

ISAW Newsletter 11

Fall 2014



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
New York University



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I write, it is the day of Orientation, when our new visiting research scholars and students make their first official appearance and we introduce them to the community (see page 10). Previous groups of scholars continue to flourish in their research and careers (see page 11), and it was a particular delight to see former visiting scholar Fiona Kidd just before she left to become the very first faculty member teaching the ancient world at NYU Abu Dhabi (as well as an ISAW affiliated faculty member). The summer also brought wedding photos for Mantha Zarmakoupi (former visiting research scholar; on Paros) and Marek Dospěl (former visiting graduate student; in Prague). Orientation is also the moment at which our faculty, students, and research associates magically reappear from their summer travels for research and conferences, full of discoveries and connections. Some of these have been highlighted on the web site over the course of the summer, and there will be more to come. Although the summer is never really a season of inactivity here, as the administrative staff know only too well (see page 9 for the changes in our lecture hall; and we redid the kitchen, too), it has a different texture. The renewed buzz of the reassembled community is irresistible, enough even to reconcile me to the restarting of the unceasing round of administrative meetings. Work is also well underway for this fall's exciting exhibition (page 12), which will be on the verge of opening when this Newsletter reaches you.

At the center of it all is the life of teaching and learning, as classes resume for the fall semester next week. The key feature of this issue (page 4) is about our seminars and tutorials. From the earliest discussions I had with the search committee in 2006 about what ISAW would be like, we were determined that its very particular mission would be embodied in its teaching. We give our faculty great freedom to teach what they wish, and they respond with enthusiasm, creativity, and responsiveness to student needs. The variety is wonderful (see <http://isaw.nyu.edu/graduate-program/seminar-descriptions> for current listings). No two are alike; there is no template. During the past year we began to take advantage of our strengths in the digital area to provide graduate teaching in digital methods for humanistic research, and I anticipate that we will continue to develop this area in the coming years. Perhaps even more distinctive than the content, though, is the texture of our seminars produced by the variety of participants, always including visiting research scholars but often also some of our faculty and research associates, and faculty and students from other universities. Rather than try to describe all of this in the abstract, I invite you to read the reactions of those who have taken part, from faculty to students.

Roger Bagnall
Leon Levy Director



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ISAW PROGRAMS

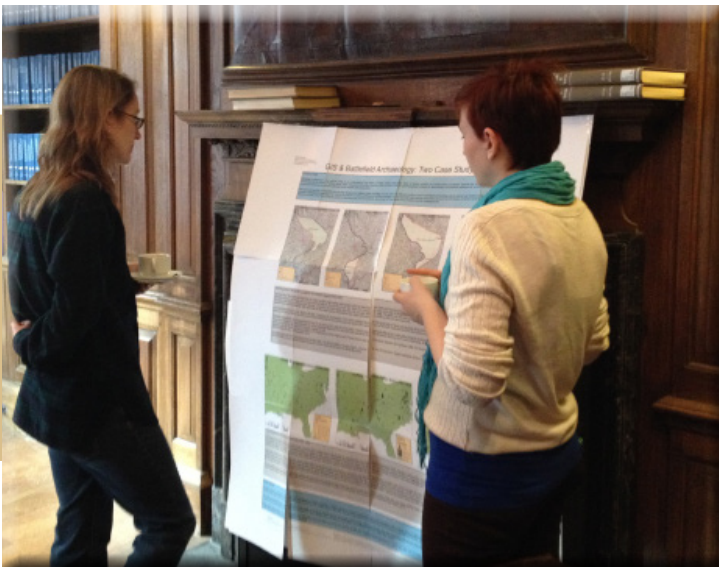
Teaching and Learning at ISAW

In this issue we feature reflections by faculty and students on their recent experiences in ISAW's seminars and directed studies, the core of our distinctive graduate curriculum. The 2013-14 year was particularly interesting in being the first in which we have offered seminars in digital technologies for the study of the ancient world.

In the fall semester 2013, **Emily Hammer** offered a graduate course on “Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Spatial Analysis in Anthropology and Archaeology.” She describes it as follows: “The course aimed to provide a basic understanding of how remote sensing data (satellite imagery and aerial photographs) and GIS can be used to visualize, integrate, and analyze archaeological, anthropological, historical, and environmental data. It also aimed to introduce students to the process of carrying out a spatial research project using the ESRI ArcGIS software package. Each student chose a dataset to present and analyze spatially during the course of the semester. On December 18, the students shared the results of their projects with the NYU community in two poster sessions, one held at ISAW, and one sponsored by the Anthropology Department on the Washington Square campus. Student projects spanned the globe from New York City to Peru, Lesotho, the Middle East, the Caucasian Steppes, and Afghanistan. Topics included re-analysis of groundbreaking archaeological survey and excavation projects of the early-mid twentieth century, analysis of new archaeological data collected by Lorenzo d’Alfonso’s team in Cappadocia, 3D analysis of primate teeth,

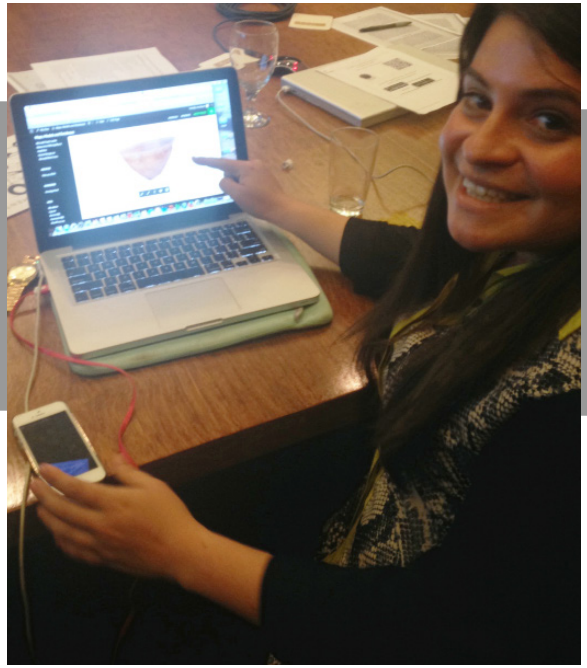
spatial and demographic analyses of tuberculosis outbreaks in the 1960s, and temporal-spatial visualization of ritual violence patterns after major disruptive historical events. The course drew students from various parts of NYU, including ISAW, IFA, Anthropology, Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Studies, and Politics, all of whom benefited from the interdisciplinary feedback they received from the community during the poster sessions. Since the end of the course, students have gone on to incorporate the methods they learned into their dissertation projects and have also worked to apply these methods to archaeological and archival data collected by Lorenzo d’Alfonso and Sören Stark’s field teams, further integrating digital and spatial methods into research life at ISAW.”

In the spring of 2014, **Sebastian Heath** taught “Maps, Models and Databases: Digital Tools for the Ancient World” as a seminar. He writes: “The semester began with a rapid survey of tools, including websites that produce 3D-models from photographs—such as <http://www.123dapp.com/catch>—and the cloud-based mapping tool CartoDB (<http://cartodb.com>). Students then began work on flexible data structures using JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), a standard currently finding increasing adoption in the Digital Humanities community. The progression here was from the high visual impact of 3D models to data-driven maps to close focus on the details of data representation. My general goal was that the students should become more confident users of computers, particularly as they enter or continue their dissertation research.



Molly Miranker, an NYU student, discussing with ISAW's Kristen Soule her GIS project on Battlefield Archaeology related to World War I France and the American Civil War.

ISAW PhD student Irene Soto participating in Sebastian Heath's Spring 2014 seminar, "Maps, Models and Databases: Digital Tools for the Ancient World".



An ongoing theme was reusable data that is easy to share. We should not be creating digital resources that are tied to particular applications and that are hard to publish. Accordingly, we explored tools for sharing 3D models online (<http://p3d.in>). Maps were created in both Google Earth and CartoDB and the data shared between the two. We always looked to embed results in the course website or at least to be able to share a link to student work. This “share first” mentality informed the students’ final projects. For each weekly meeting the students and I pasted links into a shared Google document. That worked very well and encouraged conversation and interaction. Some of the liveliest meetings of this experimental seminar came when we had guest speakers whose presentations raised social and institutional issues related to the impact of digital tools on scholarship and the academy.”

Quite a few of ISAW’s seminars are team-directed. One recent example is “Landscapes and Territoriality in Western and Eastern Asia BCE,” taught by **Lorenzo d’Alfonso** and **Roderick Campbell**. Lorenzo talks about its aims from his perspective: “Our seminar was born from the desire to revise the approach to the study of space in the archaeology and pre- and protohistory of early polities. A lot of new modeling and digital tools in the last decade improved the potential to discuss several aspects of space, but this improvement remains often detached from the historical perspective, and not only for narrative history, but also for economy and territorial organization. Our attempt was then to focus on the terms territory and territoriality, and critically examine how in the fields of Western and Eastern Asian protohistory the term was, more or less consciously, conceptualized. The influence of modern and contemporary history on these conceptualizations is also a determinant. In some cases, as for the Colonial Near East, or today’s South Caucasus and China, political reasons can easily be found. At the same time, the philosophical

and ideological background of the conceptualization of ancient territories is closely related to specific cultural and political contexts as well. The seminar helped all of us to enrich the interpretation of the novel and rich data provided by the GIS-based analyses, and at the same time look more carefully at the territoriality of big and small polities of ancient Asia and beyond.”

Rod describes his approach: “In many ways this seminar was a continued collaborative exploration of the ancient polity by myself and Lorenzo. Whereas last year’s seminar had focused on the topic of temporality - the development and decline of ancient polities - this year’s seminar focused on the spatial dimension - specifically the intersection of politics, space, economy and identity. As the seminar leaders Lorenzo and I were very fortunate to have experts such as Daniel Fleming of NYU’s ancient near eastern department, ISAW VRS Ian Rutherford, Anna Lanaro and research associate Karen Rubinson actively participating in what amounted to an advanced workshop on the topic. Although there was only one registered student, we were graced by frequent auditors from ISAW, Columbia and Barnard.

From a research perspective, the territoriality seminar was extremely successful, with the participants reaching broadly similar conclusions about the nature of the phenomenon in the ancient world despite our disparate training and backgrounds. The juxtaposition of so many different specialties and regions of expertise, moreover, allowed us all to glimpse many fascinating examples running counter to our own region or discipline-

based expectations. This sort of comparative history both laid bare the variety of ways in which human spatial politics and identity can be organized and suggested some of the basic principles relating people to resources, ownership and spatial identity that have more to do with the affordances of technological or economic relations than cultural particularity. If the goal was to liberate us as ancient historians from the anachronistic shadow of the nation state and replace it with a more historically flexible and accurate framework for studying territoriality in ancient polities, then I would count the seminar as a resounding success. In fact, Lorenzo, Dan and I are already contemplating collaborative work on a book concerning ancient polities that would incorporate some of the insights of the seminar.”

Research Associate **Karen Rubinson** describes her experience in this seminar: “Last spring, I took Rod and Lorenzo’s seminar in order to learn more about the current theoretical approaches to the concept of territoriality, a topic pertinent to my research both in the South Caucasus and the Eurasian steppe. Certainly, the seminar brought me up-to-date on the literature but also had additional benefits for me and for others.

As someone who has an M.A. in Far Eastern Art and Archaeology and a Ph.D. in Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, I had some familiarity with the background materials and historiography of both areas and some broad sense of the differing assumptions within the study of the past in the two areas. Thus I watched the interaction among the participants with special interest, since I did not share their surprise at the nature of each other’s evidence. The readings and discussions brought out nuances in the nature of the evidence in both areas

of the world that would not have been possible if one were following only one geographical body of knowledge.

I work on the edges of the Ancient Near East and China – in the South Caucasus and the Eurasian steppes and Central Asia –with peoples who do not have texts of their own. Through the discussions in class, I learned to appreciate the subtleties of how an interactive use of archaeological and textual evidence can sharpen the questions that one can ask about the past, and not just in areas with texts.

The nature of the very areas and peoples that I study placed me as an outsider to the concept of territoriality as it is defined by and about ancient settled states. My familiarity with a more fluid sense of territoriality, especially among mobile pastoralists, came to be useful in the discussions of what boundaries really meant in the theoretical approaches and case studies we read in class. The permeability of boundaries was familiar to me, and as the class progressed, we found other iterations of permeable boundaries in our case studies; the mobile pastoral models to at least some degree made those examples more comprehensible.

Overall, the seminar, as a manifestation of ISAW’s mission to study antiquity across vast stretches of time and place, was an invigorating intellectual experience. Each participant’s specialties and expertise enhanced the discussions, sharpened our understandings of the past in areas within and outside our own foci, and enriched our intellectual lives.”

ISAW Senior Fellow **Daniel Fleming**, who was a Visiting Research Scholar last year, gives his perspective: “In their joint seminar on territoriality,



This ritual burial site of the late 2nd and 1st millennia BCE, photographed by Karen Rubinson, lies in the steppe landscape of Jargalantyn Am, Mongolia where boundaries are fluid.

Rod Campbell and Lorenzo d'Alfonso put before us a regular combination of theory-based challenges and concrete evidence from East Asia on one hand and Anatolia on the other, so that we could

d'Alfonso seeking above all the most effective vantage for specific historical interpretations. There was constant play between the two, pushing and pulling on readings and ideas, inviting the rest of us into the fray, equally open-minded and rigorous

Rod Campbell (left) and Lorenzo d'Alfonso (not pictured) leading a seminar.



re-evaluate our assumptions about basic political categories as they relate to space—or the reverse.

During our first session, they solicited each of our starting points, our own senses of how the concept of territoriality could be applied usefully to the settings we knew best. Certainly we think of territory as involving boundaries and the regions enclosed by them as sanctioned by states. And then things became more complicated as we considered entities that could not be called states, groups defined in ways different from settled space, and competing understandings of the same space used by different populations.

It seemed throughout that we were dealing with open horizons in conversations that illuminated our own work even as the raw material might come from a setting entirely unfamiliar. I learned more about early China than ever before and came away with a much clearer notion of where its culture developed along lines completely unlike those of western Asia and where even its differences could clarify my comprehension of how political entities relate to place, as with the mobility of capitals within a commonly accepted Chinese land. While the two domains for case study were vastly separate, it never felt as if the exercise was comparative. The goal was always larger than either individual setting, and this gave a profound coherence and unity to the seminar.

Both Professors Campbell and d'Alfonso are historians who work comfortably with archaeology in combination with language and text, and both consider these questions of categories and conceptual frameworks to be unavoidable and compelling. Yet each approached territoriality from a distinct angle, Campbell more drawn by theoretical questions for their own sake and

about reasoning. This is just the kind of cross-pollination that characterizes ISAW, and it was a privilege to take part.”

A very different kind of collaborative seminar was one on Early Chinese Epigraphy taught by **Rod Campbell** and visiting assistant professor **Adam Schwartz**. Rod says, “The goal of this seminar was to establish the foundations of early Chinese epigraphy that covered the first 1000 years and some half dozen genres of paleography. This tall task was made possible by collaboration with Adam Schwartz – perhaps the only scholar in the West with the range to cover this spectrum. The course was a resounding success from the perspective of attracting students and establishing a community of early Chinese epigraphers in the greater New York area and making ISAW its center. The seminar not only attracted students from the broader NYU community (ISAW, IFA, and NYU), but also from Columbia and Yale, as well as bringing together experts from Gallatin, Barnard, Columbia, and Penn in addition to ISAW. The seminar ended with an international and interdisciplinary workshop and symposium on an early corpus of Chinese inscriptions that drew scholars from as far away as France and China and put ISAW and the budding center of Chinese epigraphy and ancient history in New York on display. In addition to the speakers, the symposium drew students and professionals from all over New York and adjacent states.

In the long-term, a commitment to continued collaboration was established between myself, Ethan Harkness (Gallatin), Guo Jue (Barnard), and Li Feng (Columbia) that will allow New York to become a leading center for ancient Chinese epigraphy. Indeed, beyond epigraphy, Guo Jue and I will follow Li Feng as the organizers of the Columbia

Early China seminar – New York’s current forum for Early China scholarship. Our intention is not only to reform it to encourage more graduate student participation (and, frankly, a higher academic standard), but also to put it within a broader umbrella that would include an ISAW component.”

Now, from the student’s perspective, **Maria Americo** describes her experience in Alexander Jones’s seminar entitled “Time in Greco-Roman Antiquity: Texts and Material Culture.” “The aim of this seminar was to study the technologies and practices of timekeeping and time management not only in Greco-Roman antiquity, but also in any earlier, later, or contemporary cultures related to ancient Greece and Rome. The span of time covered in our seminar, as well as the meaning of “cultures related to ancient Greece and Rome,” was defined and limited only by the areas of expertise of the participants. Professor Jones’s main focus is the exact sciences in Greco-Roman antiquity, with a specialization in astronomy, astrology, and mathematics, but his interests also include the contact and transmission between Greek and Babylonian astronomy. My own focus is also Greco-Roman science, mainly astronomy and mechanics and the juncture of the two, astronomical instruments; and, running parallel to that, medieval Islamic science and philosophy, and the contact and transmission between Greek and Islamic science. The range of the seminar’s other participants was huge, including Babylonian astronomy, ancient Greek religion, Roman art and its use of astrological imagery, and social theories of timekeeping in Greco-Roman antiquity. In addition to Professor Jones’s lectures on various topics within this category, notably his expert discussions of the Antikythera mechanism, a complex geared device for modeling astronomical and calendrical information from about the first century BCE, our seminar was enriched by lectures from all of the student participants in their areas of expertise: I contributed by giving talks on the transition from the portable sundial of antiquity to the astrolabe of the Middle Ages.

Our seminar “Time in Greco-Roman Antiquity: Texts and Material Culture” was emblematic of what we do here at ISAW: an interdisciplinary mix. It

was a balance of student and teacher contribution; disciplines of area and expertise; textual and material culture; time periods; and narrow, personalized focus combined with broad vision and freedom. Certainly an ISAW seminar par excellence.”

Along with the seven to ten seminars ISAW offers each term, much teaching goes on at the tutorial level. Fourth-year student **Irene Soto** talks about what she calls “one of the most rewarding classes during my time at ISAW”: “As an archaeologist and economic historian in the making, I had already been part of an excavation for over six years and I had already started directing my research to questions regarding the scale of production and the economic integration of the Roman Empire. Yet I found myself needing a proper theoretical background with which to undertake the kind of research I hoped to do. Modern Economics classes are geared towards different types of questions and use very different data sets than the ones I want to work with for Late Antique Egypt. I needed a sort of “Economic Theory for the Ancient Historian” approach. I mentioned this casually over coffee to Prof. Roderick Campbell who, although he focuses on a completely different time period and geographical region, nonetheless deals with similar questions for his research at the site of Anyang, China. He immediately suggested a directed reading geared towards understanding the historiography of economic history that has been inherited by our generation of scholars. The tutorial proved to be somewhat popular and we wound up with five students working on different periods of Chinese and Roman history. We covered political economy classics such as Marx’s *Das Kapital* and Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* as well as key works in anthropology—namely Malinowski’s *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. Thanks to the directed readings, I was able to use a theoretical framework with which to study the function of “unofficial” coinage and coin molds in 4th century Egypt, a project that I am now turning into an article. As I focus on my dissertation proposal, I know I will keep drawing on the knowledge I acquired from the readings and fruitful discussions I had with my colleagues during this class.”



Professor Beate Pongratz-Leisten and students from her Advanced Akkadian Reading Class.

Libraries

David Ratzan, Head Librarian

I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor, Charles E. Jones. Under his leadership ISAW's library grew to over 36,000 items, a firm foundation on which we continue to build, even as we move to implement new initiatives, including offsite storage, a revised strategic collections plan, and a robust outreach program.

This past year we took a significant leap forward in our East Asian holdings. First, we completely accessioned David N. Keightley's collection. Now

the Department of Art History at Rutgers (New Brunswick), Prof. Small excavated at Murlo (Poggio Civitate), an archaic Etruscan site near Siena, and was for 21 years the Director of the U.S. Center of the Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae. Prof. Small's donation adds significantly to our holdings in Etruscology and Greek and Roman art.

Sara Roemer (left) and Jessica Shapiro (right)

Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Keightley specializes in early religious and political culture in China. His generous donation of nearly a thousand volumes, mostly in Chinese, thus anchors a core research area of the ISAW Library. Second, we also purchased an additional 1,300 Chinese-language items, in order to broaden our holdings in Chinese and Silk Road archaeology, philology, civilization, and art history.

From the other end of the ancient world I am pleased to announce the gift of Prof. Jocelyn Penny Small's library to ISAW. Professor Emerita in



Finally, two of our Library Research Associates, Sara Roemer and Jessica Shapiro, are moving on to new challenges. Here since ISAW's beginning, Sara and Jessica not only cataloged the lion's share of our collection, but have also assisted in a 1,001 other library projects. We are profoundly thankful for their service and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Technology Upgrades for Teaching and Research

Kristen Soule, IT Support Analyst

Tom Elliott, Associate Director for Digital Programs

The Digital Programs team has coordinated significant technology upgrades in the Institute's teaching spaces over the past year. The Seminar Room, which was updated first, has been given larger and sharper digital displays and a state-of-the-art videoconferencing system that features a powerful camera and high-quality sound. Through it, we've been able to interact with our research team in Egypt, invited a colleague to give a seminar from his office in Europe, included traveling faculty and remote staff in meetings, and interviewed candidates. As long as we can agree on a time that works for all time zones involved, we can connect!

In the Lecture Hall, we have just completed a full media system upgrade that not only provides

sharper, brighter images and clearer sound for our guests, but also will encourage collaboration and better equip us to serve overflow crowds. The ability to display images and other content on the projection screen is no longer limited to a single presenter plugged in near the podium. Multiple collaborators can now share their visuals wirelessly on-screen. In the past, our audience size has been limited by the capacity of the room, and guests had to be physically present in NYC. If we wanted to record a video, recording services were contracted at significant expense. We now have the ability to share high-quality video and sound from lectures to audience members in other rooms and even off-site. We can also record our own videos for later use.

Community News

Visiting Research Scholars 2014-15

Jan Bemmann

Professor of Pre- & Early Historical Archaeology,
University of Bonn

*Configurations of Nomadic Empires in
Mongolia: Comparative Perspectives of the Politics of
the Türks, Uyghurs, Kitans and Mongols*

Claire Bubb

Visiting Assistant Professor
PhD, Harvard University

*Science in the Humanities: The Scientific
Interests of Laymen in the High Roman Empire*

Maria Doerfler

Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity,
Duke University

*Jephtah's Daughter, Sarah's Son: Children, Death and
Scripture in Late Ancient Christianity*

Ethan Harkness

Assistant Professor of Classical Chinese Studies,
New York University

*Stems and Branches: The Development of Early
Chinese Natural Philosophy*

Vincent Leung

Assistant Professor of Chinese History, University of
Pittsburgh

*Empire and Things: On the Genealogy of
Commodities in Early China*

Incoming Graduate Student

Lorenzo Castellano

Before ISAW, I studied in Milan (University of Milan, Italy) where I received a Bachelors in Cultural Heritage Sciences and a Masters in Archaeology, with a focus in the European Protohistory. For my BA thesis I studied an Iron Age burial site in Northern Italy (Esino Lario), and the topic of my MA dissertation was an Etruscan Po-Plain settlement (Forcello near Bagnolo San Vito).

In 2008 I began to work as a professional archaeologist. Through collaborations with Italian research institutes and private firms I have participated in a number of excavations in varied cultural and chronological contexts. Besides my archaeological field work, I have conducted extensive research on environmental archeology, thanks to a long time collaboration with the Laboratory of Palynology and Paleoecology of the

Elizabeth Murphy

Visiting Assistant Professor
PhD, Brown University

*At the Intersection of Work, Economy, and
Society: A Cross-industry Analysis of
Production, Labor, and Work in the Roman
Eastern Mediterranean*

Adam Schwartz

Visiting Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Chicago

*Huayuanzhuang East I: A Complete and Annotated
Translation of the Newest Corpus of 13th Century
BCE Shang Dynasty Non-Royal Oracle Bone
Inscriptions*

Perrine Pilette

PhD, Catholic University of Louvain

*Translating the Past: New Insights on the Transmis-
sion of Historical Knowledge from Late Antique to
Medieval Arabic Sources*

John Nicholas Reid

DPhil, University of Oxford

A History of Prisons in the Ancient Near East

Italian National Council of Research – CNR (with a focus on archaeobotany and ethnobotany) and a research fellowship at the Earth Sciences Department of the Milan-Bicocca University (research topic the reconstruction of the Late Holocene climatic change in Northern Italy).

With a great passion for the study of the human past, in all its facets and complexity, my main research line is focused on the study of the relationship between man and the environment in the Ancient World. My academic goal at ISAW is to develop and to apply a theoretical and methodological framework to the reconstruction of the Ancient World landscape within its complexity and multidimensionality and with the human ecology as a fulcrum of these considerations. These topics will be developed in a long term research project for my dissertation, yet to be determined.

Updates from ISAW Scholar Alumni

Jonathan Ben-Dov, VRS 2010-11

has won a grant from the Israel Antiquities Authority with Prof. Nachum Dershowitz (Computer Science, Tel-Aviv University) for the project: "A Re-edition of Cryptic Scrolls from Qumran: Enhanced Algorithmic Methods to the Aid of Textual Studies."

Ari Bryan, VRS 2008-09

received an ACLS fellowship as well as a Mellon fellowship for assistant professors at the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

Tamara Chin, VRS 2008-09

has been appointed Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University.

Jacco Dieleman, VRS 2010-11

will be a visiting fellow at the University of Cologne's Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies for the winter semester, working on the project "The Artemis Liturgical Papyrus and Innovation in Egyptian Scribal and Ritual Practice."

Dorota Dzierzbicka, VRS 2012-13

will be employed full-time as Assistant Professor at the Department of Archaeology of Egypt and Nubia, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw starting in October. In addition, she received a three-year research grant from the National Science Center for her new project "Egyptian Bazaar: Trade Networks in Roman and Byzantine Egypt" and also a scholarship from the "START" program funded by the Foundation for Polish Science.

Emily Hammer, VRS 2012-14

has been appointed Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Landscapes at the Oriental Institute and Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She is also currently a co-PI on a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation with Lauren Ristvet (University of Pennsylvania) and Hilary Gopnik (Emory University) which will support Dr. Hammer's archaeological survey work and her colleagues' excavation work in Naxçivan, Azerbaijan.

Sabine Huebner, VRS 2007-08

has been appointed Professor of Ancient History at Basel University and has been invited to be a visiting professor at Central European University next summer.

Fiona Kidd, VRS 2011-12

has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of History and Art and Art History at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Jinyu Liu, VRS 2007-08

was selected as one of the Shanghai "1000 plan" Experts. She has also been invited to be a Distinguished Guest Professor by Shanghai Normal University from 2014-2019.

Rita Lucarelli, VRS 2011-12

is now Assistant Professor of Egyptology at the University of California, Berkeley. She has also been awarded a Minerva-Gentner Symposia fellowship, sponsored by the Minerva Foundation, with which she is organizing an international conference with Prof. Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University) and PhD student Alessia Bellusci (Tel Aviv University) on Ancient Egyptian and Jewish Magic, to be held at Bonn University July 6-9, 2015.

Annalisa Marzano, VRS 2010-11

was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Michael Penn, VRS 2011-12

was recently promoted and is now the William R. Kennan Jr. Professor of Religion at Mount Holyoke College.

Darrel Rutkin, VRS 2009-10

will be a fellow at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia University this fall.

Caroline Sauvage, VRS 2009-10

is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics and Archaeology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She has also been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship at the Danish National Research Foundation's Center for Textile Research (CTR) in Copenhagen.

Liangren Zhang, VRS 2013-14

has taken a new position in the Department of History at Nanjing University in China.

Mantha Zarmakoupi, 2009-10

has accepted a position beginning April 2015 at the University of Birmingham under the Birmingham Research Fellowship Program, which allows for five years of reduced teaching and administrative duties before assuming full responsibility of the lectureship.

EXHIBITIONS

When the Greeks Ruled Egypt: From Alexander the Great to Cleopatra

Roberta Casagrande-Kim, ISAW Postdoctoral Curatorial Associate

October 8, 2014 - January 4, 2015

When the Greeks Ruled Egypt: From Alexander the Great to Cleopatra explores the artistic and cultural traditions that developed in Egypt between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE and the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE. Based on a show entitled *When the Greeks Ruled: Egypt after Alexander the Great*, on view at the Art Institute of Chicago from October 2013 to July 2014, the exhibition, as re-envisioned by ISAW, provides a view of Ptolemaic Egypt by focusing on royal portraiture, religious iconography, and writing. To provide perspective, it looks back to the previous foreign dynasty to rule Egypt, the Persians.

Following the ancient Egyptian tradition where the pharaoh had both human and divine natures, the Ptolemies introduced in Egypt a cult based on the royal family that aimed to instill a religious awe for the ruling king and his dynasty. Statues of the ruler, his wives, and immediate relatives were placed in Egyptian temples; the rituals performed in front of these statues not only reinforced the pharaoh's sacred aura but also led the highly influential priestly body to demonstrate a renewed loyalty toward the Ptolemaic dynasty.

In the exhibition, sculptures of the king and his spouse in the guises of traditional Egyptian pharaohs are compared with portraits that clearly adopt a Hellenistic visual vocabulary, illustrating how the two very different artistic traditions became preferred vehicles to express the complex royal propaganda and facilitated the acceptance of foreign rule in Egypt.

The contrast between the plethora of Egyptian divinities, often represented in animal forms, and the smaller number of deities in the Greek pantheon, mostly represented in human form, could not be more striking. However, in a skillful political move, the Ptolemies embraced existing religious traditions to avoid antagonizing a people with three thousand years of religious traditions, while also adapting Greek divinities in ways that could resonate with the local population.

When the Greeks Ruled Egypt takes a closer look at these Ptolemaic religious reinterpretations by focusing on the triad Osiris – Isis – Horus, a



group of Egyptian gods traditionally linked to the universe's creation. The new rulers adopted and redefined these gods to become the symbols of an ideal family that were meant to legitimize the rulers' dynastic claim over the throne of Egypt.

The linguistic scene in Hellenistic Egypt is often portrayed in simplistic terms of the confrontation of Greek and Egyptian; the languages of the rulers and the ruled. In reality, Greek and Egyptian occupied complementary but constantly shifting places in communication and record-keeping, with Greek gaining ground in administration but the Demotic Egyptian scribal tradition still creative in generating Egyptian documents for transaction types new to the Egyptian milieu.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a group of Aramaic papyri of the Persian period found on Elephantine Island. They were part of the archive of a Jewish family living in the diverse garrison community on Egypt's southern frontier where Jews, Aramaeans, and Egyptians lived together and intermarried. These documents help to show how foreign communities in Egypt were using scribal traditions in their own languages more than a century before Alexander the Great came to Egypt;

When the Greeks Ruled Egypt: From Alexander the Great to Cleopatra

Lecture Series

October 16

Life in a Multicultural Society: The Jewish Community of Elephantine in Egypt under Persian Rule
J.H.F. Dijkstra
University of Ottawa

October 30

Portraits of the Ptolemies: Greek Kings as Egyptian Pharaohs
Paul E. Stanwick
Independent Scholar

December 4

The History of the Ptolemaic Collection at the Brooklyn Museum
Edward Bleiberg
Brooklyn Museum

RSVP required to rspv_isaw_lectures@nyu.edu. All lectures are held in the Lecture Hall and are open to the public. Admission closes 10 minutes after the scheduled start time.

the multiplicity of writing systems in Ptolemaic Egypt was not a novelty. The exhibition allows the public to discover how the different languages and scripts fit together in the diverse society of Egypt.

The more than 150 objects to be on display will be on loan from the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Numismatic Society, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Joslyn Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Yale University Babylonian Collection. Special loans were graciously provided by the Brooklyn Museum.

When the Greeks Ruled Egypt: from Alexander the Great to Cleopatra opens to the public on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 and runs through January 4th, 2015. The exhibition is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm with a late closure at 8 pm on Fridays. A guided tour is offered each Friday starting at 6 pm.

The original presentation of this exhibition was organized by the Art Institute of Chicago with support generously provided by the Jaharis Family Foundation. The ISAW version was made possible by the generous support of the David Berg Foundation, the Jaharis Family Foundation, the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust, and the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional funding provided by Magda Saleh and Jack Josephson. Special loans were graciously provided by the Brooklyn Museum.

Egypt: From Alexander the Great to Cleopatra, is available for sale at the ISAW galleries for \$29.95.

Photo Credits:

Head of a Ptolemaic King. Marble. Alexandria, 2nd century BCE. Getty: 83.AA.330.

© The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California, Gift of Stefan Hornak

Statue of a Ptolemaic King. Polished Diorite. Egypt, 220–180 BCE. YPM: ANT 256941. © Courtesy of the Division of Anthropology; Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



The catalogue of the show, *When the Greeks Ruled*

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Eighth Annual Leon Levy Lecture

Sponsored by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

The Lure of Gold and Iron: China and the Steppe in the First Millennium BC

Jessica Rawson

Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology, School of Archaeology,

University of Oxford

November 6, 2014

While ancient Chinese ritual implements were made of bronze and jade, the peoples of the steppe favored gold and iron, most especially from 700 BC. The talk will discuss cultural boundaries between the Chinese and their steppe neighbors. Major archaeological discoveries at Majiayuan in Gansu province, where large tombs have been excavated, have enabled a reassessment of the ways in which these two groups interacted; there the occupants, outsiders with links to the steppe, were decked in

*Chariot fitting from a Xiongnu tomb,
2nd-1st century BC in Mongolia.
Photo courtesy of Jessica Rawson.*

gold, silver, and beads; they carried iron weapons and were accompanied into the afterlife by chariots and horse and cattle heads. Such groups introduced gold and iron to the Chinese of the Central Plains, who took over these materials, but used them in new ways. The Chinese did not favour solid gold, but gilded their bronze vessels and luxurious bronze chariot parts; iron they cast, rather than working it cold, as their neighbors did. This major technological innovation, used for tools in particular, encouraged the opening up of new lands for agriculture. As they had before, over many centuries, the Chinese and their northern neighbors remained distinct and separate.

About the Speaker: Jessica Rawson is Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology in the Oxford Centre for Asian Archaeology, Art and Culture in the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford. She graduated from Cambridge University in History and from London University in Chinese Language and Literature. She became Deputy Keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities in 1976 and Keeper of the Department in 1987. Prior to her current position, she was Warden of Merton College, Oxford University 1994-2010.

Professor Rawson was appointed a Fellow of the British Academy in 1990 and elected a member the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. She is an Advisor to the Centre of Ancient Civilizations, Institute of Archaeology, Chinese



Academy of Social Science. Her current work concerns major changes in Chinese material culture as a consequences of interactions with Siberia and Inner Asia in the Zhou, Qin and Han period (1000 BC – AD 200) and she has also written extensively on Tang dynasty (AD 618 – 906) silver and ceramics, and especially on Chinese ornament and design. She currently holds a five year (2011-2016) Leverhulme Trust grant on China and Inner Asia, 1000-200 BC: Interactions that Changed China.

Additional funding provided by the Leon Levy Foundation. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; registration required to isaw@nyu.edu or 212-992-7800. Please note that admission to the lecture hall will not be permitted once the lecture begins.

Fall 2014 Public Events

September 9

Vespasian at Play: 74 AD
Theodore Buttrey, Cambridge University

September 19

Conference: *Oasis Magna: Kharga and Dakhla Oases in Antiquity**

Organized by Roger Bagnall (ISAW) and Gaëlle Tallet (University of Limoges)

Sponsored by a grant from the Partner University Fund with support from the University of Limoges and the University of Poitiers

9:00am - 5:30pm

Reception to follow

September 20

Conference: *Oasis Magna: Kharga and Dakhla Oases in Antiquity**

Organized by Roger Bagnall (ISAW) and Gaëlle Tallet (University of Limoges)

Sponsored by a grant from the Partner University

Fund with support from the University of Limoges and the University of Poitiers

9:00am - 2:30pm

October 14

The Galenic Origins of the Modern Science Textbook

Claire Bubb, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

Reception to follow

October 16

*Life in a Multicultural Society: The Jewish Community of Elephantine in Egypt under Persian Rule***

J.H.F Dijkstra, University of Ottawa

Reception to follow

October 20

On the Waterfront at Giza: Workers' Town and Pyramid Port - Latest Discoveries

Mark Lehner, Boston University

AIA Lecture, 6:30pm - Reception to follow

October 20

*Prospective Student Open House**

October 30

*Portraits of the Ptolemies: Greek Kings as Egyptian Pharaohs***

Paul E. Stanwick, Independent Scholar

Reception to follow

November 6

Eighth Annual Leon Levy Lecture*

Sponsored by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

The Lure of Gold and Iron: China and the Steppe in the First Millennium BC

Jessica Rawson, University of Oxford

Reception to follow

November 10

*Recent Advances in Research on Iranian and Central Asian Metalware. A Few Examples**

Seminar by Frantz Grenet, Collège de France

5:00pm - 6:30pm

November 11

*Recent Advances in Research on Iranian and Central Asian Metalware. A Few Examples**

Seminar by Frantz Grenet, Collège de France

5:00pm - 6:30pm

November 17

Weights and Trade Relations between

Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley

Lorenz Rahmstorf, University of Copenhagen

December 2

Forecasting Fate in Early China

Ethan Harkness, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

Reception to follow

December 4

*The History of the Ptolemaic Collection at the Brooklyn Museum***

Edward Bleiberg, Brooklyn Museum

Reception to follow

All lectures are held in the 2nd floor lecture hall and begin at 6 pm unless otherwise noted.

Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time.

*Registration is required to isaw@nyu.edu

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ISAW's website provides information on our public lectures and exhibits, our academic courses, our digital and library resources and projects, and our people. Visit our news blog for updates on ISAW projects or subscribe to our mailing list and receive news and event reminders delivered directly to your email.

ABOUT ISAW

The creation of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) at New York University had its roots in the passion of Shelby White and Leon Levy for the art and history of the ancient world, which led them to envision an institute that would encourage the study of the economic, religious, political, and cultural connections among ancient civilizations across geographic, chronological, and disciplinary boundaries.

The Institute, established in 2006, is an independent center for scholarly research and graduate education.

The screenshot shows the ISAW website homepage. At the top, the header reads "INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD" and "NEW YORK UNIVERSITY". A navigation menu on the left lists: ABOUT ISAW, GRADUATE PROGRAM, VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM, EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, LIBRARY, RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, ONLINE RESOURCES, PEOPLE, and SUPPORT ISAW. Below the menu is the address: "15 East 84th St. New York, NY 10028 212-992-7800 isaw@nyu.edu". The main content area features a "Summer of Research" section with a photo of a building and text about Søren Stark's report on excavation work in Uzbekistan, Karen Rubinson's report on Mongolia, and Daniel Potts' report on fieldwork in Israel. Below this is an "Upcoming Events" section listing "Vespasian at Play: 74 AD" (September 09, 2014 6:00 PM) and "Oasis Magna: Kharga and Dakhla Oases in Antiquity" (September 19, 2014 9:00 AM). A vertical "upcoming exhibition" sidebar on the right features a gold coin image and text: "Octadrachm. Obverse: Bust of Ptolemy III. Gold, Minted in Alexandria. 221-205 BCE. Gift of Martin A. Ryerson. Courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago." The footer contains links for NYU Home, Privacy Policy, Site Map, and RSS Feed.