

# ONTOLOGIES AND CUNEIFORM

June 29, 2012 terhi Day of Archaeology 2012 acm Web Science, Akkadian Empire, Akkadian language, Archaeological Computing Research Group, Babylon, Brad Hafford, Chicago, Cuneiform script, Department of Digital Humanities, Digital Humanities Summer School, Fertile Crescent, Field Museum, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, King's College, Linked Ancient World Data Institute, Linked Data, London, Mesopotamia, New York, Ontology, Oxford, Penn Museum, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, spent touring Philadelphia, Steve Tinney, Toronto, University of Southampton, Virginia, Washington DC, Web Science Doctoral Training Centre

I am a first year PhD student, based at the [Web Science Doctoral Training Centre](#) and the [Archaeological Computing Research Group](#) at the [University of Southampton](#). My research looks at [Linked Open Data](#) and literary compositions from [ancient Mesopotamia](#), written in [cuneiform](#). Today, I'm going through some translations of [Sumerian narrative mythologies](#) in order to identify one that I can use as a case study to compare and contrast different ontologies for the representation of the same text.

It's been a whirlwind couple of weeks, starting off with the amazing LAWDI ([Linked Ancient World Data Institute](#)) at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World ([ISAW](#)) in New York, at the end of May 2012. Other lawdites have already mentioned it (see, for example, [Archaeological Computing and Linked Data](#)), and I too, immensely enjoyed listening to colleagues talk about their research and interests in Linked Data and archaeology. For me, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet experts and discuss my ideas and approaches with the community of specialist working on and implementing projects so relevant to my studies.

Later on in June, I had the opportunity to give a paper at [acm Web Science 2012](#) in Chicago. The three weeks in between WebSci12 and LAWDI were spent touring Philadelphia, Washington DC, Virginia, Toronto and finally Chicago. Museum visited included [the Met](#), the [Penn Museum](#) and the science centres at both [Toronto](#) and [Chicago](#). I also went to the [Field Museum](#), and saw the most complete *T rex* skeleton ever found, Sue.

At the Penn, I met up with fellow lawdites, [Steve Tinney](#) and Brad Hafford ([Ur Digitization Project](#)), and got to see one of the coolest pieces of archaeology, ever: a terracotta "squeeze". On the one side, it is an impression of an earlier, Old Akkadian (3rd millennium BC) inscription, on the other, is an explanation in Neo-Babylonian (from c. 500BC). The image on the left is the

impression of the Old Akkadian, the one on the right is the Neo-Babylonian...Apologies for sacrificing correct orientation for the sake of aesthetics!



Yesterday, I had the chance to describe my research and share my thoughts at the [Department of Digital Humanities at King's College, London](#). This continued on as a discussion about narrative ontologies – think [Ontomedia](#), and the like.

Next week, no rest for the wicked. I'm enrolled – and very much looking forward to! – the Digital Humanities Summer School 2012 at Oxford ([DHOXSS](#)).