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**Images in the Neo-Hittite Sources: Rhetoric, Iconography and their Relationship**

This lecture deals with the research project I’m developing in my PhD Thesis. It is aimed to investigate textual figures of speech and their possible relationship with symbolic iconographic elements.

First of all, I shall introduce the cultural context of the sources which are object of my analysis, explaining the notion of “Neo-Hittite” world from a historical and a geographical point of view. Second, I will spend some words about the written sources I am dealing with, namely the so-called Iron age “Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions”: in particular, we will see how this hieroglyphic writing system works and what kind of language it expresses.

Third, I will explain the aim of my research: basically, it consists of analysing figures of speech that can be found in the texts, but it is also aimed to identify the ideological valence of those rhetoric devices, as well as their relationship with iconographic elements. As a result, we will see that often text and image represent an integrated way of communication. I will show my methodology by presenting three different examples of my analysis.