

SIZE MATTERS

WORKSHOP
EXTRA-LARGE
PROJECTS IN
THE ANCIENT
WORLD
OCTOBER
9–11, 2017

The Discussion forum “Size Matters: XXL Projects in the Ancient World”, organized by the Research Group (B-2) XXL – Monumentalized Knowledge: Extra-Large Projects in Ancient Civilizations, examines building projects and other major construction tasks, looking in particular at their social significance within ancient societies as seen through multi- and inter-disciplinary research approaches. In discussion sessions the results of the research group will be presented as well as new perspectives from other scholars. In particular, the social significance of large-scale projects and their internal and external impact will be considered. Did major construction projects have a stabilizing effect on society? How much power, work and energy was actually needed? Does big mean monumental automatically? These are just some of the questions that will be raised in the “Size Matters: XXL Projects in the Ancient World” forum.

BLOG: [HTTPS://XXL.HYPOTHESES.ORG](https://xxl.hypotheses.org)

CALENDAR: [WWW.TOPOI.ORG/EVENT/41513/](http://www.topoi.org/event/41513/)

TOPOI BUILDING DAHLEM
HITTORFSTR. 18
14195 BERLIN

CONVENOR
EXCELLENCE CLUSTER TOPOI
(B-2) XXL - MONUMENTALIZED KNOWLEDGE
EVA CANCIK-KIRSCHBAUM

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TOPOI

Freie Universität



Berlin



MO 09/10/2017

9.00–12.30 **SESSION 1**
INTRODUCTION, ORIENTATION IN XXL
TERMINOLOGY

Chair Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum

KickOff Hauke Ziemssen, Heike Delitz

Discussants Sabrina N. Autenrieth, Ioulia Kaoura, Kirrily White, Rachel Lane, Felix Levenson

Questions Terminology: monumentality – big buildings – mega-structures – megalomania and do these have positive or negative connotations? Does this change over time? Is big necessarily big? Why do we need big buildings? Big architecture? Who profits from it? Temporal understanding of monumentality. Was what we consider to be monumental today also considered monumental when it was constructed? Position in the landscape and sustainability – how long did these buildings “live”?

12.30–13.30 LUNCH

TUE 10/10/2017

9.00–12.30 **SESSION 3**
MONUMENTALITY OF SIZE AND COMPLEXITY

Chair Stella E. Nair

KickOff Bernhard Heeb, Monica Pacheco, Reinhard Bernbeck

Discussants Güzin Eren, Jordan Pickett, Alexander Syrovatko, Marina Daragan, Federico Buccellati

Questions Does monumentality need a minimum size? Materials in monumentality: Relation between building and material resources. Technical and technological effort of monumentality? Costs, work and knowledge for large and/or monumental projects: Is big necessarily expensive? Energetics of Construction?

12.30–13.30 LUNCH

WED 11/10/2017

9.00–10.00 **FOCUSED DISCUSSION SESSION**

Summaries of Session 1–4 by the chairs

10.00–13.00 **PAPER SESSION**

Parallel work to outline papers for each session

13.30–17.30 **SESSION 2**
MEGALOMANIA AND URBANIZATION /
LARGE TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

Chair Nomen nominandum

KickOff Christian Freigang, Stephan G. Schmid, Mirko Novák

Discussants Silke Haps, Catharine Hof, Marcello Mogetta, René Ohlrau, Felix Levenson

Questions Mega-buildings and mega-structures? Planning and construction: Complexity of societies as an indicator? Fiction vs. reality: Monuments and monumentality in and outside the urban sphere. City-planning as a frame for mega-structures: Planned and unplanned monumentality?

13.30–17.30 **SESSION 4**
“MAKING MONUMENTALITY VISIBLE” FROM
A MODERN POINT OF VIEW

Chair Markus Hilgert

KickOff Sebastian Hageneuer, Sylva van der Heyden

Discussants Laura Cousin, Kyra Gospodar, Alice Mandell

Questions How to measure visible and invisible monumentality? Maps, borders? Scales of monumentality. Reconstruction in archaeology: How can we reconstruct bigness or monumentality? How can we present monumentality in a museum? How can we study monumentality?

19.00 DINNER FOR THE PARTICIPANTS