

arch 1600. archaeologies of the near east
 joukowski institute for archaeology and the ancient world
 spring 2008



Body of the able ruler: narrative, agency and state ideology in Akkad and Sumer
 March 10, 2008



The "body of the able ruler" or the "phenomenology of the monarch":
 royal rhetoric and visual representation in th 3rd millennium BC:
 Eannatum, Naram Sin and Gudea

Stele of the Akkadian king Naram Sin,
 Found in Susa Acropolis

narrative a convention of telling the past, whereby (past) events are linked in a cause-effect relationship that they do not inherently possess. pictorial and textual kinds. Narrativizing is historical operation that re-tells the past in narrative form, highlighting relationships between events that are not otherwise there.

agency the ability to change the world. a field of power that is extended to everyday individuals and things.

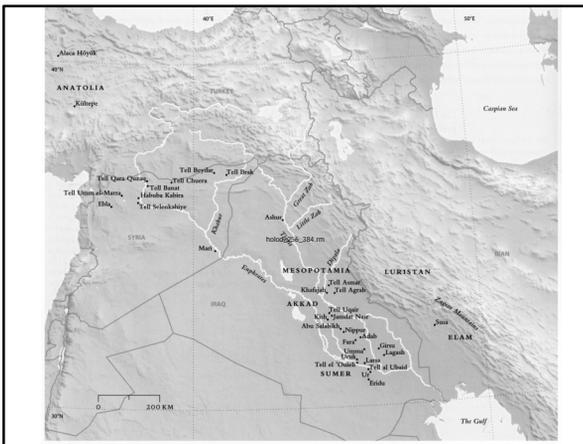
ideology an established dialogue, a social transaction, a cultural discourse that is delivered in the form of a complex worldview, power discourse that seeps into everyday life... not propaganda... not produced by the elites...

technology not the dull, mechanical techniques of making things, but complex cultural systems maintained by a collectively shared body of knowledge about symbolically charged operations of manufacture. skilled craftsmanship, enchanted technologies, magic.

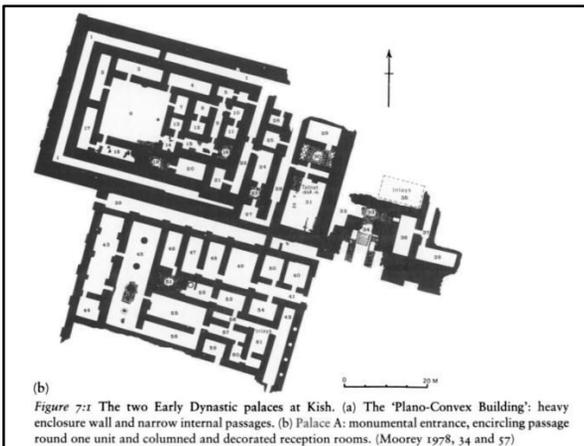
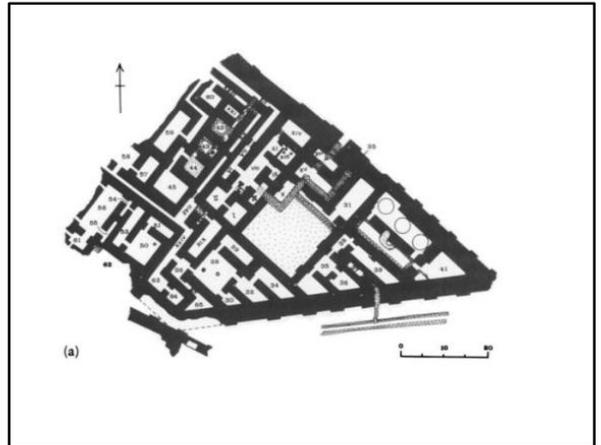
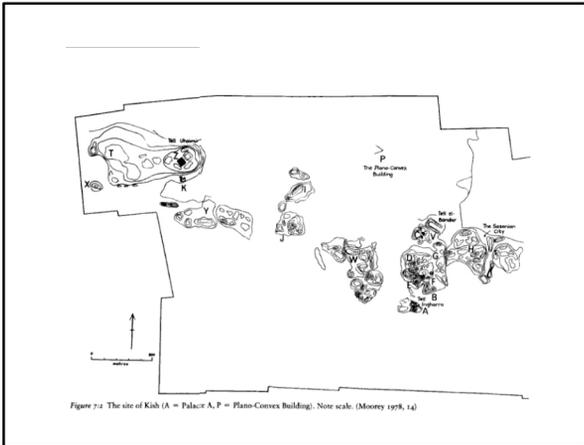
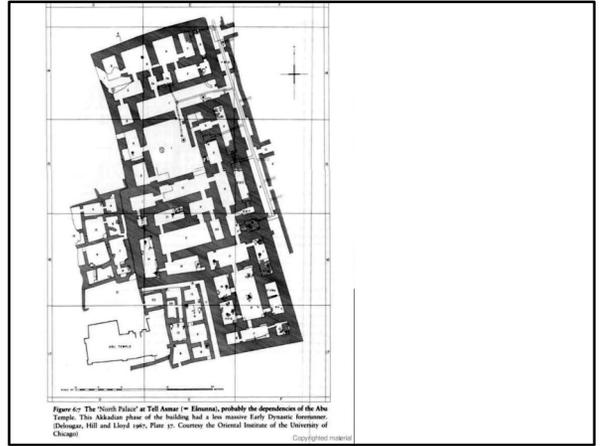
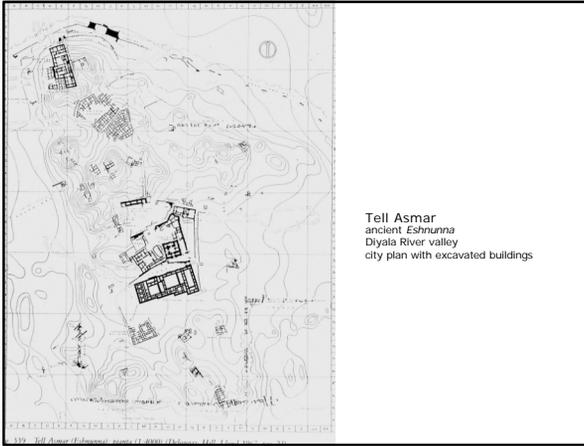
commemorative monument steles, rock reliefs, inscribed statues, "obelisks" and a whole plethora of Near Eastern "monuments" of the public sphere, presenting pictorial and textual *narrativized*

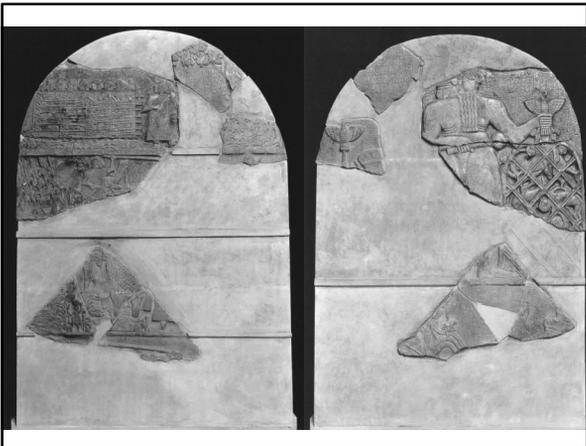
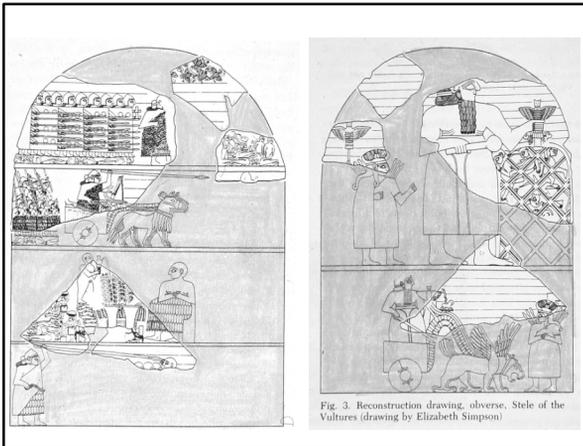
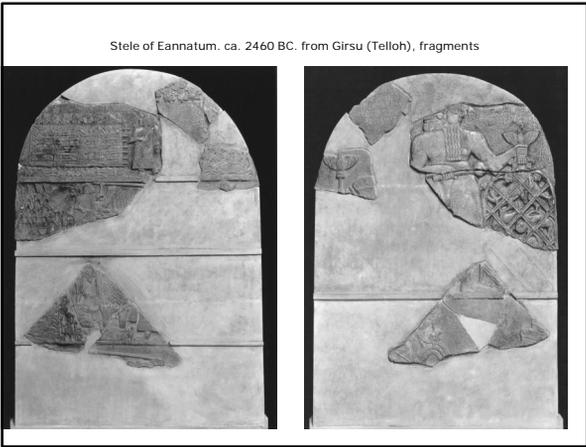
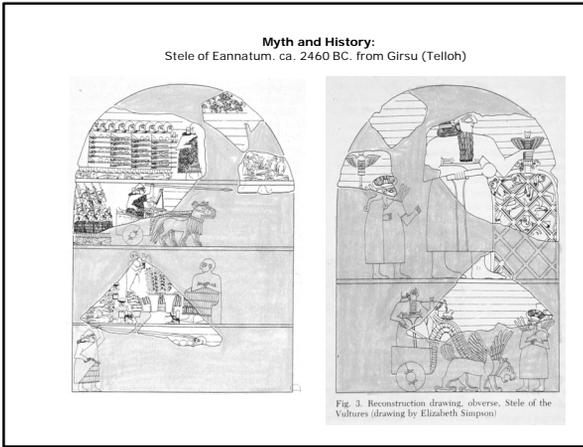
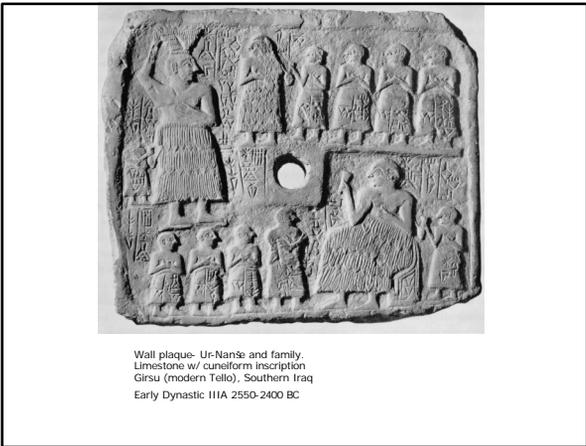
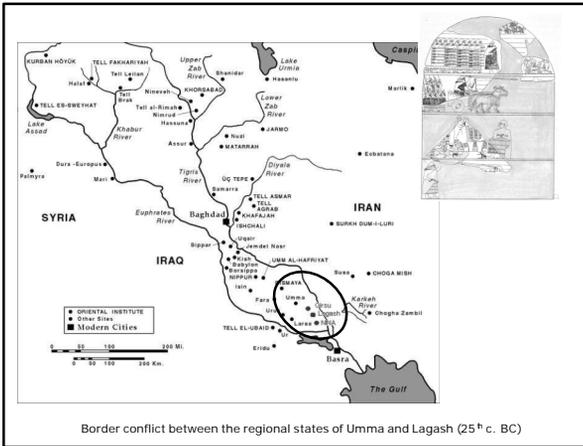


Goat and the tree: a wonder to behold
 Long distance trade, magical craftsmanship, and exotic precious materials through which the object shines, exerts its agency.

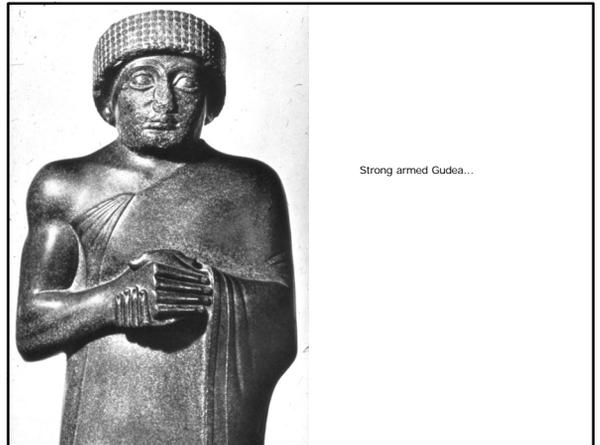
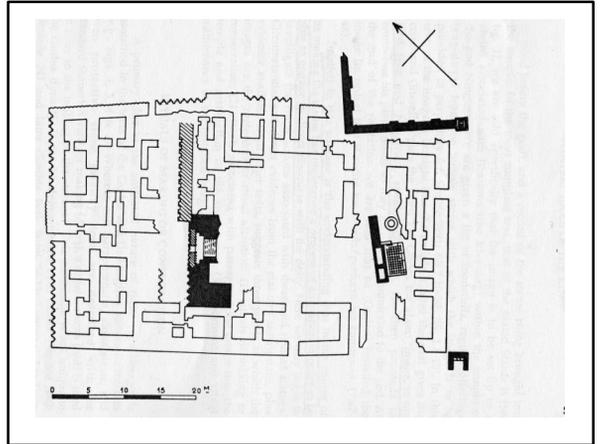


Dates	Ruler	King of Lagas	Notes
2500-2500	Jemdet Nasr		Sin (Nanna-Suen) temple (Khatfajh) Levels IV
2500-2700	Early Dynastic I		Sin temple Levels VI-VII
2700-2800	Early Dynastic II		Temple Oval (Khatfajh) foundation Sin Temple Levels VIII-IX
2550 BC	Early Dynastic III A	Ur-Nanshe	Temple Oval, 2 nd building level Sin temple Level X
		Akurgal	
		Eannatum	Lagás-Umma border conflict Mesamnapada king of Ur (First Dynasty)
		Eannatum I	
2450 BC	Early Dynastic III B	Emmetena	Temple Oval, 3 rd building level
		Eannatum II	
		Eneštara	
		Lugalanda	
2380 BC		UrukAgina	
			Umma king Lugalzagesi's conquest of Lagás
2340 BC			Sargon of Akkad's conquest



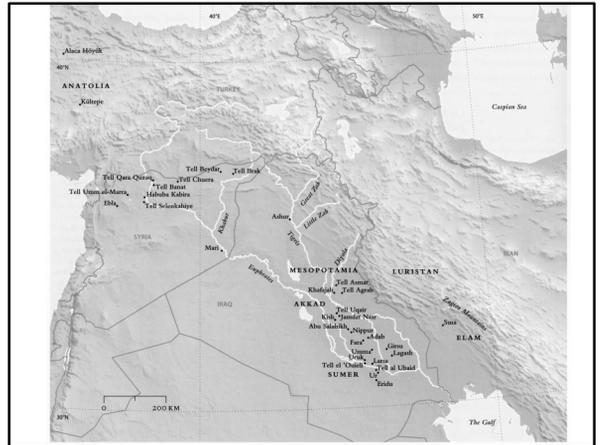


Second dynasty of Lagash and Gudea...
(ca 2125 BC)



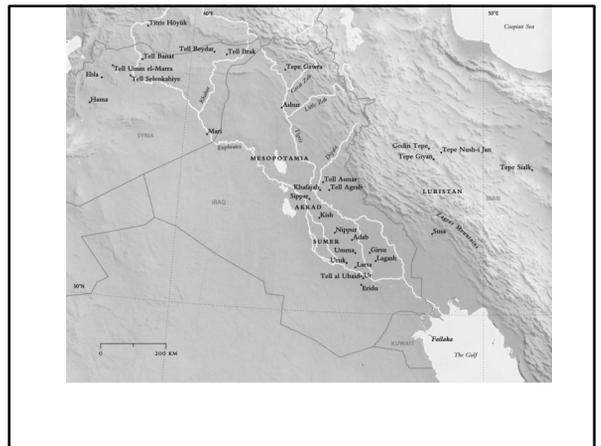


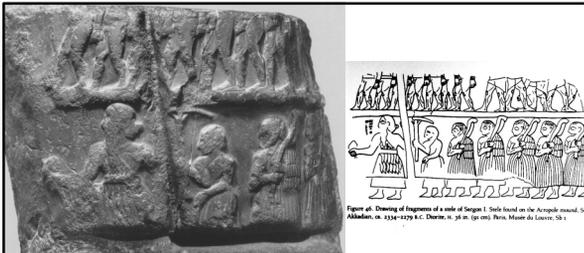
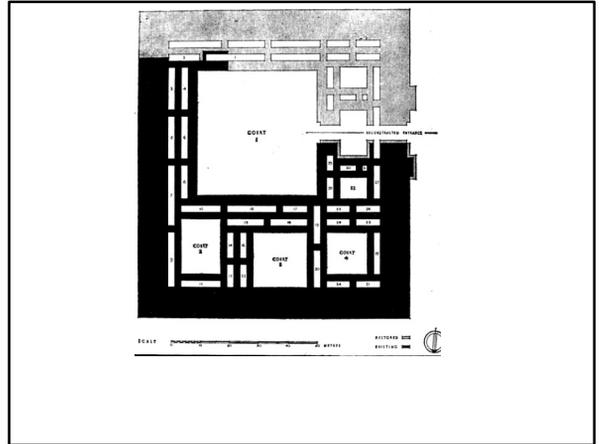
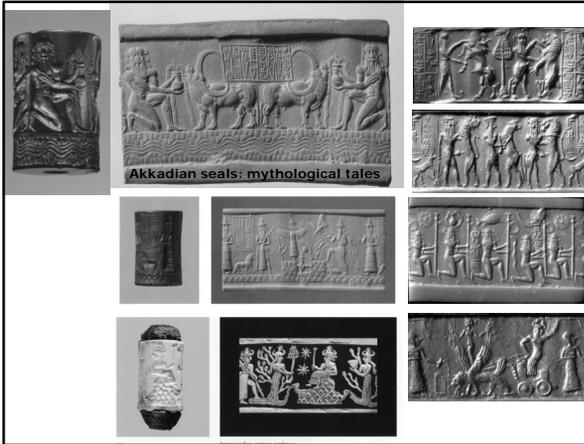
Akkadian kingdom...
(ca 2334-2193 BC)



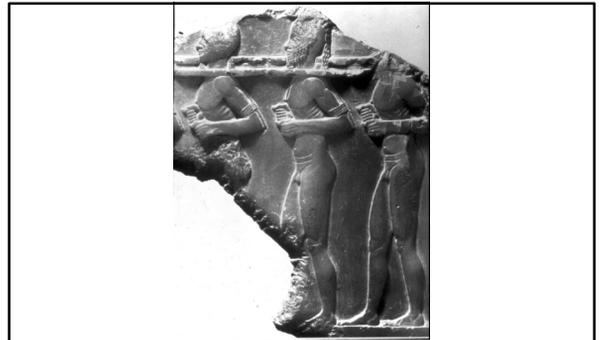
Kings of Akkad

Sargon:	2334-2279 BC
Rimush:	2278-2270 BC
Manishtushu:	2269-2255 BC
Naram-Sin	2254-2218 BC
Sharkalisharri	2217-2193 BC





Diorite fragment of a stele found in Susa, Akkadian period, most probably dated to Sargon (ca 2334-2279 BC). Louvre Museum



Translucent alabaster fragment of a stele found in Susa, Akkadian period



Rimush Stele
Limestone fragment of a stele found in Tello (Girsu), Akkadian period, dated by inscription to Rimush (ca 2278-2270 BC)

Olivino-gabbro fragment of a stele found in Susa, Akkadian period, most probably dated to Sargon (ca 2334-2279 BC)



Basalt fragment of a stele found in Pir Hussein (SE Turkey), Akkadian period, dated by inscription to Naram-Sin (ca 2254-2218 BC)



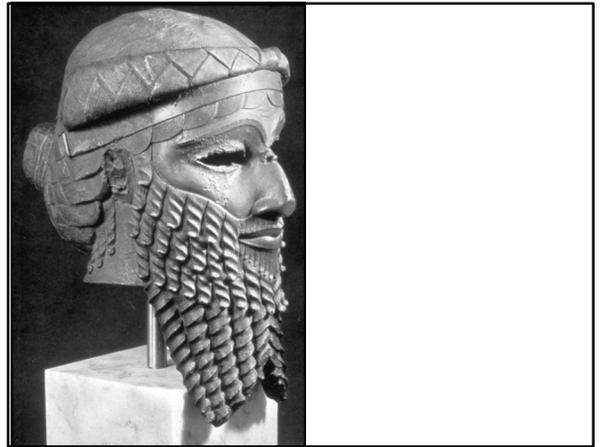
A commemorative monument of the Akkadians... War booty for the Elamites...



1898... at Susa...



Stele of Naram Sin, Found in Susa Acropolis



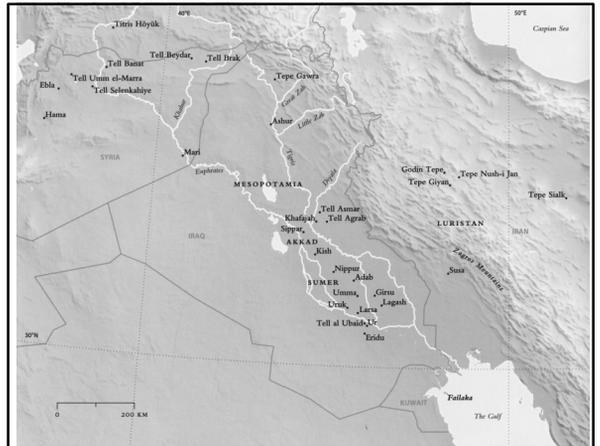
The Third Dynasty of Ur

Conventional (high) chronology:
2119-2004 BC.

Low Chronology
2055-1940 BC

Kings:
 Utu-hegal 2055-2048 BC (low chr.)
 Ur-Namma 2047-2030 BC
 Shulgi 2029-1982 BC
 Amar Sin 1981-1973 BC
 Shu Sin 1972-1964 BC
 Ibbi Sin 1963-1940 BC

The king as builder:
Foundation figurine of Ur-Namma



Three moments in the urban/archaeological history of Ur:

- The royal tombs of the Early Dynastic Period city (early to mid 3rd millennium BC)



- The sanctuary of Nanna complex and the massive urban construction in the city at the time of the Third Dynasty kings (late 3rd millennium BC)

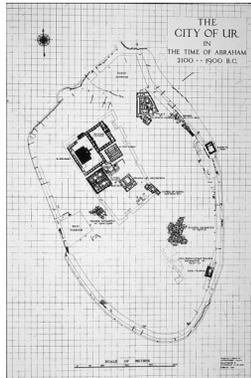


- Residential neighborhoods (early 2nd millennium BC)

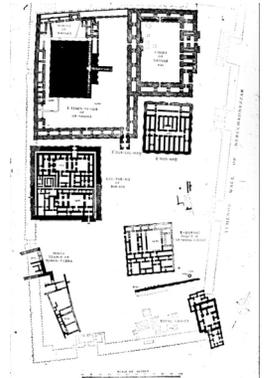


CITY PLANNING

Ur Namma took special pride in the modern city of Ur, which he planned; his son Shulgi boasted that he was the builder with the measuring rod for the building of the cities (Sulgi Hymn B 1. 200). The city was crowded with public buildings, religious and secular, and with residential quarters, home to travellers and natives alike. Through it ran the city canal, the major source of water. Boulevards, streets and lanes divided the city. The narrow lanes led through a sea of densely packed courtyard-houses with a scattering of small temples, schools, shops and workshops...

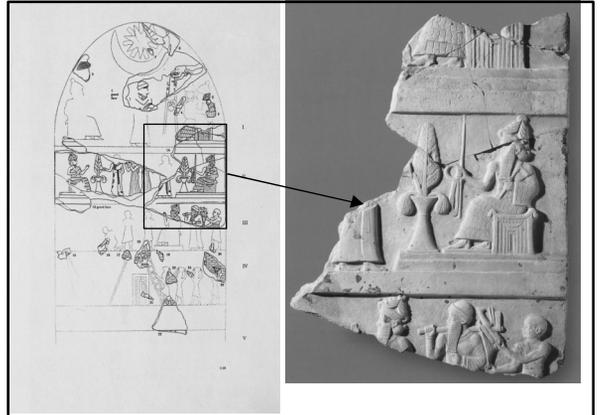


Ur: trading cities





Stele of Gudea, limestone fragment, from Girsu (Tello)
Ca 2090 BC.



Stele, From Ur (Tell al Mugayyar)

