); we cover a wide international scientific network; we are members of scientific committees or editorial boards of numerous journals and monograph series; we share a common interest in the various social networks and sociocultural spaces in the Levant with special consideration of the study of cultural interactions and contact areas between ancient societies; we are experienced to work in interdisciplinary contexts; there is a previous collaboration on a number of projects.

#### **§4 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Our team is organized in two levels. The co-editors represent the first line of interaction with the authors, while the associate editors provide support to co-editors in the management of the journal, including the editorial process. In particular, the main responsibilities of the co-editors are:

- supervising the editorial process;
- handling the incoming articles and reviews in accordance with the BASOR guidelines, implementing policies and procedures that are in compliance with the ethical standards;
- reviewing the contents;
- finding suitable reviewers;
- planning and assisting in the production and other related administrative duties;
- and most of all in the effective communication with the respective authors and the Publications Committee.

To ensure this, a joint email account and access to the editorial system will be set up that allows all of the editors (both co-editors and associate editors) to access the data and bring the work-in-progress to its successful completion. The co-editors rely on and collaborate closely with the associate editors. In particular, the associate editors will be crucial in the following:

- consulting in regard to their topics of expertise;
- finding experts in their respective academic fields;
- cross-checking when their respective fields of expertise overlap;
- seeking recommendation to improve the quality of content and to ensure the readability of submissions;
- checking thoroughly the contributions with respect to their content and presentation;

This organization allows also for temporary adjustment and distribution of the workload. The fact that the editorial team consists of four people allows us to temporarily transfer editorial duties among the members of the team whenever needed. This solution guarantees an uninterrupted and timely publication of BASOR issues and thus the achievement of the objectives set out by the journal. Direct communication between all editors will be ensured by regular Skype sessions and at the Annual ASOR meeting as well as other academic events such as the RAI, ICAANE and similar. This will allow the editors to market the journal by advertising and disseminating it to the prospective authors and readers.

