



Broadening Horizons 4

4th Conference of Young Researchers Working
in the Ancient Near East

New technologies in archaeological research at Palmyra: the case of the Italian-Syrian Mission PAL.M.A.I.S.

The new research project, started at Palmyra in 2007 by the Italian-Syrian joint mission PAL.M.A.I.S. (<http://users.unimi.it/progettopalmyra/>) is focused on the study of a never systematically investigated area, the South-West Quarter (114.000 m²), whose halfway position, between the Hellenistic city to the S and the Roman quarter to the N, seems crucial to understand the Palmyra's urban development during the different historical periods.

After the survey carried out in 2007, which led to the first topographic plan of the quarter by identifying all the structural remains *in situ*, in 2008 a new stratigraphic excavation began in the most monumental structure of the area, the so called Peristyle Building, located near the southern tract of the Diocletian's Wall and dated between the 2nd-3rd century AD and the late Byzantine and early Islamic period.

The most modern computer technologies have been systematically applied to the research project for the acquisition and management of the archaeological data fully integrated into a GIS system specifically designed. The wide use of these technological applications represents an important innovation in the fieldwork at Palmyra.

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