

GUILLERMO ALGAZE

Distinguished Professor, Anthropology

Trained as a Near Eastern Archaeologist at the University of Chicago, I joined UC San Diego's Department of Anthropology in 1990 as an Assistant Professor, becoming our institution's first tenure-track archaeologist. A decade later, I became Chair of my department, serving in that role for four years (2000 to 2004).

My career focuses on understanding the processes that gave rise to early civilizations in the Ancient Near East from a comparative perspective by exploring social and economic factors central to the emergence of early Mesopotamian civilization in the fourth millennium BC. My work also seeks to understand the consequences of that emergence on the later development of social complexity in neighboring areas of the Ancient Near East. As part of this research effort, between 1988 and 2011, I conducted extensive archaeological surveys and excavations through southeastern Turkey. A MacArthur Fellowship, awarded in 2003, recognized – and partially funded -- these research efforts.

Because the entirety of my academic career has unfurled at UCSD, I have a deep and enduring emotional and intellectual attachment to our institution. To a large degree, this attachment was fostered by three decades of service in a variety of departmental, divisional, Academic Senate, and systemwide committees. Most notably, in recent years, I have served as a member of CAP in 2009-10, 2010-11, 2017-18, as Chair of CAP in 2018-19, as UCSD's representative to UCAP in 2019-20, and as a representative for the Social Sciences on the Committee on Committees during 2020-21 and 2021-22. These experiences deepened both my understanding of our institution and my commitment to the fundamental principle of faculty governance.