

CELSA - Collaborative research project - Application form - COVER PAGE

1. Identification of the principal investigator of the CELSA application – co-ordinator of the CELSA research project (from partner university OR KU Leuven)	
Full name: Willems, Harco	
Faculty/Department: Faculty of Arts	
Research unit within Faculty/Department: Archaeology	
Address: Blijde Inkomststraat 21, 3000 Leuven	
University: KU Leuven	
Tel: 016324939	
Fax : 016324931	
email : harco.willems@kuleuven.be	
Signature ¹ : 	

2. Identification of the second investigator	
Full name: Bárta, Miroslav	
Faculty/Department: Faculty of Arts	
Research unit within Faculty/Department: Czech Institute of Egyptology	
Address: Celetná 20, 110 00 Prague	
University: Charles University, Prague	
Tel: 221619611	
Fax : 221619618	
email : miroslav.barta@ff.cuni.cz	
Signature ¹ : 	

3. Identification of third and fourth co-investigator(s) (if applicable)	
Expand table if more than four research units are involved.	
Third co-investigator	Fourth co-investigator
Full name: De Meyer, Marleen	Full name: Odler, Martin
Faculty/Department: Faculty of Arts	Faculty/Department: Faculty of Arts
Research unit within Faculty/Department: Archaeology	Research unit within Faculty/Department: Czech Institute of Egyptology
Address: Blijde Inkomststraat 21, 3000 Leuven	Address: Celetná 20, 110 00 Prague
University: KU Leuven	University: Charles University, Prague
Tel: 016325564	Tel: 221619611
Fax: 016324931	Fax: 221619618

email:Marleen.Demeyer@kuleuven.be	email:martin.odler@gmail.com
 Signature ¹ :	Signature ¹ : 

¹ Faxed signatures will be accepted.

3. Non confidential and public friendly summary (max. 2000 characters)

Project title: The landscape setting of the pyramids of Abusir

Summary: Although the importance of the river Nile for ancient Egyptian society has never been doubted, current understanding of what the landscape looked like is still at best patchy. The most studied area is the region around the ancient Egyptian capital Memphis, a key region for understanding how some of the most important urban sites and monuments (the pyramids of Giza, Abusir, Saqqara and Dahshur) emerged and evolved. Current assumptions on the ancient landscape there are mostly based on unsubstantiated hypotheses about an assumed, long-term migration process of the Nile bed from west to east. Some publications have bolstered this hypothesis by referring to core drillings; however, hardly any such drillings have ever been published, rendering verification of the hypothesis impossible. Moreover, due to the current city sprawl around Cairo, the area where research can still fruitfully be carried out is shrinking at an alarming rate. Currently, only a strip of agricultural land east of the pyramids of Abusir is easily accessible for core drilling.

The project brings together researchers from the Czech Institute of Egyptology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, which holds the archaeological concession at Abusir, and archaeologists and geomorphologists from KU Leuven. The aim is to produce verifiable data about the ancient floodplain landscape near Abusir. The research will also touch upon the question of how the ancient waterways to be disclosed relate to harbour infrastructure at the edge of the desert, and to the Lake of Abusir, an important ancient ritual landscape connected to the ancient cemeteries of Abusir and Saqqara. The project is intended to function as a start for a later Marie Curie Skłodowska ITN, intended to bring geoarchaeology in Egypt to a higher level, and to offer training opportunities for young researcher both from Europe and Egypt.

4. List 5 key words

Egyptology
Archaeology
Geomorphology
Pyramids
Landscape Archaeology