Economic models in Ancient Near East economies

Input definitions:
- **Economy** – the core is the allocation of goods and resources
- **Model** – theoretical and simplified concept of reality the aim of which is to illustrate mechanisms governing the reality

Two assumptions:
- we do not treat Near East economy as a whole
- problem with precise statistical data referring to the ancient times

Models:
- circulations: production, storage, distribution and consumption
- \( G = f(P, R, T, I) \), where \( G \) is global income (produced goods), \( P \) – people, \( R \) – resources, \( T \) – technology and \( I \) – institutions
- cooperation between state (including religious institutions) and private sector
- question of existence of market economy - demand and supply with price or its equivalent as a tool of relation

Terms and persons to clarify:
- \( nmh \) (Egyptian) - people, who had own land and paid taxes to the royal treasure = \( \epsilon λεύθερος \) (Greek)
- \( tamkaru \) (Akkadian) - royal clerks who performed long-distance trade for fixed prices
- **embeddedness** - economic behaviour in certain historical and social conditions as well as cultural and even religious ones
- John Maynard Keynes – British economist (1883-1946) - Keynesianism idea assumes a great role of the state as the creator of demand

Key problem: correspondence of contemporary economic models with the reality of the ancient Near East

Question of the talk: translation of economic rules current in our times into different realities in the earlier times – **continuity vs. change**