

Curating the Prehistoric Past



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**Studies on West Asian Archaeology and Beyond
in Honour of Yoshihiro Nishiaki**

Editorial Collective

Seiji Kadowaki, Masashi Abe, Chie Akashi, Saiji Arai, Yui Arimatsu,
Yasuhisa Kondo, Shogo Kume, Takehiro Miki, Hiroto Nakata,
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Front cover photos: A Neolithic settlement of Tell Seker-al Aheimar in the Upper Khabur Valley in Syria (photo by Kazuya Shimogama) along with a large clay female figurine excavated from a Late PPNB level at the site (© Yoshihiro Nishiaki)

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PREFACE

This volume is dedicated to Professor Yoshihiro Nishiaki on the occasion of his completion of the term of full professorship at The University of Tokyo in March 2026.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Professor Nishiaki has made outstanding and far-reaching contributions to the study of West Asian prehistoric archaeology. He has led The University of Tokyo's archaeological field expeditions across Syria, Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan, producing a substantial body of influential research. In addition to his fieldwork, he has devoted great effort to the curation of extensive archaeological collections at The University Museum, The University of Tokyo. His leadership in numerous international and interdisciplinary projects has fostered broad research networks and strengthened global academic collaboration.

Through these research and educational activities, Professor Nishiaki has provided students and young scholars with invaluable opportunities, experiences, and materials for their studies. His mentorship has inspired many to develop their own academic paths in West Asian archaeology, ranging not only from his specialty in lithic analysis but also to diverse fields such as pottery studies, zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, ritual practices, and settlement archaeology.

This Festschrift brings together research papers contributed by scholars who have benefited from Professor Nishiaki's guidance, encouragement, and friendship. It is presented in deep gratitude for his lifelong dedication to research, education, and the advancement of archaeological scholarship. We hope this volume will reflect the breadth of his academic vision and the lasting influence he has had on the study as well as the curation of prehistory in West Asia and beyond.

Editorial Collective

Seiji Kadowaki, Masashi Abe, Chie Akashi, Saiji Arai, Yui Arimatsu, Yasuhisa Kondo, Shogo Kume, Takehiro Miki, Hiroto Nakata, Takahiro Odaka and Kazuya Shimogama



Professor Yoshihiro Nishiaki at Dash Salakhly cave, Azerbaijan, in 2023.

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Part I: **Research by Professor Yoshihiro Nishiaki**

Selected Publications by Professor Yoshihiro Nishiaki

Authored/Edited books

- Nishiaki, Y., A. Zeynalov and Y. Mammadov (eds.) 2025. *Damjili Cave – Investigating the Late Pleistocene to Holocene Human History in the Southern Caucasus*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Zeynalov, A., Y. Nishiaki and Y. Mammadov 2025. *Azykh and Taglar Caves in the Karabakh*. Baku: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan.
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