**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 their regions (*chora or territorium*) shared a complex codependent relationship. The goal of the proposed study is to explore and define the urban-rural socio-economic and cross-cultural relationships within the Roman period Territorium of Hippos in the southern Golan. The urban and rural relationship during the Roman period has been the focus of research in various regions of the Roman world, but has received little attention in Judaea/Syria-Palaestina. The groundwork from previous research along with the preliminary results from the study sites makes the Hippos region in the southern Golan a prime candidate for a case study that will increase our knowledge on Urban-Rural relationships by elucidating the urbs–territorium–oppidium/vicus relationships. The proposed research, which is both site-specific and regional, will be innovative in its inclusion of a broad range of methods and goals, including archaeological excavations along with an array of analytical studies. The polis of Hippos and Majduliyya will be excavated in order to obtain data that will allow us to characterize the architecture and material culture from an urban and rural site in the same *Territoirum* from well-defined contexts within the Roman period (i.e. early, middle and late Roman), providing the opportunity for a diachronic study. The saddle ridge at Hippos will be excavated, which in preliminary results from the last year provided for the first time well defined Roman period contexts from this site that can be used as part of a broader regional study. Previous work at Hippos, mainly on the crest have yielded few well defined Roman contexts with sufficient finds for such a study. The rural site of Majduliyya, 14 km to the north of Hippos located on the northern border of that district and one of the few sites in the region that is well defined chronologically to the Roman period (ca. 50 BCE-300 CE) with little disturbance in later periods, will also be excavated providing for the first time information on the architecture and material culture from a well-defined Roman period rural site in the southern Golan based on archaeological excavations. Small scale excavation at the site has already identified a synagogue, pottery production, olive presses and residential areas. Besides the architectural and material culture comparisons (most importantly pottery, glass and coins), 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 and pollen analysis will all be used to define the significance of the district border, determine the extent of centrality that Hippos played in the region and to study the socio-economic and ethnic relationships in the region. Based on preliminary results, including excavations and analytical studies, we believe that there is a unique opportunity to reach the important goals outlined in this proposal, which will serve as a model for future regional urban-rural studies.