“The last of their kind?” Iconographic, stylistic and cultural dynamics attested on cylinder seals from the Biblical Word (6th-3rd cent. BCE)

Dealing with the transitional period at the end of the so-called Levantine Iron Age the decrease of a certain media type can be attested. Levantine cylinder seals, of which a complete number of about 600 has been unearthed throughout stratigraphic, and methodologically controlled excavations, are a dying resource (Kamlah 2016). Systematic evaluation of the late objects (in terms of style as well as stratigraphy) has been a difficult task. Since the availability of SACR (Studien- und Arbeitsblätter zum Corpus der Rollsiegel) a preliminary analysis is however possible. Objects in discussion have been documented from Ashdod, Bethsaida, Caesarea, Dor, Gemme, Gezer, Hazor, Her, Jericho, Yinf‘am, Megiddo, Sichem/Samaria as well as Mazar, Meqebelein, Nebo, Tell as-Saidiye and Tell el-Umayri in Jordan. An evaluation of the Ancient Near Eastern cylinder seals compositions present in late Iron Age and the transitional periods is the main object of this contribution in order to understand the material presence of iconographic content at the dawn of the Macedonian-Hellenistic era.

Florian Lippke, Ass. dipl. DBS AT (University of Freiburg/Switzerland)

Images in Transition
The Southern Levant and its Imagery between Near Eastern and Greek Traditions from 5th to 3rd Century BCE

University of Bern
23rd-25th November 2017
www.bipow.unibe.ch