**Scientific abstract**

**A Comparative Archaeological Study of the Roman Period *Territorium* of Hippos in the Golan: Urban and Rural Settlement Relationships**

Roman period cities and the regions they were situated in (*chora or territorium*) shared a complex, codependent relationship. The nature and extent of the relationship between a Roman *polis* and the settlements in its hinterland includes topics such as similarities and differences between the material culture, settlement planning, socio-economic activities, administrative regional boundaries, population estimates, quarries and building materials, and road networks. The relations between the urban and rural spheres during the Roman period have been the focus of research in various regions of the Roman world, but have received little attention in Judaea/Syria-Palaestina. In fact, a study of this nature has never been conducted in this region. The groundwork from previous research, along with the preliminary results from the study sites, make this region a prime candidate for a case study that will increase our knowledge of urban-rural interactions. The Study aims to do this by elucidatinging the *urbs–territorium–oppidium/vicus* relationships.

The rural site of Majduliyya is located 14 km to the north of Hippos (in which ongoing excavations are taking place), on the northern border of the district. It is one of the few sites in the region that corresponds chronologically to the Roman period (ca. 50 BCE-300 CE) with little disturbance in later periods. Small-scale excavations at the site have already identified a synagogue, pottery production, olive presses and residential areas. The proposed research, which is both site-specific and regional, will be innovative in its incorporation of a broad range of methods and goals, including further archaeological excavations at the polis of Hippos and the Mjduliyya village along with an array of analytical studies, These will allow us to characterize the architecture and material culture from both an urban and a rural site in the same *Territoirum.* Thewell-defined contexts from both sites (i.e. early, middle and late Roman), further provide the opportunity for a diachronic analysis which can be used as part of a broader regional study.

In addition to the architectural and material culture comparisons (particularly pottery, glass and coins), a chemical and petrographic study of the pottery from these two sites (along with pottery from additional rural sites), a provenance study of basalt architectural stones, geo-spatial analysis of the regional topography and road network as well as pollen analysis, will all be conducted. These will be used to define the significance of the district borders, determine the extent of the centrality that Hippos played in the region and to study the socio-economic and ethnic relationships in the region. Our ultimate goal is that this study will serve as a model for future regional urban-rural studies. Based on preliminary results, we are confident that we have a unique opportunity to reach the important goals outlined in this proposal.