The nascent archaeological research in the Kurdish part of Iraq came to an abrupt end in the 1960s when the region became a war zone between the forces of the Baathist regime and the independence movements. Since 2009, foreign missions have supplemented the work of the newly established Directorate of Antiquities of the Kurdish Autonomous Region of Iraq. Karen Radner has worked in the province of Sulaymaniyah since 2010, focusing her research on the early first millennium BC when the Assyrian Empire controlled the area. She will present the view from the Shahrizor Plain, a province since the 9th century BC and Assyria’s bridge into Iran, and the Peshdar Plain, a heavily militarised border march that guarded passage to the Empire’s heartland.

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