

## Régine HUNZIKER-RODEWALD – current projects



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### Academic Performance (selection)

#### Current Research

##### 1. FIGURINE21 (since 2012)

Establishment of the FIGURINE21 database, which will be made available online, and a website showcasing female terracotta figurines from the Iron Age discovered in Transjordan; in collaboration with the University of Basel (Peter Fornaro, Digital Humanities Lab). The database, already extensively compiled (>300 out of >450 items), will be augmented through photographing and further research in collections and museums across the Near East. The data will be progressively published online.

*On an international level, this is the sole virtual collection, enriched with interactive Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photographs, of Transjordanian female figurines; the interface will be available in both English and Arabic.*

##### 2. KAI REVISED (since 2021)

Establishment of a new edition, completely revised, expanded, and updated, for the authoritative work on Northwest Semitic sources (outside the Hebrew Bible) *Kanaanäische und Aramäische Inschriften* (KAI); in collaboration with Florian Lippke [University of Fribourg, CH]; complemented by Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photographs. The work will be published in fascicles by Harrassowitz starting in 2025.

*This comprehensive reference tool incorporates philological, paleographical, archaeological, iconographic, and historical data, utilizing relevant source material for Phoenician, (neo-)Punic, Moabite, Hebrew, and Aramaic cultures; it will be edited in English.*

##### 3. KAHAL FRENCH (since 2022)

Creation of a dictionary of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic, consisting of the French edition of the Concise and updated edition of the Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (KAHAL), edited by R.R.

Hunziker-Rodewald and E. Shuali; in collaboration with P. Keith, F. Laurent, N. Yerokine, G. Carriou, C. Mourlam, and F. Biver-Pettinger. The work is scheduled to be published by Brill in 2027/2028.

*This dictionary meets a profound need for teaching and research in the field of Semitic languages, particularly Biblical Hebrew, within the French-speaking world.*

#### 4. CTU, new project (since 2023)

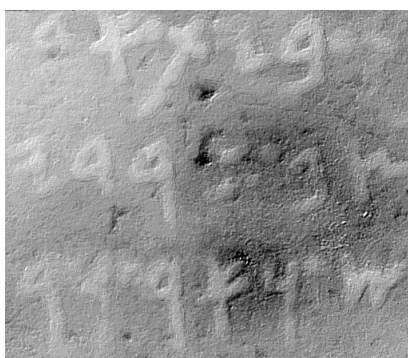
Coping-With-The-Unknown (Dictionary, Engl./French; R.R. Hunziker-Rodewald, A.C. Aioanei, N. Yerokine, G. Carriou, Y. Callot, M.-C. Gaudelet, 2023ff.): Contemporary discussions on interpreting and describing cave graphs often incorporate religiously infused metaphors and terminology such as "magic," "sanctuary," "myth", and "ritual," even when addressing non-religious aspects of the observable phenomena. This investigation employs cognitive semiotics and linguistic methodologies to scrutinize the utilization of religious language and concepts when articulating experiences that surpass our comprehension. We posit that religious metaphors fundamentally shape the construction of meaning around expressions of human creativity in Paleolithic caves. Our analysis delves into how religious cognition enables contemporary thinkers to conceptualize and convey the elusive meanings encoded in these Paleolithic cave graphs.

*This dictionary will contribute to the effort of understanding prehistoric cultures by providing a framework for reflection. Through the lens of religious studies, it will enable the assessment of various hypotheses that utilize these terms in an anthropological approach.*

#### 5. SAM'AL, new project (since 2024)

Following the new edition of the Panamuwa I inscription (ed. with K.M. Klein, [*HadadDigital*]: *The Biography of a Statue and its Inscription*, Harrassowitz 2024), the [*HadadDigital*] team, under the epigraphic-historical direction of R.R. Hunziker-Rodewald, plans to extend the data-centered approach developed to other relief inscriptions from Sam'al, first and foremost to the inscription for Panamuwa II (KAI 215; publication in AOAT). In the next step, the acquired data will be supplemented by recording all Sam'alian and Old Aramaic inscriptions, including those in engraving technique and on various materials. The [*HadadDigital*] team also plans to develop a Northwest Semitic epigraphic *augmented reality* application for museums based on historical analyses and archaeological data.

*In contrast to human-centric approaches (conclusions from the context or on a biblical background), the [*HadadDigital*] team pursues a data-centric approach. Complementary to 3D modeling, which calculates the relationship between light and shadow, depth maps geometrically visualize the distance from a viewpoint in varying light density. Such algorithmically generated models represent a paradigm shift in computer-assisted epigraphy due to their statistical complexity: Readings can now replace speculation.*



KAI 214 / VA 02882, depth map (ex lines 9-11), ©A.C. Aioanei