

## *Curriculum Vitae*

**Dr Nevila Molla**

nevila.molla@akad.gov.al

### **Professional Experience**

**2020 – present:** Researcher, Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of Albania.

**2019 – present:** Lecturer of Late Antique and Medieval Archaeology, Department of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, University of Tirana, Albania.

**2020:** Director of Research Department, Centre for Study and Publication on the Arbëresh, Tirana.

**2017–2019:** RSK, Cultural Heritage Monitor (Company Representative), Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Project, Albania.

**2014–2016:** Research Associate, Institute of Archaeology, Centre for Albanian Studies, Tirana, Albania.

**2004 – 2012:** Research Archaeologist and Assistant Project Manager, University of East Anglia/Butrint Foundation, London/Tirana.

**2003 – 2004:** Intern, Institute of World Archaeology, University of East Anglia (Future of Albania's Past Project).

### **Visiting Research Fellow**

**2025:** *Abteilung Byzanzforschung, Institut für Mittelalterforschung*, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

**2015:** Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London, UK. Part of the CENDARI project: <http://www.cendari.eu>, led by Trinity College Dublin.

**2015:** *École Française de Rome*. Rome, Italy.

**2014:** *Instituto per la Conservazione e Valorizzazione dei Beni Culturali (Institute for Conservation and Evaluation of Cultural Heritage)*, Florence-Rome, Italy. Awarded by the Italian National Council of Research and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**2009 – 2010:** Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA. Awarded by Packard Humanities Institute.

### **Education and Professional Qualifications**

**11 June 2019:** PhD, Department of Historic Science and Cultural Heritage, Medieval Archaeology Section, University of Siena, Italy. Thesis title: 'The Despotate of Epirus: the archaeology of a late Byzantine state'. Mark – Excellent.

**2006–2007:** Master Arts in Landscape Archaeology and Digital Management of Archaeological Data, Department of Archaeology and Art History, Medieval Archaeology Section, University of Siena, Italy.

**1998 – 2003:** Bachelor, History and Archaeology, Department of History and Philology, University of Tirana, Albania.

**2000 – 2001:** Junior Year Abroad, School of World Art and Museology, University of East Anglia, UK. Subject of study: Archaeology and History of Art.

### **Scientific Roles**

**January 2025 – present:** Scientific Coordinator of the Editorial Board of *Iliria*, journal of the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of Albania.

**January 2025 – present:** Member of the Editorial Board of *Candavia*, journal of the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of Albania.

### **Lecturing Experience in Higher Education**

**2019 – present:** Adjunct lecturer, BA and MA programmes. Courses: *The Ancient History of Albania. The Illyrians*, and *Late Antique and Medieval Archaeology in Albania and the Mediterranean*. Department of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana.

**2009:** Lecturer and instructor in Archaeology of Architecture study and recording methods (Case study - Ali Pasha Castle, Butrint). Part of the Butrint Training School programme for post-graduate students.

**2004 – 2006:** Lecturer and instructor of the Butrint Project Field Training School. Summer school for Albanian and international undergraduate students on field survey and excavation methods in archaeology.

### **List of Publications**

#### ***Book chapters and conference proceedings:***

**Molla, N. 2025a.** An archon's tower at Middle Byzantine Sopot, southern Albania. In R. Hodges (ed.) *A Cornucopia for a Polymath. Festschrift in honour of John Mitchell*, 356-366. Oxford: Archaeopress.

**Molla, N. 2025b.** Butrint's Western Defences. Excavations in towers 1 and 2, 2004-22. In R. Hodges and N. Molla (eds) *Butrint 8. The Late Roman and Middle Byzantine Archaeology of Butrint, Its Enclave, Saranda and Santi Quaranta, 10-43*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

**Molla, N. 2025c.** An archaeological reassessment of the Great Basilica area: from a Roman bathhouse to a Venetian dwelling. In R. Hodges and N. Molla (eds) *Butrint 8. The Late*

*Roman and Middle Byzantine Archaeology of Butrint, Its Enclave, Saranda and Santi Quaranta*, 117-139. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

**Molla, N. 2024.** Before the dawn of the 'Dark Ages'. Butrint's fortifications in the late antique period. In B. Demiraj (ed.) *The Albanian Language Area and its Surroundings from Late Antiquity to the High Middle Ages. Proceedings of the 7th German-Albanian Cultural Studies Conference, 21–22. April 2023, Hubmersberg/Pommelsbrun* (Albanische Forschungen), 73-92. Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz Verlag.

**Molla, N. 2018.** Urban settlements in medieval Epirus: an attempt to define the later Byzantine *polis*. In J-L. Lamboley, L. Përzhita, and A. Skënderaj (ed) *L'Illyrie Méridionale et l'Épire dans l'Antiquité. VIe Colloque International, 20-23 May 2015*, 1055-67, Tirana: De Boccard.

**Molla, N. 2017.** The survival and revival of urban settlements in the eastern Adriatic: Aulon and Kanina in the early to late Middle Ages. In J. Mitchell, J. Moreland, and B. Leal (eds) *Encounters, Excavations and Argosies. Essays for Richard Hodges*, 208-16. Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd.

**Molla, N. 2013.** The Great Basilica: a reassessment. In R. Hodges, I. L. Hansen, and S. Leppard (ed) *Butrint 4. The Archaeology and Histories of an Ionian Town*: 200-212. Oxford: Oxbow books.

**Molla, N. 2011.** Gërmimet në Pallatin e Trikonkës. In W. Bowden, R. Hodges (ed) *Butrint 3: Excavations at the Triconch Palace*, p. xi-xviii. Oxbow books.

**Molla, N., Paris, M. F., and Venturini, F. 2013.** Material boundaries: the city walls at Butrint. Në R. Hodges, I.L. Hansen, and S. Leppard (eds) *Butrint 4. The Archaeology and Histories of an Ionian Town*, 259-278. Oxford: Oxbow books.

Bianchi, G., **Molla, N., Paris M. F., and Venturini, F. 2009.** Politiche edilizie e modi di costruire a Butrinto (Albania) nella Tarda Antichità. In G. Volpe and P. Favia (eds) *Atti del V Congresso Nazionale di Archeologia Medievale, 727–34*, Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio.

Hodges, R, and **Molla, N. 2025.** The Butrint enclave. In R. Hodges and N. Molla (eds) *Butrint 8. The Late Roman and Middle Byzantine Archaeology of Butrint, Its Enclave, Saranda and Santi Quaranta*, 142-154. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Mitchell, J., and **Molla, N.,** (with the contribution of R. Hodges, E. Jolliffe and S. Leppard) **2025.** Healing waters: the Basilica of the Forty Saints at Saranda revisited. In Hodges, R., and Molla, N. (eds) *Butrint 8. The Late Roman and Middle Byzantine Archaeology of Butrint, Its Enclave, Saranda and Santi Quaranta*, 243-332. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Tomasini, R., Moricca, C., Hernandez, **Molla, N.,** Hodges, R., Sadori, **2024.** Reconstructing the human-environment relationship overtime at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint: a novel archaeobotanical study in Albania. Proceedings of the 119th Congress of Società Botanica Italiana - X International Plant Science Conference, Teramo, Italy.

### **Monographs:**

**Molla, N. in prep.** *The Despotate of Epirus. The archaeology of a late Byzantine State.* Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd.

Hodges, R., and **Molla, N.** 2025. (eds) *Butrint 8. The Late Roman and Middle Byzantine Archaeology of Butrint, Its Enclave, Saranda and Santi Quaranta.* Oxford: Oxbow Books.

**Molla, N.** 2009 *Manual mbi Praktikat Arkeologjike në Terren,* Tirana: Ilar. Introduction and Part 2 (excavation) by N. Molla; Part 1 (survey) by V. Hysa.

#### **Book reviews:**

**Molla, N.** 2021. Review of Hernandez, D., Hodges, R. 2020 (eds) *Butrint 7: Beyond Butrint: Kalivo, Mursi, Çuka e Aitoit, Diaporit and the Vrina Plain. Surveys and Excavations in the Pavllas River Valley, Albania, 1928–2015,* Butrint Archaeological Monographs. Oxford: Oxbow Books, p. 336, tab. 11, *Iliria* 2021.

**Molla, N.** 2017. Space in the Greek East [Review of *Continuity and Destruction in the Greek East. The Transformation of Monumental Space from the Hellenistic Period to Late Antiquity.* (BAR International Series 2765.) by S. Chandrasekaran & A. Kouremenos]. *The Classical Review*, 67 (1), 211–213. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26293481>

#### **Journal articles:**

**Molla, N.** 2020. The ancient settlement and medieval fortress of Sopot, Borsh: an archaeological reassessment (in Albanian with English summary). *Iliria* 2019: 95-136.

**Molla, N.** 2016a. The rise and fall of a Byzantine *polis*? Urban development dynamics in 9th to 14th-century Butrint (in Albanian with English summary). *Iliria*: 329-65.

**Molla, N.** 2016b. Archaeological reassessment of the Roman baths and the Great Basilica Area at Butrint (in Albanian with English summary). *Candavia*: 217-30.

**Molla, N.** 2013. *Archonteia Sopotu*: Chronology and Function of a Byzantine tower at the castle of Sopot (in Albanian with English summary). *Iliria*: 253-71.

**Molla, N.,** and Hodges, R. 2024a. A Reappraisal of the Western Defences of Butrint in Late Antiquity and the Middle Byzantine periods. *Archeologia Medievale*, LI, 2024: 211-219; doi 10.36153/am51.2024.00

**Molla, N.,** and Hodges, R. 2024b. The urban topography of Butrint in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The 2022 Campaign (in Albanian with English summary). *Candavia* 10.

Hodges, R., and **Molla, N.** 2023. The postcard and aerial photograph. Reinterpreting the pilgrimage site of Santa Quaranta, Saranda, Albania (in Albanian with English summary). *Iliria* 46/2022: 183-96.

Hodges, R., and **Molla, N. 2013.** Muri i Demës - Kufiri verior i Butrintit në shekullin XI? *Iliria* 36: 273-81.

Carvajal, J.C., Palanco, A., and **Molla, N. 2010.** The Castle of Ali Pasha at Butrint: from gateway to defence line. *Antiquity* 84.323.

Hodges, R., and **Molla, N. 2009.** Decoding Butrint's fortifications. Excavations and surveys 2005-2009. *Expedition* 51.3: 18-20.

### **Conference Session Organiser**

Dixon, J., **Molla, N.**, and Williams, G. **2018.** 'Archaeology and...' - Inter-disciplinary working in planning and design. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of EAA, **05-08 September 2018**, Barcelona.

**Paper presented in session:** *Reshaping archaeological practice in present-day Albania: changing perspectives and challenges.*

### **Conference Participation**

Molla, N. Houses and residential quarters in 5th-9th-century Butrint and Saranda. The archaeological evidence from two port towns in southern Albania. *Fifth CISEM International Congress - 'Housing in Late Antique Mediterranean'*, **9-12 April 2025**, Syracuse, Italy.

Molla, N. Rezultatet e Projektit Topografia Urbane e Butrintit dhe Territorit Rreth Tij në Antikitetin e Vonë dhe Mesjetë. Fushata e Vitit 2023. *Annual Conference of the Institute of Archaeology*, **19 April 2024**, Tirana

Molla, N. Before the dawn of the 'Dark Ages'. Butrint's fortifications in the late antique period, in *Seventh Symposium of Albanian Studies. The Albanian language area and its surroundings during (Late) Antiquity to the High Middle Ages*. Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München Abteilung Albanologie Institut für Historisch-Vergleichende und Indogermanische Sprachwissenschaft sowie Albanologie. **20-22 April 2023**, Nuremberg, Germany.

Molla, N. The Urban Topography of Butrint in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The 2022 Campaign, IoA Annual Conference, **10 April 2023**, Tirana.

Hodges, R. and **Molla, N.** *Middle Byzantine occupation of the Late Roman proteichisma at Butrint, southern Albania*. International online conference "On Byzantine, Western and Post-Byzantine Towers (10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries)." **18-20 November 2022**, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Molla, N. *The postcard and aerial photograph. Reinterpreting the pilgrimage site of Santa Quaranta, Saranda, Albania*. International conference "Aerial Archaeology "From Aerostats to Drones: aerial imagery in Archaeology", **3-5 February 2016**, Archeologia Aerea. Studi di Aerotopografia Archeologica, Belgian Academy, Rome, Italy.

Molla, N. *Rezultatet e projektit Rivlerësim arkeologjik i zonës së banjës romake dhe Bazilikës së Madhe në Butrint*, Institute of Archaeology Annual Conference, **November 2015**, Tirana.

Molla, N. *Urban settlements in medieval Epirus: an attempt to define the later Byzantine polis*. International conference *L'Illyrie Méridionale et l'Épire dans l'Antiquité. VIe Colloque International*, **20-23 May 2015**, Tirana.

### **Invited Talks**

*From Roman to Late Antique Butrint. The Evidence on Houses and the Topography of Urban Quarters*, Archaeology and History of the Balkans (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> century AD). HAEUMUS International Research Group. Online talk, **9 September 2022**.

*The revival and decline of medieval Butrint: a metaphor for Byzantium's later history*, Late Antique and Byzantine Seminars 2015-2016, Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, **6 October 2015**. <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/eventrecords/2015-2016/CHS/Medieval-Butrint.aspx>

*In pursuit of the Despots: archaeological investigations at Butrint, Southern Albania, and the medieval archaeology of the region of Epirus*, Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at Oxford. Hilary Term 2009, Ioannou Centre, Oxford University, **2 February 2009**. [http://byzstud.history.ox.ac.uk/lectures\\_seminars/former\\_terms/2009\\_hilary/labs\\_seminar.html](http://byzstud.history.ox.ac.uk/lectures_seminars/former_terms/2009_hilary/labs_seminar.html)

*Arkeologjia e Arkitekturës dhe Bazilika e Madhe në Butrint*, International Centre for Albanian Archaeology, Seminar Series II, **Spring 2007**, Tirana.

### **Director of Research Projects**

**2025-present:** *Çuka e Ajtoit Project*. Collaboration project between the Institute of Archaeology and the University of La Sapienza, Italy.

**2022-present:** *The Urban Topography of Butrint and its Region in Late Antiquity and the Middle*. The project is carried out with the financial support of by the Butrint Foundation and and the Institute of Archaeology, and with the permit approval by tthe Ministry of Culture, Economy and Innovation of Albania.

**2015:** *Archaeological Reassessment of the Great Baths at Butrint*. Albanian Institute of Archaeology project, funded by the Butrint Foundation and Andante Travels, and in collaboration with Butrint National Park.

**2010:** *Archaeological survey and photogrammetric documentation of the medieval fortress of Sopot, southern Albania*. Collaborative project between the Butrint Foundation, the University of Siena, and the Institute of Monuments, Tirana.

**2009:** *Archaeological survey and photogrammetric documentation of the city walls at Berat, central Albania*. International Centre for Albanian Archaeology, University of Siena and Institute of Monuments collaborative project.

**2008:** *Archaeological survey and photogrammetric documentation of the Acropolis Basilica at Butrint.* Collaborative project between Butrint Foundation and University of Siena and Tirana Institute of Archaeology collaborative project.

**2007** (September-October): *Archaeological survey of the fortification walls at Butrint.* Butrint Foundation, University of Siena and Tirana Institute of Archaeology Project.

**2007** (June-July): *Archaeological survey and photogrammetric documentation of the Water Gate at Butrint.* Butrint Foundation and Institute of Archaeology Project.

**2007** (May-June): *Archaeological survey and photogrammetric recording of the Castle of Gjirokastra, southern Albania.* Butrint Foundation and University of Siena project contracted by Gjirokastra Foundation.

**2004 – 2006:** *Butrint Foundation Field Training School programmed for Albanian and international undergraduate students.* Excavation of the north and south-east wings of the Roman villa and monastic complex on the Vrina Plain, Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation and Institute of Archaeology Project.

### **Participation in Commercial and Research Projects**

**2017 – 2019:** *Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Project, Albania.* Cultural Heritage Monitor reporting on compliance in the implementation of protection measures, and mitigation of impact of construction works on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and archaeology found along the 216km of the onshore route of the pipeline in Albania.

**2013:** October – *Team member and specialist.* Archaeological survey and reassessment project of the Illyrian city at Selca e Poshtme, Pogradec, Albania. Collaborative project between the Albanian Institute of Archaeology, Tirana and University of Turin, Italy.

**2009:** *Specialist and instructor of archaeology of architecture study methods.* Archaeological survey and digital documentation of the Ottoman Castle of Ali Pasha at Butrint, southern Albania. Employed to undertake photogrammetric recording of the castle and train graduate student in archaeological analysis of standing stratigraphy and photogrammetric documentation of historical architecture. Butrint Foundation and Tirana Institute of Archaeology collaborative project.

**2008:** *Team member.* Archaeological analysis of historical architecture at the Monastery of Santi Quaranta, Saranda, Butrint Foundation Excavation Project in collaboration with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology.

**2006:** *Team member.* Archaeological excavation in medieval Maremma, Grosseto. University of Siena excavation project.

**2004:** *Assistant and staff coordinator.* Conservation training of the Butrint National Park staff. Getty Institute of Conservation project, USA;  
June – *Site supervisor.* Excavation of the north wing of the Roman villa and monastic complex on the Vrina Plain. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project.

**2003:** *Team member.* Excavation of prehistoric cave at Himara, southern Albania. Butrint Foundation, International Centre for Albanian Archaeology and Institute of Archaeology collaborative project.

July – *Team member.* Excavation of the Triconch Palace at Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project.

April-May – *Team member.* Excavation of the Roman villa at Diaporit and of the Triconch Palace in Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project.

**2002:** *Team member.* Excavation of the Roman villa at Diaporit, Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation project;

August - *Site supervisor.* Excavation of the Early Christian church complex at Korisha in Prizren, Kosovo. Albanian Institute of Archaeology and Kosovo Institute of Archaeology collaborative project.

July – *Team member.* Excavation of the Merchant's House at Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project;

May-June - *Team member.* Excavation of the prehisotric tumulus of Kamenica in Korça, south-east Albania. Project of the Albanian Rescue Archaeology Unit.

**2001:** September – *Team member.* Survey of the wall paintings in the crypt of the Monastery of Santi Quaranta, Saranda, southern Albania. Butrint Foundation project and Tirana Institute of Monuments collaborative project;

June – July: *Team member.* Excavation of the Triconch Palace. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project.

**2000:** June–July- *Team member.* Excavation of the Roman villa at Diaporit, Butrint. Butrint Foundation Excavation Project;

May – *Trainee.* Butrint Foundation Feild Training School.

### **Translation of Scientific Publications**

Përzhita, L., Gjipali, I., Hoxha, G., and Muka, B. (2014) (eds) *International Congress of Albanian Archaeological Studies. 65th Anniversary of Albanian Archaeology (21-22 November, Tirana 2013)*. Institute of Archaeology and Centre for Albanian Studies. Tirana (Albanian-English).

Përzhita, L. Gjipali, I. and Muka, B. (2013) (eds) *Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Albania. Centre for Albanian Studies*, Albanian Institute of Archaeology, Tirana (Albanian-English).

Prendi, A. and Bunguri, A. (2009) *The Early Bronze Age in Albania*. Institute of Archaeology and Academy of Sciences, Tirana (Albanian-English).

Crowson, A. (2007) *Butrinti Venecian/Venetian Butrint*. Rome, Società Tipografica Romana (Albanian-English).

Ricci, A. (2007) *Around the bare stone. Archaeology and the city between identity and projection* (Attorno alla nuda pietra. Archeologia e citta tra identita e progetto). Donzelli Editore. Italian-English, translated for Butrint Foundation.

English translation and/or editing of *Iliria* journal in 2013-2016, and *Candavia* journal in 2014-2016.