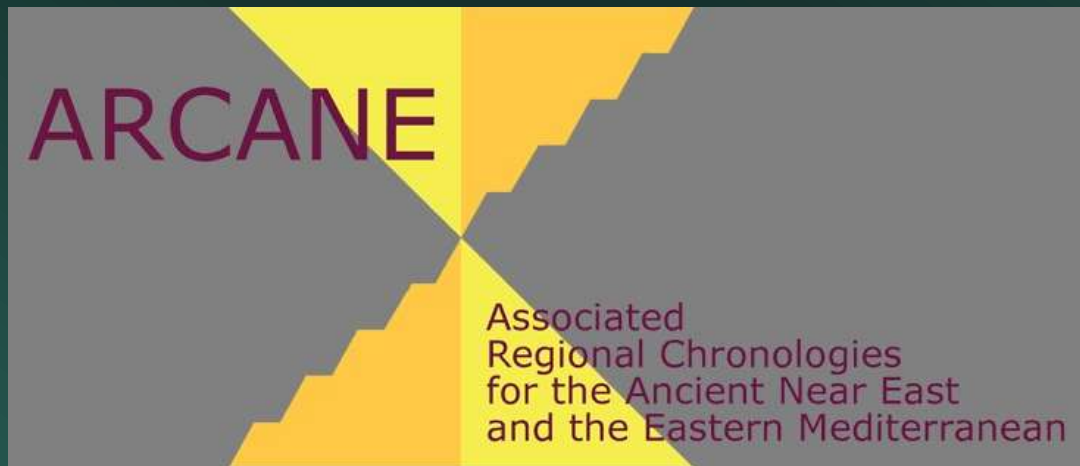


The ARCANE Project



**Associated
Regional
Chronologies for the
Ancient
Near
East
and the Eastern
Mediterranean**



**A project sponsored and financed
by the European Science Foundation**

History of the project

- Preliminary meetings in Pisa, Paris, Berlin: 2003-2004
- Submitted and selected as ESF leading Project in the Humanities: 2005
- Officially launched under the aegis of ESF: February 2006

Institutions, organization, funding

- **81 academic institutions** (mostly EU + Middle East, USA, Canada, Australia)

- **28 countries**

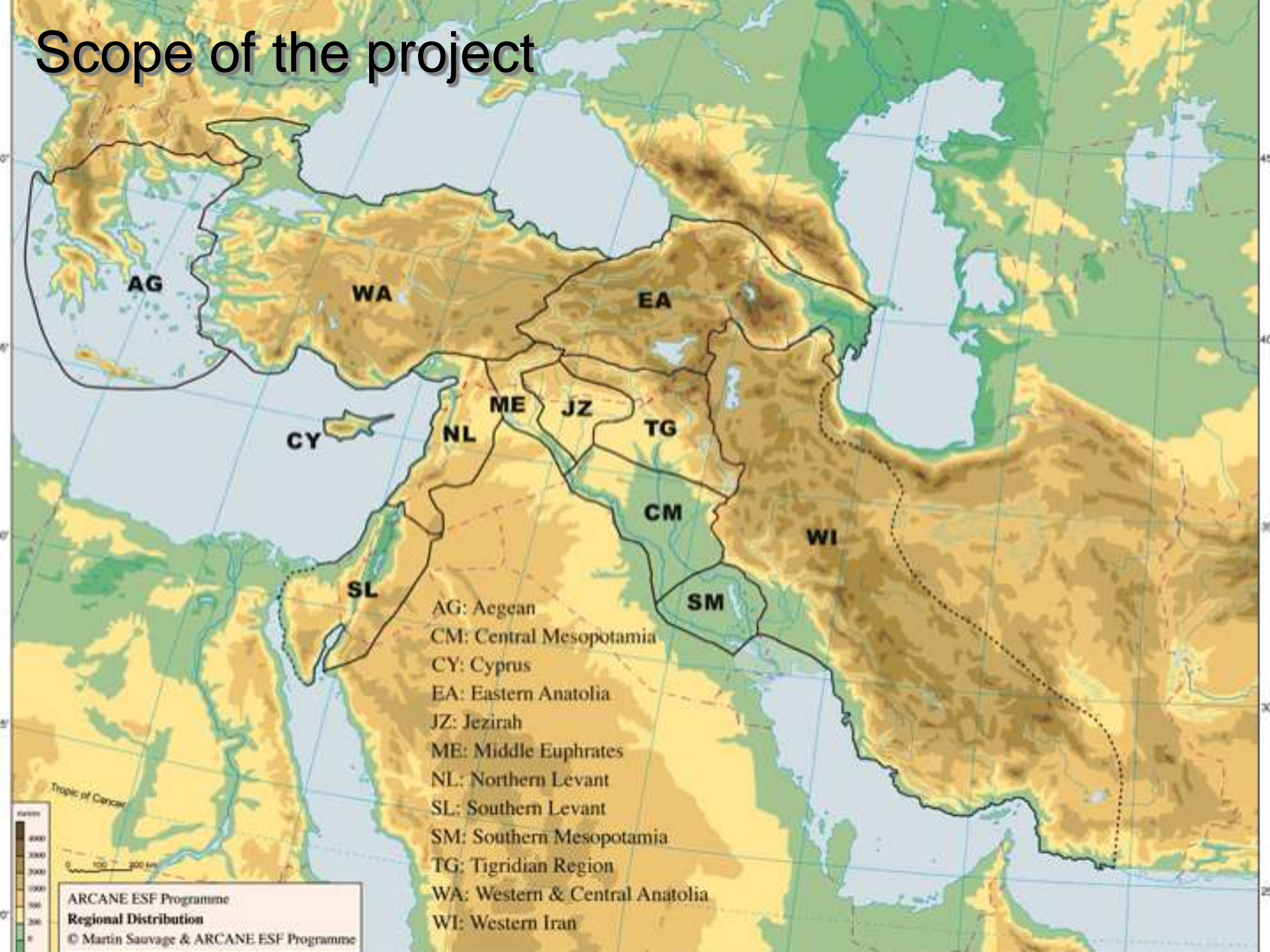


- **about 160 scholars** contributing and/or processing archaeological data

- **12 sponsoring institutions** representing the contributing countries

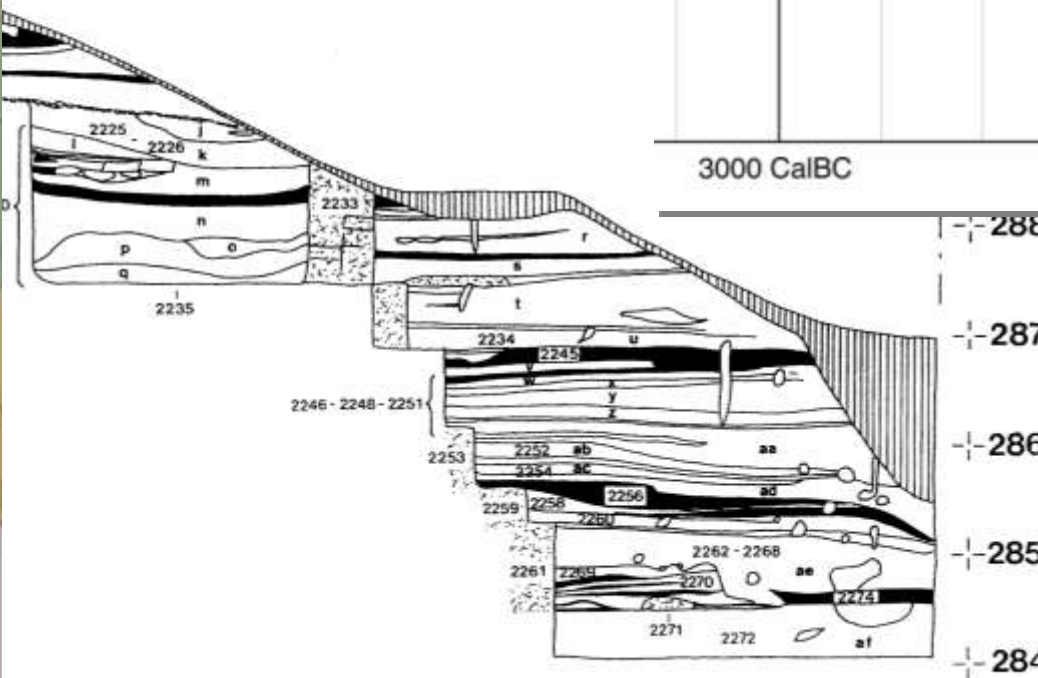
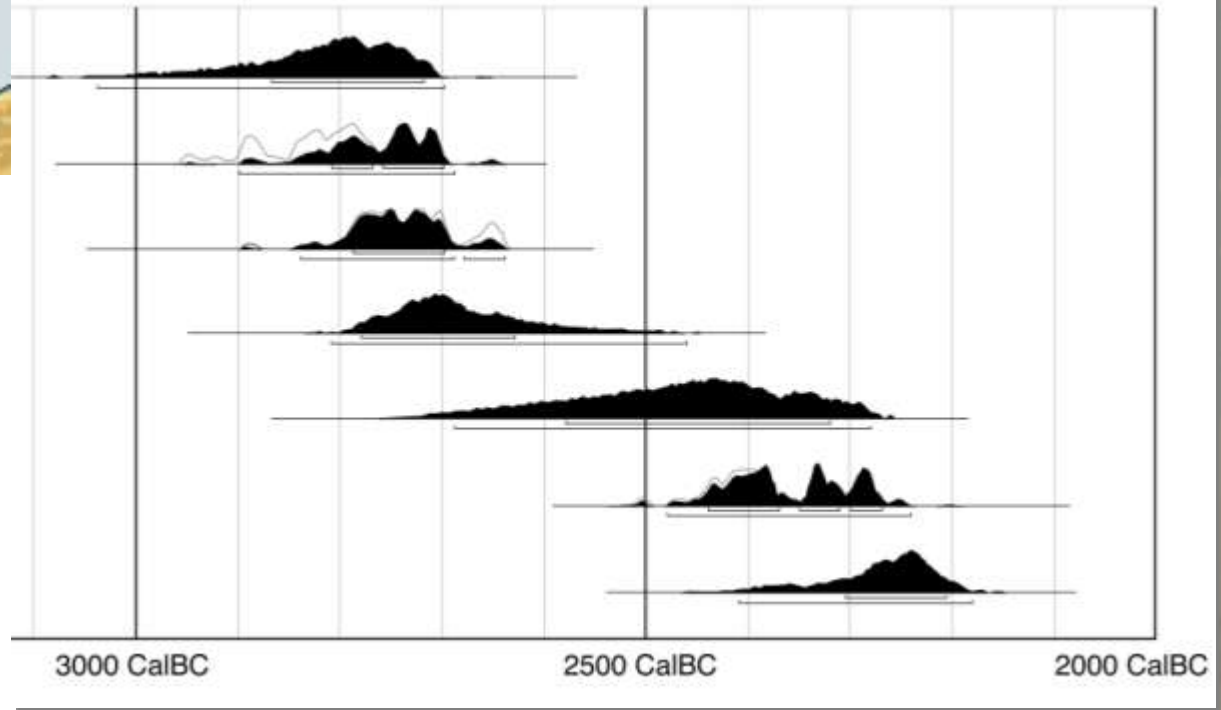


Scope of the project



Scope of the project

N16a



Ech.: 1:50



Scientific background: chronology (1)

Chronology underpins all archaeological and historical studies

The chronological framework of the ANE civilizations has been broadly outlined by scholarship until the 1960s.

Since then the multiplication of excavations and the widespread use of C14 dates have revolutionized our knowledge and profoundly altered the chronology of the Bronze Age

As a result, disagreements between specialists are numerous, controversies frequent and uncertainties general

There is an urgent need for a drastic review of our chronological frameworks

Scientific background: chronology (2)

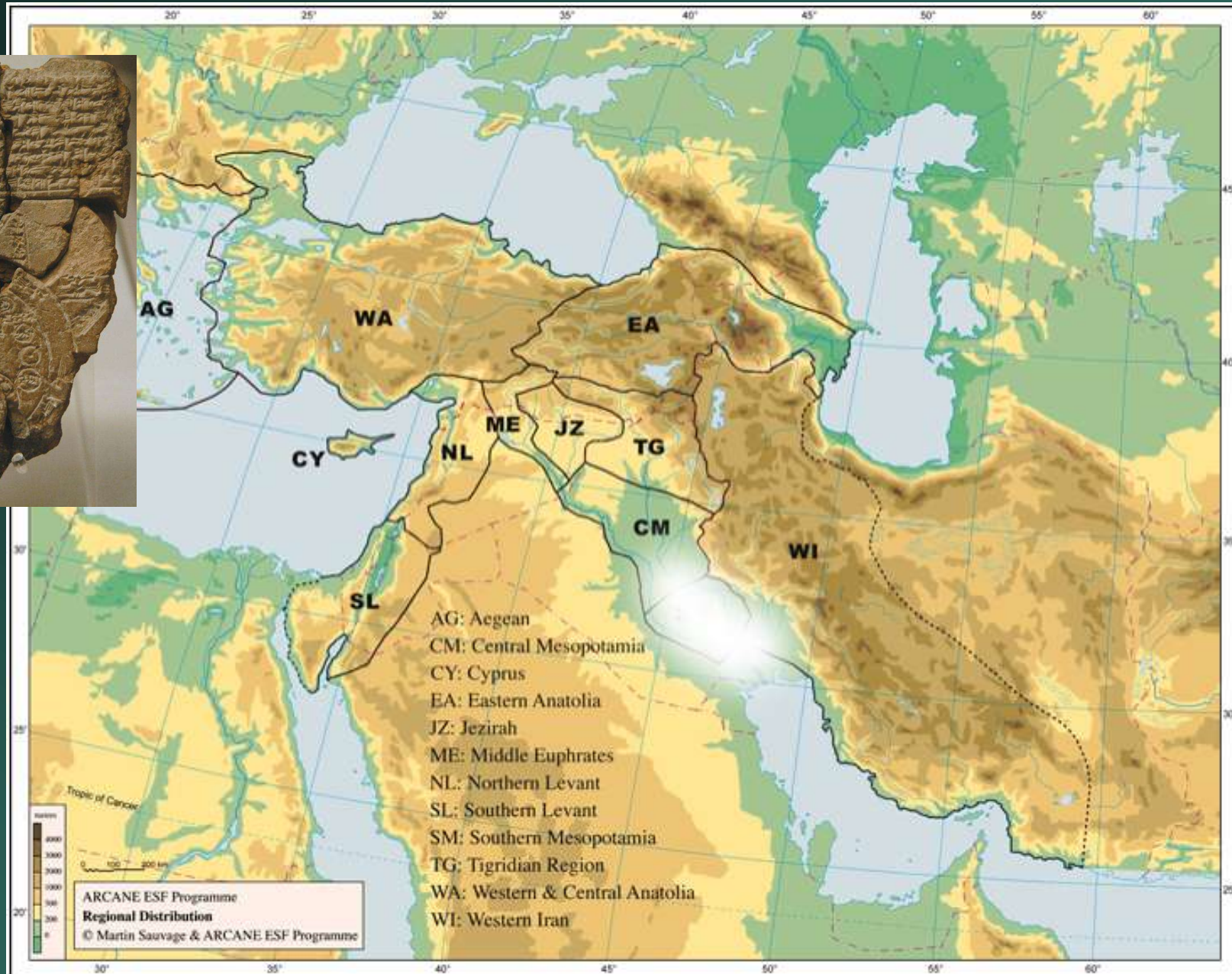
Major problems of Early Bronze Age chronology

- A considerable increase in the number of reliable archaeological sequences. Our knowledge of the archaeology of each area has progressed in isolation.
- The consequences of the introduction of the low chronology for the 2nd millennium have yet to be drawn for the chronology of the 3rd millennium
- There are growing discrepancies between the results of C14 datings and those of empirical chronologies based on archaeological sequences, the former being usually much higher than the latter would suggest

Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



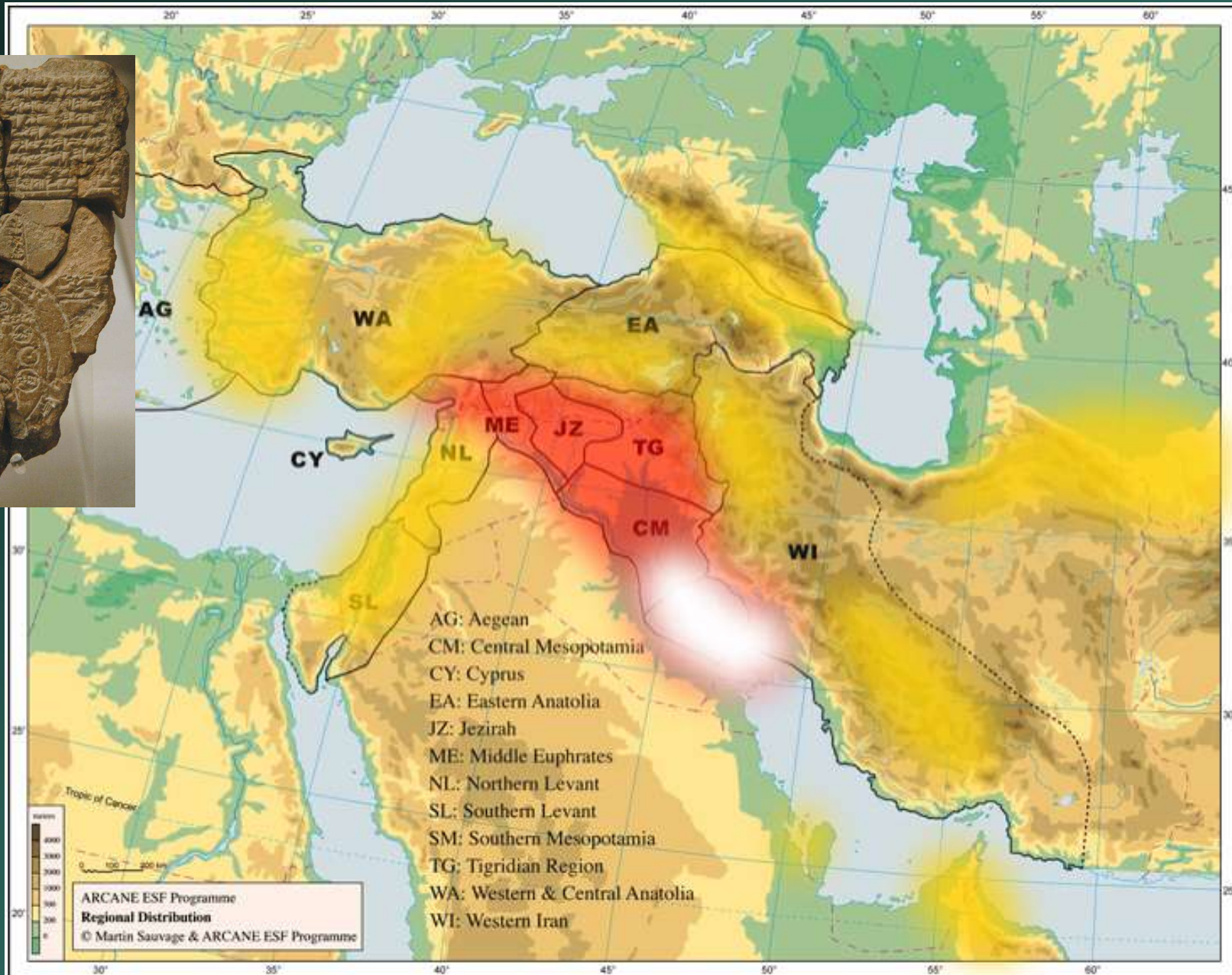
Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



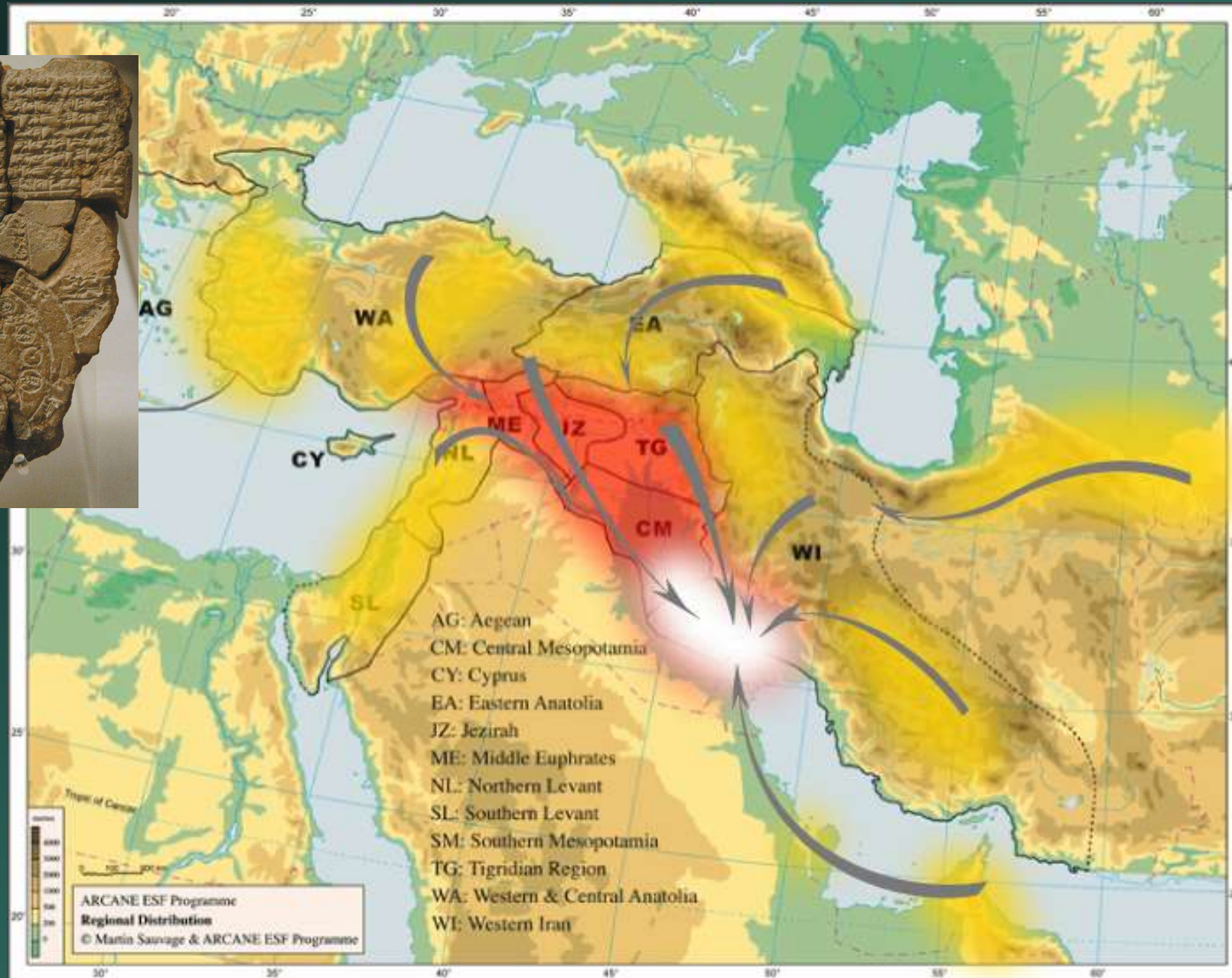
Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



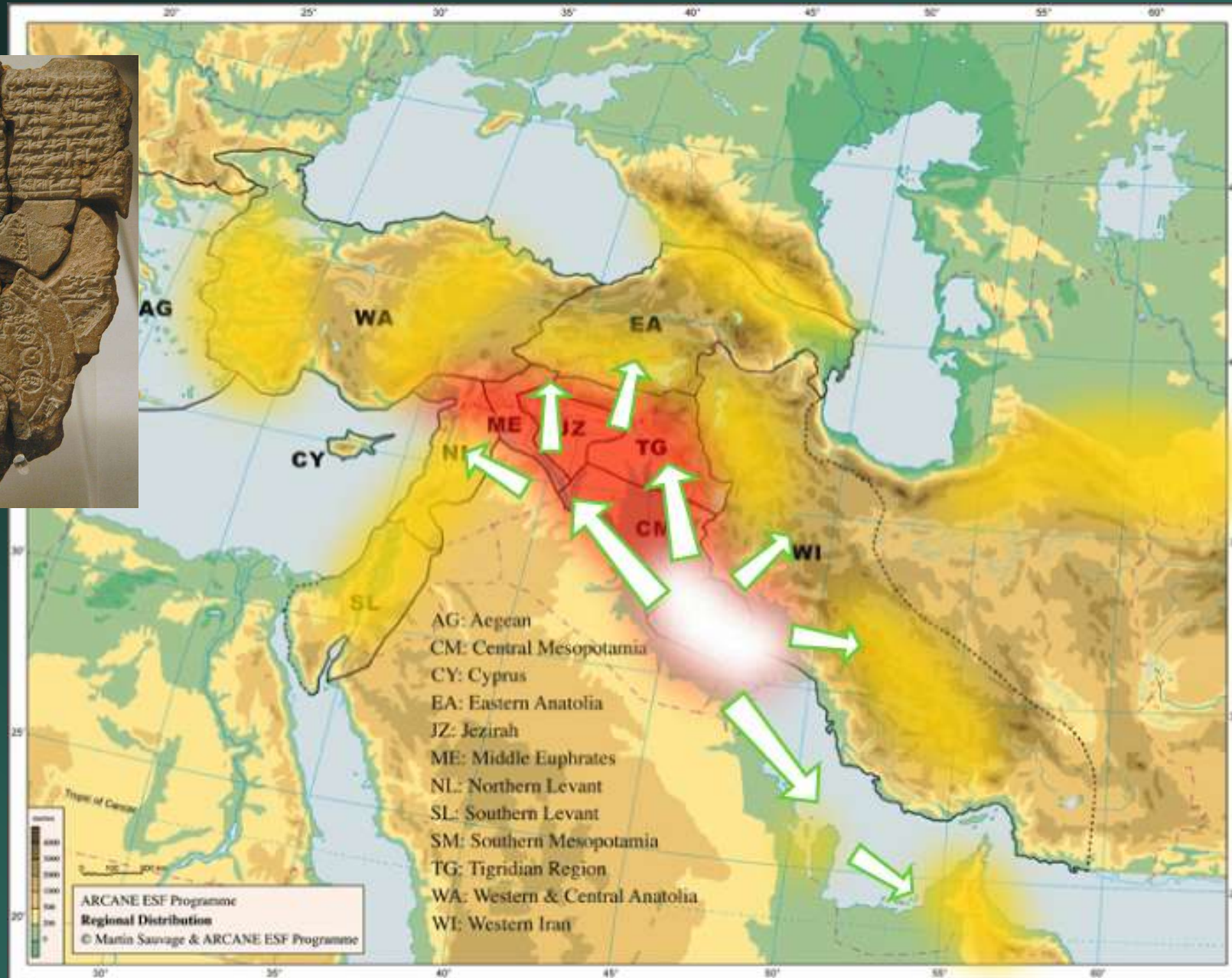
Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



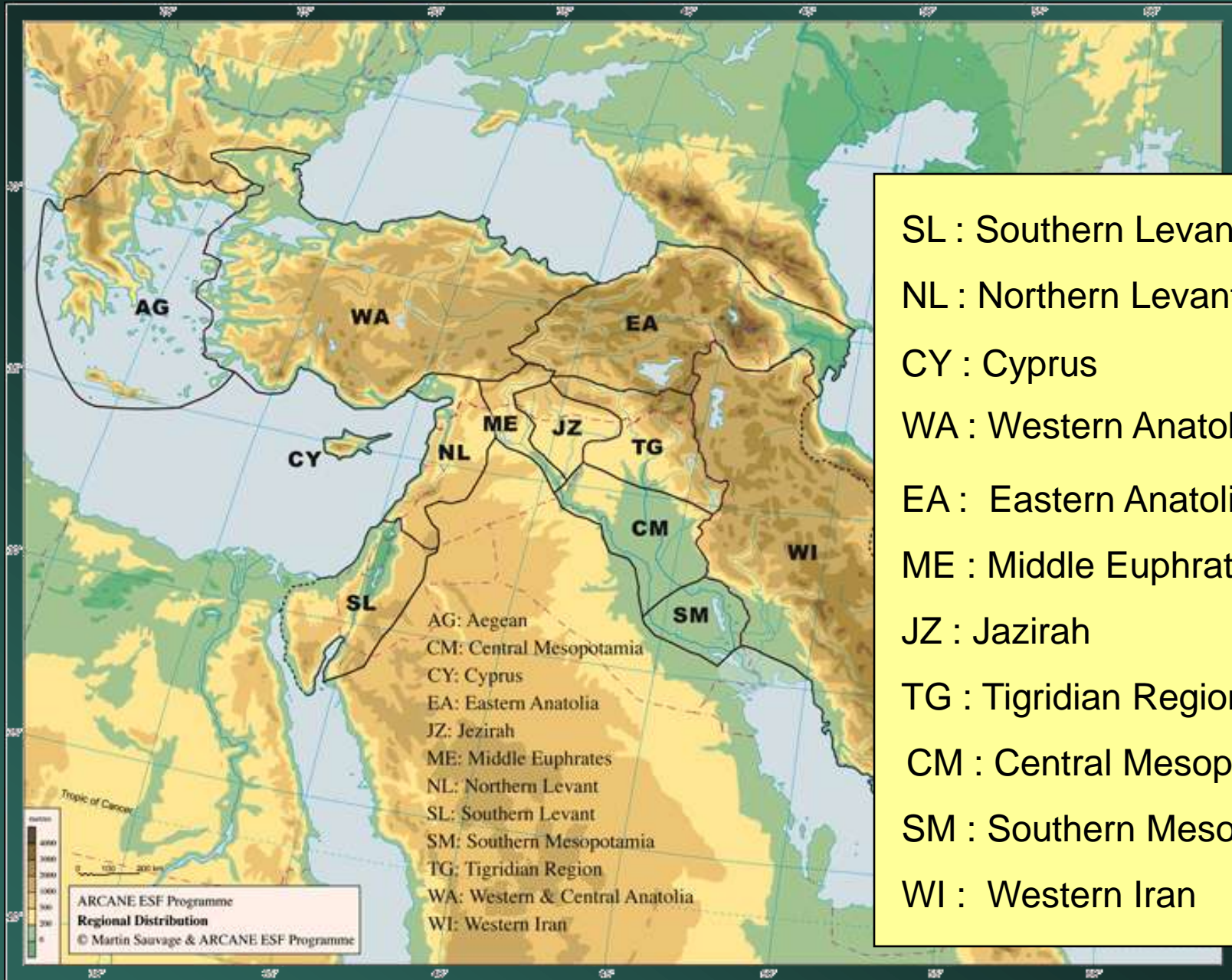
Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



Limits of the core/periphery paradigm



A regional approach



SL : Southern Levant

NL : Northern Levant

CY : Cyprus

WA : Western Anatolia

EA : Eastern Anatolia

ME : Middle Euphrates

JZ : Jazirah

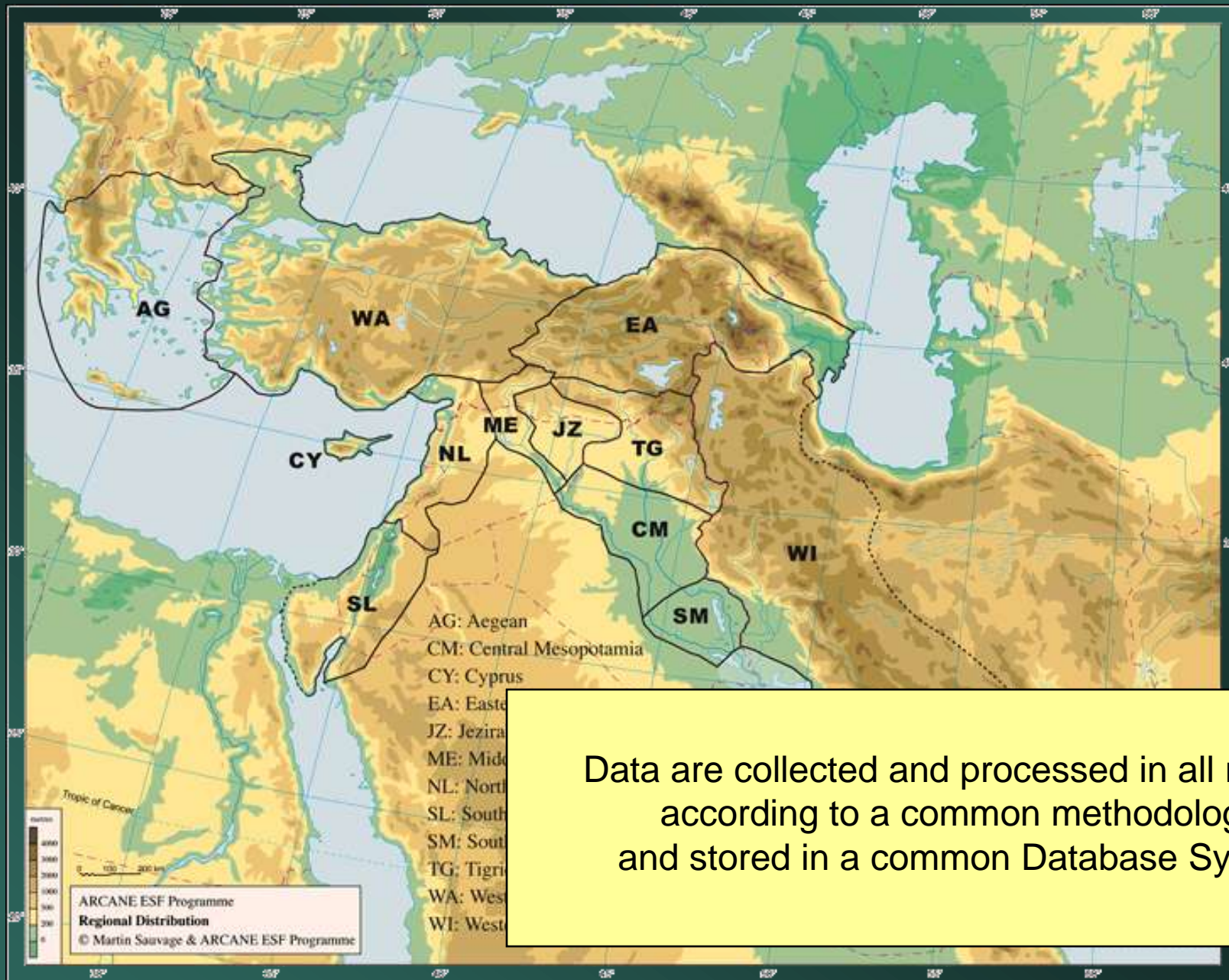
TG : Tigridian Region

CM : Central Mesopotamia

SM : Southern Mesopotamia

WI : Western Iran

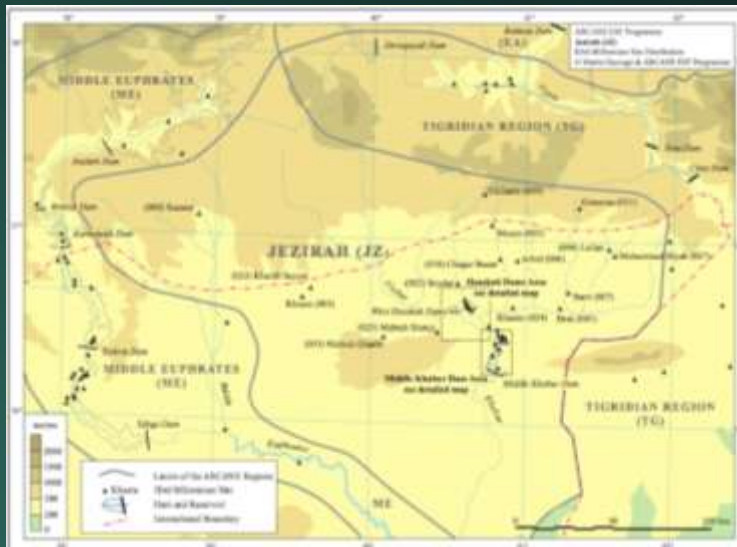
A regional approach



Data are collected and processed in all regions according to a common methodology, and stored in a common Database System

A regional approach

1. Regional level
2. Supra-regional level
3. General synchronization



Methodological problems and proposed solutions

« Old excavations »
Mostly uncontrollable
and unreliable material

SURVEYS
Data widely distributed
spatially but chronologically
unreliable

« Comparative »
material

RECENT EXCAVATIONS
Mostly controlled and reliable material,
But widely different methodologies
and terminologies are used...

SELECTED DATA
Quality rather than quantity...
but may not be spatially significant

**ARCANE
DATABASE**

- regionally significant chrono-types
- common terminologies
- regional chronologies
- synchronization of regional chronologies on an « objective » basis - 14C

Re-evaluation of « old » and
Survey documents according
to new criteria

**EXTENDED
ARCANE
DATABASE**

**Spatially representative and
chronologically significant
PROCESSED DATA**

**GIS - PROCESSED
INFORMATION**

**COUPLING
OF DB
WITH GIS**

Information

<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/arcane/>

