

## Registration form for Polish research institution

1. Research institution data (name and address):

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, 26/28  
Krakowskie Przedmieście st., 00-927 Warsaw

2. Type of research institution:

- 1) **basic organisational unit of higher education institution**

3. Head of the institution:

Professor Maciej Duszczyk, Vice-Rector for Research and International  
Relations

4. Contact information of designated person(s) for applicants and the NCN:

Marta Mierzejewska, administration specialist, email:  
mmierzejewska@uw.edu.pl, phone no. 0048 225531328

5. Research discipline in which the strong international position of the  
institution ensures establishing a Dioscuri Centre:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

**The study of the human past**

6. Description of important research achievements from the selected discipline from the last 5 years including a list of the most important publications, patents, other:

The Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, has been conducting and coordinating Polish archaeological research in 13 countries in North Eastern Africa and the Middle East since 1959. One of the most important regions under investigation is undoubtedly Sudan, where works are carried out on multiple sites, such as Old Dongola, Banganarti, Selib, Ghazali, and el-Zuma.

The University of Warsaw gathers the largest research team in the field of medieval Nubian studies. The most recognizable is the branch of language studies, with the world's leading specialist, Prof. Adam Łajtar, one of the few scholars who study the Old Nubian language. Publications of researchers from the University of Warsaw are vastly cited and constitute the core of knowledge about the history of medieval Nubia.

Polish achievements in the field of Nubian studies are recognized worldwide, as confirmed recently by the unanimous election of Dr. Artur Obluski for President of the International Society for Nubian Studies at the Nubian Studies Conference held

in Paris in September 2018. During the same conference, the decision was made that the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, in cooperation with other Polish scientific institutions, will have the honor of organizing the next, jubilee edition of the International Conference for Nubian Studies.

Another example of distinguished research achievement of this community is the prestigious Starting Grant of the European Research Council, awarded to Dr. Artur Obluski for his project "UMMA - Urban Metamorphosis of the community of a Medieval African capital city".

Most important publications:

- In press M. Kotyl, A Notebook Roll and a Fiscal Codex from the Papyri Gissenses Collection (P.Giss. II) [= Archiv für Papyrusforschung und verwandte Gebiete –Beiheft ]
- 2018 D. Dzierzbicka, ΟΙΝΟΣ: Production and Import of Wine in Graeco-Roman Egypt [=The Journal of Juristic Papyrology Supplement Series 32], Warsaw.
- 2017 S. Jakobielski, M. Martens-Czarnecka, M. Łaptaś, B. Mierzejewska, B. Rostkowska, Pachoras. The Wall Paintings from the Cathedrals of Aetios, Paulos and Petros [= PAM Monograph Series 4], Warsaw.
- 2017 A. Łajtar, J. van der Vliet, Empowering the Dead in Christian Nubia. The Texts from a Medieval Funerary Complex in Dongola [=The Journal of Juristic Papyrology Supplement Series 32], Warsaw.
- 2016 U. Wicenciak, Porphyreon. Hellenistic and Roman Pottery Production in the Sidon Hinterland [= PAM Monograph Series 7], Warsaw.
- 2015 T. Waliszewski, Elaion. Olive Oil Production in Roman and Byzantine Syria-Palestine, [= PAM Monograph Series 6] Warsaw.

7. List of no more than 3 important research projects from the selected discipline awarded in national and international calls to the institution in the last 5 years (title, name of PI, source of funding, amount of funding):

A number of grants awarded by various institutions are affiliated to the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology or to consortia in which the PCMA is a partner. They include the mentioned prestigious Starting Grant of European Research Council, projects funded by the National Science Centre, Poland, as well as subventions of the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project for research conducted in Sudan.

1. "UMMA – Urban Metamorphosis of the community of a Medieval African capital city", Starting Grant of the European Research Council,

Project ID: 759926

Funded under: H2020-EU.1.1. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council (ERC)

Amount of funding: EUR 1 484 854

Headed by: dr Artur Obluski

UMMA (Arab. أمّ - community) is a multidisciplinary project aimed as the first study of the liminal phases of a Christian African community inhabiting Dongola, the capital city of Makuria (modern Sudan). It concerns the twilight of Christian Dongola and the metamorphosis of its urban community into a new entity organized along different social and religious paradigms. The project investigates the impact between the weakening of the central authority and migrations of Islamic Arab tribes on the kingdom's capital city and its community. The notion that the project intends to investigate is that a complete breakdown of this urban organism and its hinterland was avoided thanks to cooperation established between the remaining local community and migrant population groups arriving in the period under consideration. The project seeks to identify strategies of interaction between the local community and the newcomers, as well as patterns of survival of the old traditions on household level. UMMA will lay foundations for further enquiries into evolution of precolonial African communities and provoke a general discussion on social changes in urban environments. It will unfold a whole new research perspective on the period from the gradual decline of the kingdom of Makuria (14th-15th cent. CE) to the Egyptian invasion in 1820, which is virtually absent from scholarly enquiry to date.

UMMA brings together specialists from several disciplines to carry out an exemplary archaeological project to set the standards for future archaeological research on late medieval and early modern Sudan. It adopts a holistic approach to the site and artefactual finds – an approach which archaeological sites seldom receive due to the lack of sufficient funding. The project will combine methods of inquiry used in disciplines like history, archaeology, geophysics, chemistry and physics to obtain a multifaceted, cross-disciplinary perspective on the social phenomenon of liminal periods in urbanism.

The project also has the potential to address vital issues of a general nature. Can we trace any universal features in the evolution of cities and in social changes during religious conversions? It will show how micro-archaeology aided by very limited textual sources can contribute to our understanding of macro-historical processes such as the impact of migrations. In sum, the UMMA project offers significant progress in research on African history, opens up new perspectives and addresses some general social issues of contemporary and global importance and should thus be considered worthy of funding in the framework of the European Research Council Starting Grant Programme.

2. The wall inscriptions of the churches in Banganarti as a source for studying the society and culture of Christian Nubia.

2016/21/B/HS3/00930

OPUS 11 funding scheme, National Science Centre, Poland

Amount of funding: PLN 353 404

Headed by: Prof. Adam Łajtar

In Banganarti, the Polish Joint Expedition to the Middle Nile working under the direction of Dr. Bogdan Żurawski has been excavating since 2002 the remains of a small, fortified settlement dating from the 6th through the 15th century. Inside the enclosure, two churches were identified by archaeologists, one standing atop the other. Walls of the churches bear numerous inscriptions. Documentation work carried out between 2002 and 2014 revealed 27 items in the lower church and as many as 969 in the upper one.

Wall inscriptions in the Banganarti churches are interesting for more than one respect. They constitute the richest collection of written sources we know from a single Christian Nubian site. The inscriptions from the lower church contribute considerably to our knowledge of the liturgy of the Nubian Church, throwing light especially on the question of the liturgical chant, which otherwise is poorly attested in sources at our disposal. In more general terms, the literary compositions of Byzantine origin contained in them are important testimonies to the cultural exchange between Christian Nubia and the Mediterranean basin towards the end of the first millennium AD. The inscriptions from the upper church with their huge amount of visitors' graffiti are an invaluable source for studying the religiousness of Christian Nubians and especially the question of pilgrimages to holy places, the territorial organization of the Nubian Church, the territorial organization of the Makurian Kingdom, patterns of name-giving in a Christian society of African origin, the literacy of the Christian Nubian society, multilingualism, etc.

The aim of the present project is to prepare the final edition of wall inscriptions from both the lower and the upper church at Banganarti. The main element of the edition shall be a catalogue of inscriptions.

3. Taxation in late Roman Egypt through the prism of an unpublished tax-register (P.Giss.inv.58A-L) and related documents from the period of 4th to 6th century.

2018/28/C/HS3/00338

SONATINA 2 funding scheme, National Science Centre, Poland

Amount of funding: 540 786 PLN

Headed by: Dr. Marcin Kotyl

The aim of the project is to analyze and discuss various aspects of taxation in late Roman Egypt on the basis of an unpublished tax-register from the 5th century and a related document from the 4th–6th century. The register is recorded in a papyrus

codex (consisting of eleven separated sheets (=bifolia), i.e. 22 folia and 44 pages), which comes from the Egyptian village of Skar in the Hermopolite nome and is now kept in the Giessen Collections. The starting point will be a critical edition of the manuscript together with a translation and commentary, and then the creation of a catalogue of related fiscal papyri and examination of all aspects of tax assessment and collection in Egypt in late antiquity. The second part of the project is devoted to the development of tax assessment and collection mechanisms in late antique Egypt. This includes the complex historical elaboration of the theme with particular reference to new research questions.

In addition to the significance for the source base itself, the work will be important primarily from a historical point of view. An in-depth study of the content of the register in the light of the collected papyrological data will allow us to better understand all tax issues in Egypt, chiefly including the so far poorly understood method of tax assessment on the basis of kephale. There are some serious problems with interpreting this term, especially the most important are the questions on what kephale actually was and how it worked in this proper context. The work will not only contribute to acquiring completely new knowledge, but it will also check and update already existing theories. This research on taxation in Late Roman Egypt will be important all the more that there exists no monograph covering the complete range of this subject, and much of the research is scattered in volumes editing and interpreting relevant papyri or other articles that have been written on particular and general aspects of taxation in Late Roman Egypt.

The final product of the project will be a monograph written in English, and the newly edited Greek text will be additionally entered into the online database papyri.info. The implementation of the project will certainly have significance for the development and position of a niche discipline in Poland – papyrology. Thanks to the publication in English, the work will be available in the most important academic centres in the world and it will add to the prestige of the Polish scientific community.

8. Description of the available laboratory and office space for the Dioscuri Centre (up to one page in A4 format):

PCMA will provide appropriate office space in a prime location in the centre of Warsaw, in one of the University buildings belonging to the hosting institution. The same building hosts field documentation archives and a book collection with a vast array of scientific research works on the human past. The office will contain all necessary equipment including furniture and office appliances.

Apart from the office in Warsaw, the PCMA offers a possibility to use the research units in Cairo and Khartoum. Workspace is also available in the newly built dig house at the archaeological site of Old Dongola.

9. List of the available research equipment for the Dioscuri Centre:

The research equipment comprises IT appliances (computers, printers scanners), access to the Internet and digital databases, as well as software provided by the University.

Besides the use of equipment and facilities available in Warsaw, employees of the PCMA can conduct research on sites within the archaeological concessions that the Centre holds in Sudan and Egypt, among others in Old Dongola, the site of implementation of the ERC Starting Grant UMMA.

10. List of the additional benefits (other than listed in call text) that the Institution declares to provide for the Dioscuri Centre (i.e.: additional funds, personal benefits, other) (up to one page in A4 format):

The institution provides funds to cover travel expenses and participation of academics from the Dioscuri Centre in the Nubian archaeological missions of the PCMA. These include expeditions to some of the most important archaeological sites in medieval Nubia, such as Old Dongola, Ghazali or Banganarti. The scholars are, therefore, provided with an opportunity to study material at the original location.

The PCMA has a publishing department, which issues the journal Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean and PAM supplements and monographs. It offers the Head of the Dioscuri Centre a fast editorial process and support of the PCMA editorial team.

PCMA also provides access to university accommodation facilities on preferential terms. The University of Warsaw offers housing in residence halls situated in various parts of the city. Each hall has a quiet study lounge, a TV room, a computer room, and laundry facilities. The employee will also be entitled to the employee benefit package of the University of Warsaw. The list of minimum benefits for university employees is regulated by the Polish labour law and includes a statutory holiday bonus and the 13th salary, Christmas coupons and subsidised lunches at the University canteen, as well as family amenities.

11. Other information about the internationalisation of the research institution, international researchers employed at the institution, the availability of English language seminars etc. (up to one page in A4 format):

The institution has a long tradition of international cooperation. Since its beginning, it collaborates with several local archaeological institutions in countries where PCMA conducts its research. Among them are the Ministry of Antiquities of the Republic of Egypt, the Supreme Council of Antiquities of the Republic of Egypt, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters of the State of Kuwait, the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of the Republic of Sudan, the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Iraqi Department of Antiquities, la Direction Générale des Antiquités de la République libanaise, the Qatar-Sudan

Archaeological Project, the Qatar Museums Authority, the Cultural Heritage Preservation Agency of Ajara, the Syrian Arab Republic Directorate of Antiquities and Museums, the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research, the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Culture, the Republic of Cyprus Department of Antiquities, and the Dubai Municipality. The PCMA also cooperates with UNESCO within the framework of archaeological missions on the World Heritage sites in Palmyra (Syria) and El-Zuma (Sudan) and was recently involved in a rescue restoration mission after the reclaiming of Syrian sites after the ISIS occupation.

Apart from hosting institutions in countries where archaeological projects take place, also several missions undertake direct cooperation with scientific institutions abroad. The Archaeological Mission in Berenike (Egypt) collaborates with the University of Delaware, the Archaeological Mission in Retaba (Egypt) with the Slovakian Academy of Sciences, and the Archaeological Mission in Chhim (Lebanon) with Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient, l'Institut National du Patrimoine de Tunis. Researchers from abroad are also employed in the UMMA ERC Starting Grant carried out at the PCMA, including scholars from the University of Muenster and the University of Chicago, as well as archaeologists from Italy, the Netherlands, and Egypt.

The Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology also participates in joint scholarship programs. This October, fellows of the second UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Archaeology and Conservation begin their training in Poland. The University of Warsaw's PCMA is a partner in the programme. The programme is aimed at young scholars and professionals from Middle Eastern countries, working in the fields of archaeology, conservation and heritage protection. Another means of internationalization are scholarship programs. The Institut français d'archéologie orientale (IFAO) and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology jointly fund a Post-Doctoral Fellowship, which has been awarded for 2019/2020.

English-language seminars are held at the PCMA. Also the PCMA Research Centre in Cairo organises seminars where holders of PCMA scholarships report on their projects.