Imaging Kerkenes: An Urban Analysis of Ancient Roads and Neighbourhoods

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Abstract

Kerkenes is a massive pre-Hellenistic city in Anatolia. It covers 2.5 square kilometres and is surrounded by a strong seven kilometres wall. The city life abruptly came to an end sometime in the mid-first millennium BCE. While the extensive destruction was a catastrophe for the residents, we have almost a complete snapshot of structures, compounds, empty spaces, courtyards, road systems and other urban elements. Researchers at the site have been using complementary geospatial technologies for the documentation and analysis, such as high-resolution photographs from hot air balloons, tethered blimps, satellite imagery analysis, GPS surveys, and UAVs, but especially geophysical prospection. The manifold methodology provides us with an almost complete layout of the city.

This talk focuses on the street network of the ancient city - concerning its "neighbourhoods". First, we focus on the morphometry of urban blocks and search for potential clusters to indicate likely neighbourhoods. Next, we explore the street network within the light of neighbourhood boundaries. We conclude the talk with some prospects about the Kerkenes Project (https://sciences.ucf.edu/anthropology/kerkenes/).