



Tate Paulette

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Tate Paulette is an archaeologist with fieldwork experience in Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Cyprus, Scotland, and North Carolina. Having completed an undergraduate degree in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh in 2001, he is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Tate's current research focuses on agriculture and political economy in Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia. Since 2002, he has worked as a part of the MASS Project (Modeling Ancient Settlement Systems in a Dynamic Environment), an interdisciplinary effort to develop an agent-based simulation that captures the complexity of socio-political relationships and human-environment interactions in Bronze Age Mesopotamia. Tate's dissertation is designed as a case study for the MASS Project simulation, demonstrating its value when applied to a specific, narrowly defined archaeological problem. The dissertation is built around a detailed examination of the archaeological and written evidence for grain storage practices in Mesopotamia during the Early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC). More specifically, the goal is to chart the development of centrally managed storage systems, while also investigating the ways in which these centralized systems articulated with, came into conflict with, or were bypassed and subverted by the practices of households and communities that were only nominally or partially subsumed within the institutional sphere. In addition to his dissertation research, Tate currently serves as an excavation supervisor at the sites of Hamoukar and Tell Zeidan in Syria.