

# JORDAN SUMMER TOUR 2022

## THE DECAPOLIS

### AN EXAMPLE OF LOCAL RESILIENCE?

This workshop aims at exploring the period from the death of Alexander the Great in 323BC till the fall of Palmyra in 272AD (conventionally called Hellenistic and Roman period).

During this period, there is a conscious attempt to globalize a specific culture, which deepens its roots in the Hellenic distinction between polites (the “citizens” - the Greek) and barbaroi (“those that are not Greek”). As Godelier stated in 1974, the ancient Greece did not give birth to the culture, it gave birth to the Occident.

With the Hellenistic reigns, the Hellenic culture defines the so-called inhabited world (“oikumene” in ancient Greek) versus the rest of the world. A concept that Roman cultural program will enhance with ramifications in all the aspects of the daily life.

The Decapolis, a league of ten Greek cities that was formed after the Roman conquest of Palestine in 63BC, well represent this cultural program.

It is possible to draw a parallel to more recent times. The Hellenistic approach recalls the elitist European colonialism (going back as early as the XV century) with a powerful elite (numerically irrelevant) presenting itself as intellectuals and depository of the only cultural model to aspire to.

The Romans approach recalls modern United States of America with its ramifications into the daily life through pop culture. The “Romanization” of the world happened on two distinct levels, at the political level (through wars and annexation) but also at the local level with the introduction of new deities, traditions, techniques etc.

Material culture, and especially architecture, very well express these approaches.

By combining study tours and firsthand experience both of archaeological excavation and conservation, this workshop is an opportunity to explore how and why material culture and the stratigraphic contexts can shed light on different selected themes, as follows:

- 1 - Decline of polis status and recognition of the Decapolis by Pompey (Religious state vs. Lay state)
- 2 - Pre-existing Hellenistic urban scheme (Decapolis) vs. Adaption of Roman urban design
- 3 - Organic design vs. Geometric patterns
- 4 - Decapolis and cultural appurtenance (Great and little traditions)
- 5 - The Roman cultural program and its urban expression (Global history and multiple narratives – Historical relativism)

During the first week, multidisciplinary groups will be formed including participants from different fields, archaeology, architecture, anthropology, history, religious studies, media, and community development. Each group will work on a project based on the proposed themes that will be defined within the first week. Each project will involve different components to which every participant will contribute within their field of specialty. Each group will produce a presentation for the mini-conference and a poster for the final exhibition in addition to a bilingual brochure or guide booklet to be used for future reference.





# PROGRAMS

Each program includes the Decapolis tour and field experience. Click on the number to access the full program



**01**

**8 WEEKS**  
**US\$7200**

Decapolis tour + 3 weeks of field work with Andrews University's Jordan Field School at Tell Hesban + 4 weeks of conservation work in Petra



**02**

**5 WEEKS**  
**4850US\$**

Decapolis tour + 3 weeks of field work with Andrews University's Jordan Field School at Tell Hesban + 1 week of conservation work in Petra



**03**

**4 WEEKS**  
**4250US\$**

Decapolis tour + 3 weeks of field work with Andrews University's Jordan Field School at Tell Hesban at Tell Hesban



**04**

**5 WEEKS**  
**6000US\$**

Decapolis tour + 4 weeks of fieldwork experience in conservation in Petra

