Archaia, the Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies (http://archaia.yale.edu), is a collaborative forum that brings together one of the largest groups of scholars in the world working on early civilizations. Scholars in the humanities and social sciences join with those working in Yale Divinity School, the collections, and the university libraries. The initiative encourages traditional modes of work and traditional fields of scholarship but seeks to build a new inter- and multidisciplinary framework that redefines old disciplinary boundaries. This collaboration brings together in sustained dialogue literary scholars and archaeologists, art historians and cuneiformists, legal historians and anthropologists, papyrologists and numismatists. Via description, analysis, and comparison, the Archaia collaboration allows for broader exposure to new ideas and methods that will stimulate new research agendas across disciplines encompassing the whole of the premodern world. Students are exposed early in their careers to a wider intellectual world and learn to understand in new ways the value of antiquity—from the Mediterranean to Japan—and its rich cultural heritage for our own world.