

Akkadian and Hittite Emotions in Context (AHEC)

Towards a Lexicon of Emotions in Cuneiform Texts from Ancient Mesopotamia and Asia Minor

Ulrike Steinert

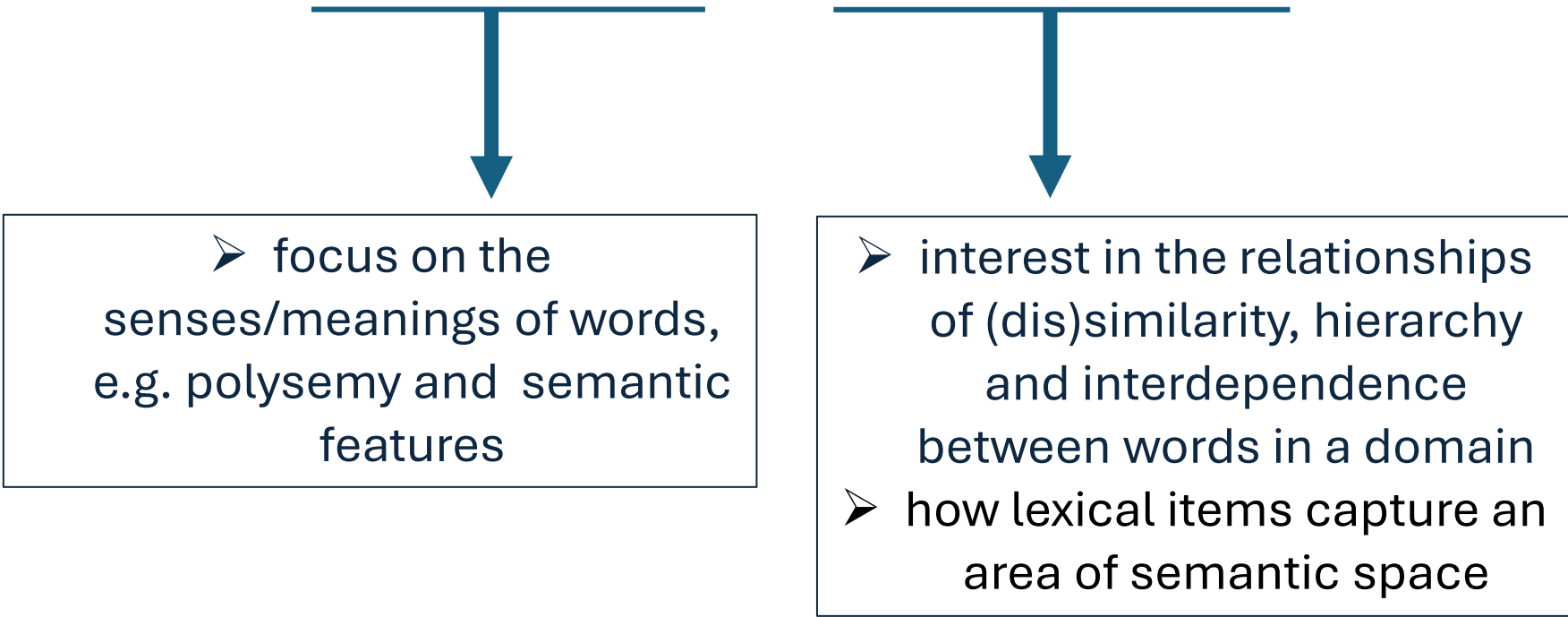
usteiner@uni-mainz.de, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

1. The AHEC Project

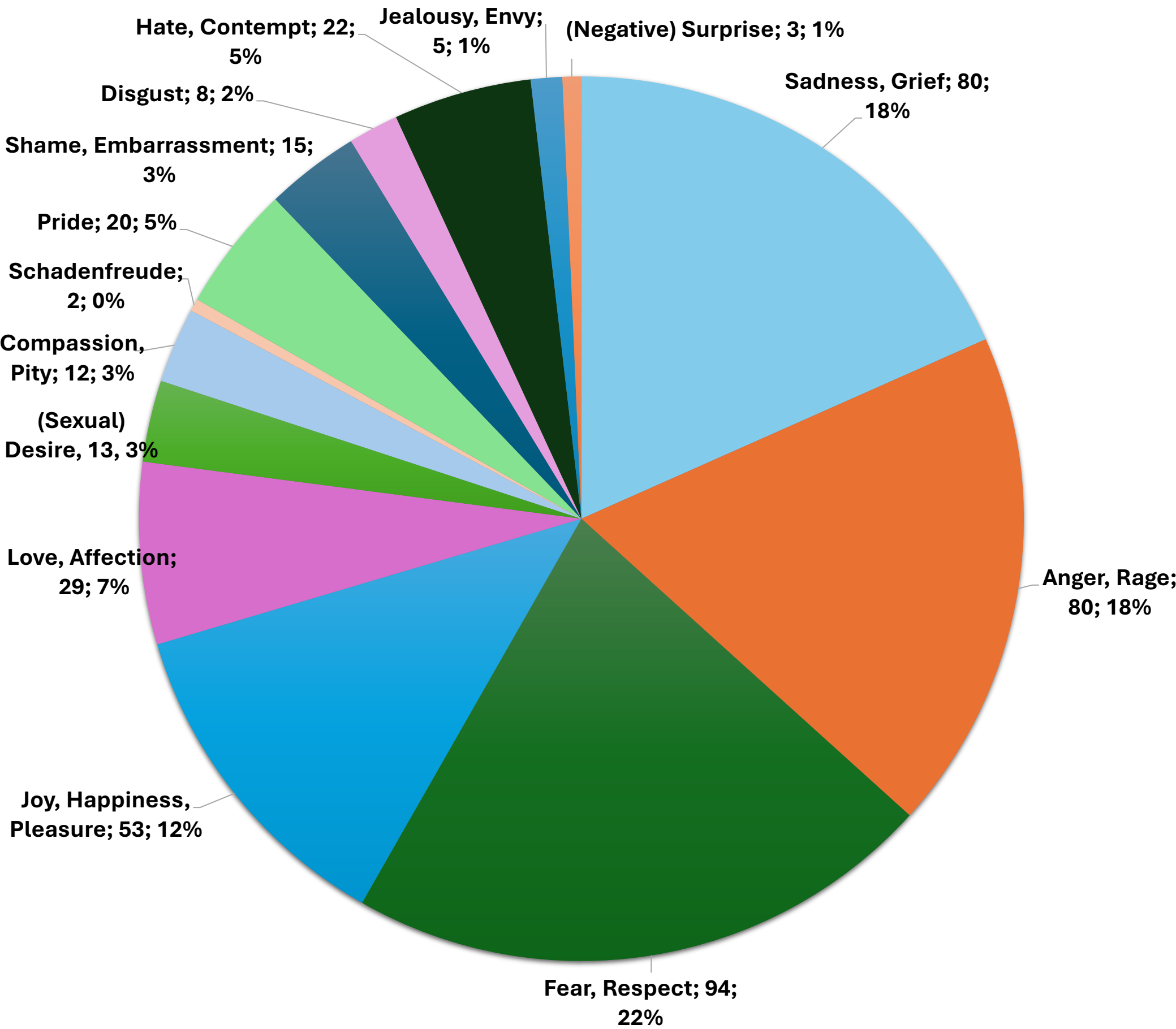
- The **first large-scale study** of Akkadian and Hittite emotion terms and expressions
- A collaboration between **Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and University of Tel Aviv**
- **Project Members:** Doris Prechel, Ulrike Steinert, Amir Gilan, Maria Molina, Letizia Savino

2. Approaches and Methods

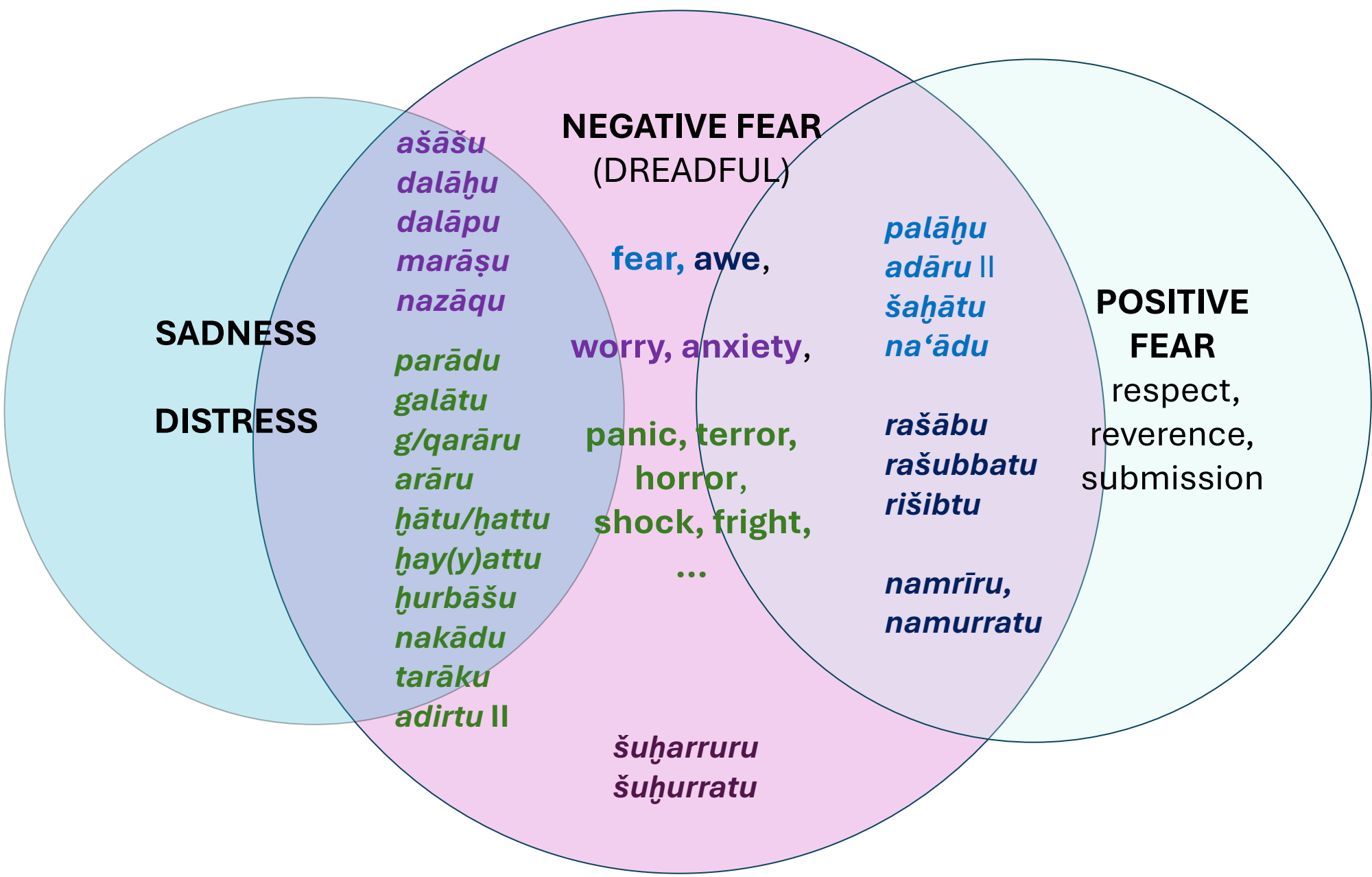
- **Corpus-based** and **comparative** approach (genres, contexts, diachronic developments, interlinguistic similarities / differences)
- **Cognitive-linguistic** approach (e.g. conceptual metaphor)
- Combined **semasiological** and **onomasiological** approach



3. Emotion Lexemes in Akkadian – Preliminary Survey



4. The Semantic Domain of *Fear* in Akkadian



5. Salient Features of Akkadian Emotion Terms

- **Abstract terms**
- **Expressions with body part terms** (also figurative)
- **Metaphor-induced colexification** (typical feeling, physical symptom, behavioural expression, or action tendency associated with an emotion)

- **Emotion-related terms** (e.g. terms for vocal expressions, bodily reactions)
- **Terms spanning different feelings within an emotion domain**
- **Terms spanning two different emotion domains** in comparison with English equivalents (e.g. envy / jealousy)

Literature
Kipfer, S. and E. Wagner-Durand. 2021. *Coping with and Preventing Collective Fear in the Ancient Near East: Perspectives from Texts and Material Culture*. *Die Welt des Orients* 51/1.
Kövecses, Z. 2000. *Metaphor and Emotion: Language, Culture, and Body in Human Feeling*. Cambridge.
Steinert, U. 2021. "Pounding Hearts and Burning Livers: The 'Sentimental Body' in Mesopotamian Medicine and Literature", in: Shih-Wei Hsu and Jaume Llop Raduà (eds.), *The Expression of Emotions in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia*, Leiden, 410-469.
Steinert, U. 2023. "Emotion and the Body: Embodiment, Conceptual Metaphor, and Linguistic Encoding of Emotions in Akkadian", in: K. Sonik and U. Steinert (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Emotions in the Ancient Near East*. London, 51-87.
Svärd, S., Alstola, T., Jauhiainen, H., Sahala, A. and K. Lindén. 2021. "Fear in Akkadian Texts: New Digital Perspectives on Lexical Semantics", in: Shih-Wei Hsu and Jaume Llop Raduà (eds.), *The Expression of Emotions in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia*, Leiden, 470-502.
Wende, J. 2023. "Akkadian Emotion Terms," in: Sonik, K. and U. Steinert (eds.) 2023. *The Routledge Handbook of Emotions in the Ancient Near East*. London, 150-170.

