

## Andrea Seri

**Andrea Seri** joined the Oriental Institute in September 2008. During the academic year she made considerable progress on her book project “The House of Prisoners: Slavery and State in Uruk during the Revolt against Samsu-iluna.” This book studies the *bīt asīrī* (“house of prisoners”) at the city of Uruk during the reign of king Rīm-Anum. The analysis is based on over 350 tablets covering a period of about two years (from ca. 1742 to 1740 B.C.). The archive is exceptional in that it offers an unparalleled opportunity to reconstruct certain bureaucratic procedures of the institution and therefore to investigate its function and role. The tablets also cast light on state management of forced labor and on the fate of men, women, and children taken as captives and brought to the city of Uruk during the revolts against the ruler of Babylon. The information

contained in these documents is fundamental to trace the status transition of captives turned into slaves. Since a section of the archive deals with flour allocated to messengers and emissaries from other kingdoms, it is also possible to investigate the diplomatic dealings of rebel kings and therefore aspects of the poorly known political history of the period.

Andrea is also working on the prosopography of texts dated to king Rīm-Anum of Uruk and preparing an edition of a group of cuneiform tablets from the Princeton Theological Seminary dealing with slaves. In the spring quarter she was invited to the University of California at Berkeley, where she conducted a workshop on “The House of Prisoners in Uruk.” At Berkeley Andrea also gave a lecture entitled “Borrowings to Create Anew: Intertextuality in the Babylonian Poem of Creation.” This lecture will be turned into an article for publication. She will spend the last two weeks of August working on Old Babylonian tablets in the British Museum.

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