

Candidacy statement for the election of the International Committee of Phoenician and Punic Studies

Beirut, 21 August 2026

1- I have the honor of submitting, through this letter, my application to the International Committee of Phoenician and Punic Studies. I am Associate Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Lebanese University and Executive Director of the Chair for Phoenician Studies (CHEP) at Saint Joseph University (USJ) of Beirut. I am a historian and epigraphist specializing in the Ancient Near East, in particular Phoenician and Northwest Semitic history and epigraphy. My research focus is on Phoenician history, epigraphy, in particular the polities of Sidon and Tyre and their overseas connections with Cyprus and the wider Mediterranean basin.

In parallel to my academic career, I have participated and co-directed numerous archaeological missions in Lebanon and abroad. In addition, my professional experience extends into the field of cultural heritage documentation and management.

Professional webpages: Academia.edu | [Ifpo](https://Ifpo.org)

2- I would like to nominate myself for the Eastern Mediterranean (Area 4), as feel I can strongly commit to representing Lebanon and the wider Levant. Moreover, as my academic career has focused extensively on the Levantine mainland of the Phoenician polities, particularly Sidon and Tyre, and on their connections with Cyprus and the wider Mediterranean, this has allowed me extensive contact with scholars working across the diverse regions of the Phoenician and Punic world. My participation in successive ICPPS, and my experience as Executive Director of CHEP, will considerably contribute to the new International Committee, a natural continuation of my academic commitment and responsibility towards our scholarly community.

3- My principal motivation is to contribute to making the International Committee an active network of specialists, facilitating constructive interactions, exchange of expertise and collaboration between scholars and institutions across the different regions and disciplines of Phoenician and Punic Studies. A priority should be to improve the dialogue and sharing of information on ongoing research and archaeological missions, discoveries, publications, conferences and scholarly initiatives.

I am particularly committed to encouraging a new generation of students and researchers to specialize in Phoenician and Punic Studies. Ensuring the continuity and vitality of our field requires making it more visible and accessible to younger scholars.

Finally, I would encourage discussion and exchange on new methodologies and technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital tools in archaeology and epigraphy. Beyond their practical applications, these developments raise methodological questions that deserve critical discussion within our scholarly community.

I believe that my experience can contribute to a committee that will bring scholars together, foster the development of a new generation of specialists, and promote collaboration and methodological exchange across the international field of Phoenician and Punic Studies.

Sincerely,
Maroun KHREICH