Job Title: **Part-time Remote Freelance Assyriology Research Consultant**

Job Advertisement:

The Shanati project of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, seeks to hire a **Postdoctoral Researcher, Assyriology,** to perform multiple research tasks, writing, data entry, and data organization. Must be acquainted with a variety of 1st millennium BCE cuneiform text genres. Familiarity with spreadsheets/databases and basic understand of astronomy are plusses. This position is a part-time consultancy for two years from the project’s start date of 2/1/2020 at 333 hours in total (average of 3.3 hours per week) and begins as soon as hiring is complete or at an agreed upon date. Compensation is based on New York University’s standard pay grades for postdoctoral researchers. *Work must be done remotely* and not require technical or academic resources from NYU. *US and Non-US citizens are encouraged to apply.* Taxes will not be withheld. Naturally, other employment may be coterminous, but Shanati requires a firm commitment to the aforementioned hours.

Please email inquiries to alexander.jones@nyu.edu. Applications, including cover letter, CV, and two references, are welcome as well. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis.

Detailed Job Description:

This position is overseen by Alexander Jones and will work collaboratively with David Danzig. The main components of the position are research and writing. Research includes that of collecting any and all economic and scholarly published cuneiform texts that are not already in the scholarly databases, of the chronological difficulties of annual counting near dynastic and regime changes, as well as the connections and synchronisms between the Babylonian and other ancient calendars, of the process of calendrical decision making of 1st millennium BCE ancient Near Eastern bureaucracies and local scribal activities, and more. The Assyriology Researcher will write a synthesis of these researches to be included in the project’s book publication, write sections of the website written materials, and assist with the details of the daily chronological reconstruction.

Description of the Shanati project:

Shanati’s goal is to reconstruct the daily ancient Babylonian calendar between 750 BCE – 100 CE by collecting and integrating all available textual evidence (mainly in cuneiform economic and scholarly texts), and coupling that with a calibrated astronomical model for first lunar visibility. There are four major areas of research. One is providing evidence for the length of months, in particular those with a 30th day. Two is providing evidence for the addition of extra, intercalary months in the calendar. Three is providing evidence for the sequence of regnal years and potential regnal overlaps, particularly at times of chronological uncertainty, often due to political and social unrest. Four is investigating the ancient Babylonian methods, practicalities, and theories of making these calendrical decisions. The output timeline will be aligned with the proleptic Julian Calendar, as well as other ancient calendars, to allow for conversions of any date back to 750 BCE.

Shanati will present these results in a book length print publication, as well as in a state-of-the-art website that will include an embeddable widget, API, simple date conversion interface, advanced custom search, and automated data input portal. The API and embeddable widget will allow for the use of Shanati’s results by other websites. The search interfaces will allow for quick date conversions and for in depth studies that show the full range of evidence supporting any specific date. The portal for further input of data will allow for more attested dates to be added in the future, as more texts are discovered, read, and databased, in a fashion that will update the integration of all the data anew to create the most accurate version of the daily chronology.

Shanati is proud to be funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities with a Digital Humanities Advancement Grant for two years, with Alexander Jones, Director of New York University’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, as its Principal Investigator and David Danzig, doctoral candidate at ISAW and the project’s creator, as its Lead Researcher. See shanati.org for more information.