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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Newsletter 14 Winter 2016



NYU | ISAW

From the Director

Of all the leaps of faith involved in ISAW's founding, the greatest was surely the creation of a new doctoral program—not only because it took in its first students in the depths of the Great Recession, but because no one could really say for sure whether the individualized program of study we planned, true to ISAW's mission of crossing boundaries of time, space, and discipline, would work. Would we get able students prepared to take the risks of coming to a new and untested program? Would we suffer from the high attrition and long time-to-degree that have been the bane of doctoral education? Would our students produce work worthy of the investment of faculty time and fellowship stipends in their educations?

As you can see in this issue, the first results are in. Our first two dissertation defenses took place this fall, those of Randolph Ford and Erik Hermans. Both are extraordinarily wide-ranging in topic and materials, and both are excellent pieces of scholarship, with many original findings. I was a member of both defense committees and enjoyed reading both of them greatly.

ISAW puts great emphasis on scholarly community. Our doctoral students form a cohesive and mutually supportive group, and they also form close ties to our visiting research scholars, research associates, and other members of the community. At the same time, they broaden that community by working with faculty members of other institutions. The defense committees for these two students included faculty from Princeton and Harvard Universities and the Institute for Advanced Study. Because of this emphasis on community, we have shaped the dissertation defenses to be inclusive events. Each defending student presents the dissertation publicly, taking questions afterward; then there is a seminar-like private meeting with the committee; and finally, a celebration in the Oak Library. These were joyous affairs.

More are to come. Mehrnoush Soroush is scheduled to defend in April, and we look forward to a couple more at the beginning of next fall. In the seven years the program has been in existence, we have only once had to part company with a student, and all of our students are on track to finish within or just barely after the seven-year canonical period laid down by the Graduate School. There is much to be proud of. We worry still, of course, because our first graduates are coming out into the world in the worst job market since the Great Recession and at a moment of great stress in higher education. But we believe that their breadth of preparation will stand them in good stead in the years to come. And the big questions with which we launched the program have been answered in the affirmative.

As I write this, the search committee for my successor is nearing the moment of reporting to NYU's new president, Andrew Hamilton. I look forward to introducing ISAW's second director in the spring issue of the Newsletter.

Roger Bagnall
Leon Levy Director

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.

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Community News

Marc LeBlanc

Assistant Director for Academic Affairs

ISAW is pleased to congratulate Randolph Ford and Erik Hermans on the successful defense of their doctoral dissertations this past fall.

Prior to enrolling in the doctoral program at ISAW, Randolph Ford received his BA and MA in Scandinavian Studies with a focus on Old Icelandic/Old English Literature from the University of Wisconsin, where he also completed coursework in Classics and East Asian Studies. His doctoral dissertation, entitled “Ethnographic Identities and the Politics of Legitimacy in Late Roman and Early Medieval Chinese Historiography,” considers ways in which representational categories that were established in the classical era were perpetuated or transformed in later centuries following foreign invasion and imperial fragmentation. Randolph successfully defended his dissertation at ISAW on November 20, 2015.

Concerning his dissertation defense, Randolph’s co-advisor David Levene, Professor of Classics at NYU, notes that “Randolph gave an elegant and informative presentation of his dissertation, answering questions with aplomb and learning, and demonstrating to all his command of the material.” According to Prof. Levene, “Randolph’s dissertation—a comparison between the accounts of ‘barbarians’ in the *Jinshu* and in Procopius’ *Wars*—represents a major advance in the growing field of comparative scholarship between the Roman and the Chinese worlds, and is also a significant contribution to the study of ancient ethnicity.” Remarking on Randolph’s “outstanding dissertation,” Randolph’s co-advisor Lillian Tseng, Associate Professor of East Asian Art and Archaeology at ISAW, states “with Greek, Latin, classical and modern Chinese well under his belt, Ford was able to explore and interpret the original sources from both sides. Focusing on the *Wars* of Procopius of Caesarea (500-c. 565) and the *Jinshu* attributed to Fang Xuanling (578-648), Ford provided the first account of the reception of the other after the collapse of the Roman Empire in the west and the Han Empire in the east. Ford’s dissertation makes a decisive contribution to the comparative study of the ancient world.”

Before arriving at ISAW, Erik Hermans received his BA and MPhil in Greek and Latin Literature and Ancient History from the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. He also studied at the University of Amsterdam, the University of Ghent (Belgium), and the University of Oxford. His doctoral dissertation, which he defended at



Photo: Courtesy of Sergei Hermans

Randolph Ford with Founder Shelby White and Erik Hermans

ISAW on December 15, 2015, is entitled “Aristotle from York to Basra: An Investigation into the Simultaneous Study of Aristotle’s Categories in the Carolingian, the Byzantine and the Abbasid Worlds.”

According to Erik’s advisor Robert Hoyland, Professor of Late Antique and Early Islamic Middle Eastern History at ISAW, Erik’s dissertation committee “unanimously approved Erik’s thesis, which was deemed an excellent example of ISAW scholarship at its best.” Concerning Erik’s dissertation, Prof. Hoyland notes that “the key question that Erik set out to explore ... was: How do we explain the fact that in the ninth century we encounter scholars in the three polities of western Europe, Byzantium and the Islamic Empire who are, simultaneously, translating and interpreting the *Categories* of Aristotle. Having reviewed different possibilities, such as direct contact between the scholars, movement of manuscripts and coincidence, Erik concludes that the most likely explanation is that the late Roman educational curriculum that was established by the sixth century and that included, among other works, Aristotle’s *Categories*, continued to exert its influence in all three of these cultural zones long after the Muslim conquests. And indeed the Muslim world enthusiastically engaged with large numbers of Greco-Roman texts, and the *Categories* itself was translated into Arabic, argues Erik, as early as the 750s in Abbasid Iraq.”

Lecture Series

Seventh Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

Silk Roads and Steppe Roads of Medieval China: History Unearthed from Tombs

Jonathan Skaff, Visiting Research Scholar

Professor of History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

March 29th - April 19th, 2016

Dr. Jonathan Skaff is a Visiting Research Scholar at ISAW who will deliver the Seventh Annual M. I. Rostovtzeff Lectures in Spring, 2016. Skaff is a Professor of History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he also has served as Director of International Studies. He developed a lasting fascination with Eurasian cultural connections after teaching English in Shanghai in the mid-1980s and traveling through northwest China, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Tibet. Since receiving his doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1998, his research has investigated medieval China's frontier interactions with Inner Asia. Most prominently, his book, *Sui-Tang China and its Turko-Mongol Neighbors: Culture, Power and Connections, 580-800* (Oxford University Press, 2012) revealed previously unrecognized cultural connections between China and peoples of the Eurasian steppe involving diplomacy, warfare, ideology, and political networking. A Chinese translation is forthcoming from the Social Sciences Academic Press.

Skaff's Rostovtzeff lectures, *Silk Roads and Steppe Roads of Medieval China: History Unearthed from Tombs*, comprise four case studies that use paper documents, stone epitaphs and artifacts excavated from tombs to illuminate China's interactions with Eurasia. "Silk Roads" is the popular name for east-west land routes—linking East, South, and West Asia and serving as conduits transmitting luxury goods, technology, religion, and artistic motifs. "Steppe Roads" is a term coined by David Christian, who defines them as north-south routes linking the Eurasian steppe's vast pastoral grasslands with the agricultural regions to the south that facilitated exchanges of goods such as Chinese silks and Mongolian horses. The lecture series argues that the Silk and Steppe Roads were networks through which Eurasian peoples, who perceived their societies to be unique, spun overlapping and entangled webs of culture. The transit hubs of Silk and Steppe Roads were particularly active sites of cultural contestation, experimentation, and mutual influence that had an impact on the historical development of China and Inner Asia.

The first lecture *Settlers and Merchants on the Silk Roads: Sogdians at Turfan* introduces the Silk Roads through a case study of Sogdians living as a minority at the Chinese oasis city of

Turfan in the sixth and seventh centuries. The Sogdians were early inhabitants of modern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan who spoke an Iranian dialect, and began to migrate eastward by the fourth century CE to settle in cities and towns on the Silk Roads. This lecture will update Skaff's previous publications on Sogdian farmers and merchants at Turfan by considering recently-discovered paper documents and epitaphs.

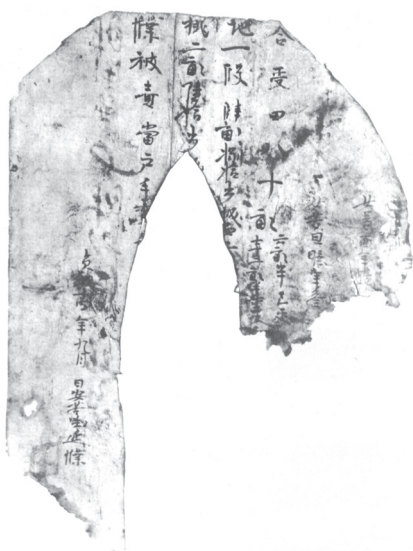
The second and third lectures *Sogdians or Borderlanders?, Part I: Lives Revealed in Epitaphs* and *Part II: Death Rituals Revealed in Tombs* will return to the topic of immigrants, but in this case two lineages with the same surname of Shi who settled at Guyuan in China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region where the Silk Roads and Steppe Roads intersect. These people were locally powerful elites serving a succession of China-based dynasties as military officers, imperial bodyguards, horse breeders and translators in the sixth and seventh centuries. Their existence literally came to light when archaeologists excavated six tombs at Guyuan in the 1980s and 1990s containing burial goods and seven engraved stone epitaphs written in Chinese. A scholarly consensus has developed that both lineages had Sogdian origins, but the lectures will challenge and complicate this conclusion.

The final lecture *A Tang Dynasty Ally in Mongolia: Pugu Yitu (635-678)* takes the audience along the Steppe Roads from China to Mongolia to investigate another recently discovered tomb and epitaph. The history of Mongolia is little known between the First Türk (552–630) and Second Türk (682–742) Empires. Chinese historical records claim that the Tang Dynasty exerted suzerainty over Mongolia during the interregnum through vassal rulers, but offer few details after 660. Likewise, Uighur Empire (744-840) inscriptions assert an earlier period of rule over Mongolia in alliance with the Tang. The recent excavation of Pugu Yitu's tomb and Chinese-language epitaph shows that an alliance endured through the 670s and throws new light on cultural connections between China and Mongolia.



Visiting Research Scholar Jonathan Skaff

Photo Courtesy of Marc LeBlanc



Census declaration of a Sogdian, An Kuzhiyan. Later, the document was cut and folded to create paper burial shoes for a woman (Lecture 1)

Photo from Xinjiang Chutu Wenshu

Workshops



Photo courtesy of DA Orient Department

Head of a monumental statue made of sandstone from Tayma (Northwest Arabia), ca. 4th century BC. From the workshop organized by Arnulf Hausleiter, *Material Worlds: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Contacts and Exchange in the Ancient Near East*, March 7

March 7, 10:00am-7:15pm

Material Worlds: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Contacts and Exchange in the Ancient Near East

Workshop, organized by Arnulf Hausleiter, VRS

Based on most recently obtained late 3rd/early 2nd millennium BC evidence from excavations on the Arabian Peninsula, a number of distinguished scholars will discuss the interdependencies between and different views on material culture, contacts and exchange in the Middle East. The workshop, focusing on selected data sets will tackle interdisciplinary questions of archaeological-historical as well as socio-economic significance in one of the most dynamic contact zones of the ancient world. Chronologically covering the Middle Bronze to Iron Age periods (20th to 7th century BC) the following case studies are the subject of lectures, responses, and discussions: Economic framework(s) of the Ancient Near East; textual records as evidence for contacts; Egyptian sea trade; economic and cultural exchange from the Middle to Late Bronze Ages in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Levant and Arabia; material culture and technology at the margins of the Neo-Assyrian empire.

March 8, 6:00pm

Related Lecture

(Re-)Defining an Ancient Near Eastern Contact Zone: Northwest Arabia in the 2nd Millennium BC

Arnulf Hausleiter, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

April 8, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Formation of Cultural Memory: Ancient Mesopotamian Libraries and Schools and Their Contribution to the Shaping of Tradition and Identity

Workshop, organized by Beate Pongratz-Leisten, ISAW

Ancient disputation and dialogue literature reveals that there was a tradition of competition between ancient centers of learning in

Mesopotamia. Knowledge of important Babylonian cultural centers can still be detected in the writings of Strabo. So far, scholarship has occupied itself primarily with publishing the contents of libraries, and often, due to the quantity of texts and particular research questions, such effort has focused on particular genres rather than on entire collections. Much effort has gone into the reconstruction of school curricula. Less attention has been paid to what particular texts or genres were collected and for what potential purposes in one particular place. The workshop intends to approach Mesopotamian libraries holistically, by taking a closer look at their content, situating them in their socio-political context, and exploring who owned them. This approach will probe the possibility that Mesopotamian libraries can be defined as much as places for the acquisition and transmission of knowledge as for its construction and production. Further, the workshop will attempt to map a geography of knowledge and to test whether we can identify traditional centers of knowledge as well as staging posts in the flow of knowledge.



By:Bal'ami [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Illumination of the proclamation of first Abbasid Caliph As-Saffah (750-754 CE) in a manuscript of the 10th century Persian history titled "Tarikh-e Bal'ami." From the workshop organized by Erik Hermans, *The Global Eighth Century: A Comparative Assessment of Socio-economic and Political Developments in the Eighth Century CE Across Eurasia*, April 15-16

April 15-16

The Global Eighth Century: A Comparative Assessment of Socio-economic and Political Developments in the Eighth Century CE Across Eurasia

Workshop, organized by Erik Hermans, ISAW PhD Student

April 15, 10:30am-5:30pm; April 16, 9:00am-1:00pm

Around the middle of the eighth century CE different societies in Eurasia experienced important changes. The Carolingian revolution in Western Europe, the Abbasid revolution in the Middle East and the An Lushan rebellion in China practically coincided with the sudden relocations of the capital of Japan. The eighth century in general seems to be a period of simultaneous socio-economic upswing in societies as far apart as Southeast Asia and Northwestern Europe. This workshop will investigate these simultaneous developments by bringing together specialists on the history of the eighth century in Western Europe, Byzantium, the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, China, Japan and Southeast Asia.

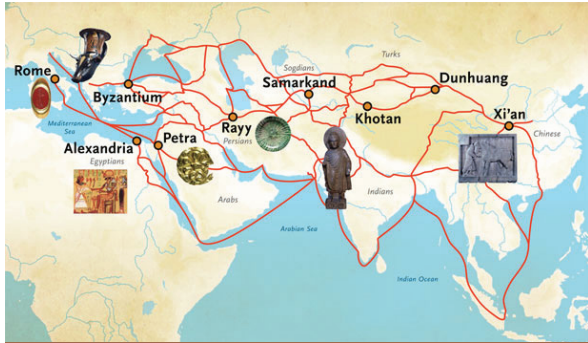


Photo courtesy of the Penn Museum

The Silk Road. From the workshop organized by Parvaneh Pourshariati, *Iran Across the East/West Trade: Routes of Communication and Exchange, Products of Exchange, and Networks of Trade Circa 500-900 CE*, April 22

April 22, 9:00am-4:30pm

Iran Across the East/West Trade: Routes of Communication and Exchange, Products of Exchange, and Networks of Trade Circa 500-900 CE

Workshop, organized by Parvaneh Pourshariati, VRS

The central location of Iran in the overland routes of trade and communication between western and eastern Asia, throughout the historical and up to the early modern period, has been long acknowledged by the scholarly community. Yet pre-modern overland trade, trade routes, networks of trade and exchange, or the products of exchange of the Iranian world, have yet to attract the scholarly attention that they deserve. This lacuna is especially felt in the Late Antique period of Iranian history (circa 500-900 CE). This workshop, conceived as an interdisciplinary dialogue, seeks to highlight the parameters of research on this important aspect of Late Antique history of western Asia. How central was Iran to the networks of trade and exchange in the Late Antique world, what role did it play in connecting the Byzantine Empire to China, and how was its position affected, if at all, by the Arab conquests of the early seventh century and the Abbasid Revolution of the mid-eighth, or the construction of Baghdad?



Photo courtesy of Jacques Desloires, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC

Caucasus Mountains. From the workshop organized by Karen S. Rubinson, *Progress, Problems and Possibilities of GIS in the South Caucasus*, May 6-7

May 6-7

Progress, Problems and Possibilities of GIS in the South Caucasus

Workshop, organized by Karen S. Rubinson, Research Associate

This workshop will convene archaeologists working in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to assess and improve the application of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in archaeological research in the South Caucasus through presentations of current projects and discussions on the state of the technology. GIS involves computing-based mapping tools that allow the study of landscape use through time and space. It has become indispensable for managing and analyzing large spatial datasets, resulting in significant contributions to our study of the past. Digital data can help researchers visualize and interpret past settlement and land use patterns and develop interactive databases of cultural heritage resources. A major goal of the workshop is to establish shared guidelines for data recording that create cross-border compatibility, creating a common platform to more efficiently model broad regional developments characteristic for much of the area's past. The workshop organizer welcomes proposals for papers from scholars working on relevant GIS and South Caucasus-related topics. Attendance at the workshop will be limited to those selected to participate. Please note that the workshop will not be open to the general public.



(C) Wikimedia Commons

Depiction of the "Opening of the Mouth" ritual on a papyrus from the British Museum, London. From the workshop organized by Franziska Naether, *Cult Practices in Ancient Literatures: Egyptian, Near Eastern and Graeco-Roman Narratives in a Cross-Cultural Perspective*, May 16-17

May 16-17

Cult Practices in Ancient Literatures: Egyptian, Near Eastern and Graeco-Roman Narratives in a Cross-Cultural Perspective

Workshop, organized by Franziska Naether, VRS

May 16, 10:00am-6:30pm; May 17, 9:00am-12:00pm

Heroic stories and novels, tales, travel fictions and wisdom texts in the ancient world, from Egypt to Greece, from Anatolia to Rome, contained rituals, magic and divination. In the workshop, we will discuss phenomena of such cult practices and their functions in regard to ritual and literary studies. Topics include secret knowledge, presentations of the divine and of fate, sacred justice and practitioners of cult practices as protagonists in the narratives.

The workshop is partially sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Exhibitions

Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity

Curated by Thelma K. Thomas, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU

February 25- May 22, 2016

Jennifer Miyuki Babcock, Curatorial Postdoctoral Associate

Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity opens a window onto Late Antique (ca. 3rd–7th centuries CE) society as viewed through the thematic motifs and materials of textiles and their role as indicators of social, religious, and cultural identity and beliefs. The Late Antique period experienced major political and religious shifts and upheavals, most famously the establishment and growth of Christianity, the “barbarian” invasions, and the geographic expansion of Arab culture and Islamic monotheism. Yet despite this flux, Late Antique society maintained its traditions, adapting them in ways that reflected religious, political, and cultural changes.

Designing Identity opens with a selection of textiles with Dionysian motifs. The figure of Dionysus appears to have resonated with the philosophical and cultural identity of individuals throughout the era. A highlight of the exhibition will be a rarely displayed, intact tunic that features imagery such as lions chasing prey, viewed at the time as a metaphor for Dionysus’ triumph in India, and warriors engaged in a war dance, intended to evoke satyrs. (FIG. 1) Depictions of the god were frequently associated with dining and drinking, and his triumph in India was performed in pantomime at banquets, perhaps indicating that the tunic belonged to a dining costume. This garment is an example of one of the functions of clothing in Late Antiquity and also how classical iconography persisted and was appropriated by Late Antique culture.

The exhibition will also display a series of garments and furnishings that illuminate the ways in which they conveyed gender ideals and cultural values in all types of textiles. The clothing that will be on view includes nearly complete tunics, tailored shirts, children’s clothing, a doll’s costume, and several fragmentary mantles, all serving as typical Late Antique garments used by men, women, and children. Furthermore, wall-hangings and domestic textiles will show how they contributed to the overall aesthetic environment of the home with their motifs, colors, textures, and design, while also speaking to the identity of the household and the specific spaces in which they were located. One wall-hanging, for example, represents a servant pulling aside a curtain as if to open it for an approaching dignitary, and presents an image of a prosperous and elite household.

Another focus of *Designing Identity* is how textiles carried charms that functioned magically on the body or in the home. These could be auspicious, invoking good fortune through images of abundance, or apotropaic, with motifs that functioned to ward off evil. Many of these textiles include stripes, roundels and ornamented squares, believed to be protective charms, which might have been placed on the perimeter of a garment, at the shoulders, hem, cuffs, and collar—the most vulnerable parts of the body—in order to protect the wearer. A child’s

hooded tunic, which will be featured in the exhibition, shows these protective charms intact, allowing the viewer to see where these textile fragments may have originally been placed. (FIG. 2)

With over 50 examples of Late Antique textiles, *Designing Identity* provides intimate glimpses of lives that ended over a millennium ago. Museum collections of these textiles, which began to flourish in the late nineteenth century in the wake of archaeological explorations in Egypt, still continue to shape scholarship, now aided and challenged by technical analysis, art historical study, and ongoing archaeological discovery around Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East.



FIG. 1: *Tunic with Dionysian Motifs*

Tapestry weave of dyed wool, undyed linen, plain (tabby) ground weave of undyed linen

L. 269.5 cm; W. 181.5 cm

Panopolis (Akhmim), Egypt, early 6th century CE

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Edward S. Harkness, 1926 (26.9.8)

Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY

The American collections that made this exhibition possible include the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Brooklyn Museum. This exhibition will explore how the textiles produced social and cultural meaning, first in Late Antiquity and again in modern times.

Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity opens to the public on Thursday, February 25, 2016 and runs through Sunday, May 22, 2016. The exhibition is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 to 6 pm with a late closure at 8 pm on Fridays. A free guided tour is offered each Friday starting at 6 pm.

Exhibition event programming will run through the exhibition's duration. Please visit the website for *Designing Identity* at isaw.nyu.edu/exhibitions/design-identity for updates on when these events will take place.

The catalogue of the show, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity*, will be available for purchase at the ISAW galleries.

This exhibition has been generously supported by the Selz Foundation, the Coby Foundation, Ltd., the Sarofim Foundation, Agnes Gund, Nellie and Robert Gipson, Frances Marzio, and the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional funding provided by Furthermore, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and Sameh and Sylvia Iskander.



FIG. 2: *Child's Tunic with Hood*

Tapestry weave of dyed wools, plain (tabby) weave ground of dyed wool, fringe of dyed wools along edge of hood and lower edge of tunic

L. 101 cm; W. 89 cm

Egypt, ca. 5th–7th century CE

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of George D. Pratt, 1927 (27.239)

Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY

Exhibition Event Series

March 10

Veiling the Late Roman House

John Stephenson, Appalachian State University

May 19

Coptic Art, Modern Design, Art History: The Changing Value of Late Antique Textiles at the Brooklyn Museum

Edward Bleiberg, Brooklyn Museum

RSVP required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or to 212.992.7800.

All events are at 6pm and are followed by a reception.

Events are held in the Lecture Hall and are open to the public. Admission closes 10 minutes after the scheduled start time.

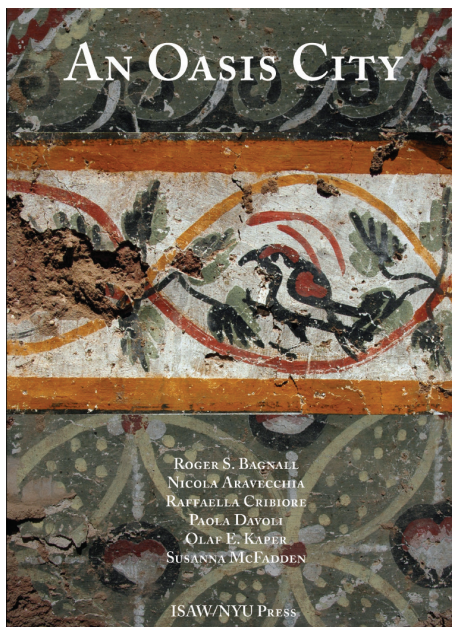
Publications

Recent Publications

A Selection of 2015-16 academic year publications by members of the ISAW community

Joint Publications (by Multiple ISAW Community Members)

R. S. Bagnall, N. Aravecchia, R. Criboire, P. Davoli, O. E. Kaper, and S. McFadden, *An Oasis City*. New York: ISAW/NYU Press, 2015.



N. Highcock, P.J. Crabtree, D.V. Campana, M. Capardoni, A. Lanaro, A. Matessi, N.F. Miller, P. Strosdahl, A. Trameri, and L. d'Alfonso, "Kinik Höyük, Niğde. A New Archaeological Project in Southern Cappadocia." In *The Archaeology of Anatolia: Recent Discoveries (2011-2014)*, eds. Sh.R. Steadman and G. McMahon, 98-127. Newcastle on Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015.

S. Iskander and O. Goelet, *The Temple of Ramesses II in Abydos*, Vol. 1: *Wall Scenes*. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2015.

A. Jones, C. Proust, and J. Steele, eds., *A Mathematician's Journeys: Otto Neugebauer and Modern Transformations of Ancient Science*. Springer, 2016.

R. Mairs and M. Muratov, *Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in the Late 19th-Early 20th Centuries*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.

B. Pongratz-Leisten and K. Sonik, eds., *The Materiality of Divine Agency*. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

B. Pongratz-Leisten and K. Sonik. "Between Cognition and Culture: Theorizing the Materiality of Divine Agency in Cross-Cultural Perspective." In *The Materiality of Divine Agency*, eds. B. Pongratz-Leisten and K. Sonik, 3-69. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

Wu Xin, N.F. Miller, and P.J. Crabtree, "Agro-pastoral Strategies and Food Production on the Achaemenid Frontier in Southern Central Asia: A Case Study of Kyzyltepa (Uzbekistan)." *Iran* 53 (2015).

Faculty

Lorenzo d'Alfonso

with M. Gorrini, and C. Mora. "Archaeological excavations at Kinik Höyük, Niğde. Preliminary report of the fourth campaign (2014)." *Athenaeum* 103/2 (2015): 619-640.

"Hittite Archaeology, culture, and arts." In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, eds. C. Helmer, S.L. McKenzie, T.C. Römer, J. Schröter, B.D. Walfish, and E. Ziolkowski. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter.

Sebastian Heath

"Using Low-cost Hardware for 3D Scanning at Kenchreai, Greece." *Amphora* 12 (2015): 14-17.

with J.L. Rife, J.J. Bravo III, and G. Blasdel. "Preliminary Report on Early Byzantine Pottery from a Building Complex at Kenchreai (Greece)." *ISAW Papers* 10 (2015).

Beate Pongratz-Leisten

Religion and Ideology in Assyria. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

"Imperial Allegories: Divine Agency and Monstrous Bodies in Mesopotamia's Body Description Texts." In *The Materiality of Divine Agency*, eds. B. Pongratz-Leisten and K. Sonik, 119-141. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

Daniel Potts

The Archaeology of Elam: Formation and Transformation of an Ancient Iranian State. Second edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Rostovtzeff Series

Adam T. Smith

The Political Machine: Assembling Sovereignty in the Bronze Age Caucasus. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Exhibition Catalogue

Jennifer Y. Chi

ed., *The Eye of the Shah: Qajar Court Photography and the Persian Past*. New York: Institute for the Study of the Ancient World; Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2015.

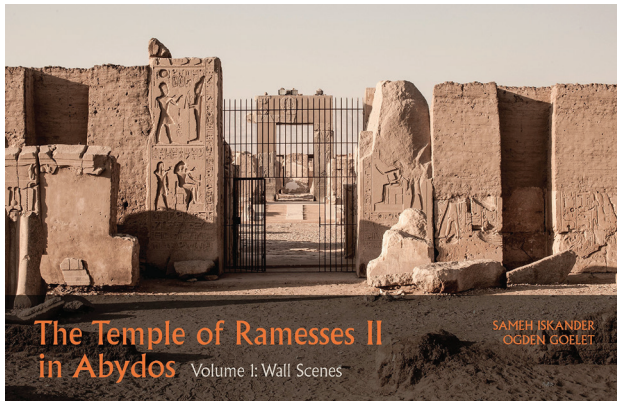
Staff

Marc LeBlanc

"The Zoomorphic Transformation of the King in Early Egyptian Royal Military Victory Rituals and Its Relationship to the Sed Festival." In *Apprivoiser le sauvage – Taming the Wild*, eds. M. Massiera, B. Mathieu, and F. Rouffet, 229-243. Montpellier: Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3, 2015.

David Ratzan

Ed., with D. Kehoe and U. Yiftach. *Law and Transaction Costs in the Ancient Economy*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015.



Visiting Research Scholars

Pam Crabtree

"A note on the role of dogs in Anglo-Saxon society: evidence from East Anglia." *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 25:6 (2015): 976-980.

Annette Juliano

"The Authenticity of the Sixth Century Stone Sarcophagus in the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Central Asian and Sogdian Beds and Sarcophagi." In *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on the Silk Road: Sogdians in China: New Evidence in Archaeological Finds and Unearthed Texts*. Yinchuan, Ningxia, 2015.

"Buddhist Sculpture: Innovation, Invention, and Imagination," In *Art in the Time of Chaos: Innovative Trends in Six Dynasties China*. Hong Kong: China Institute, 2016.

Franziska Naether

"Griechisch-Ägyptische Magie nach den Papyri Graecae et Demoticae Magicae." In *Ägyptische Magie und ihre Umwelt*, ed. A. Jördens, 191-217. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015.

Research Associates

Gilles Bransbourg

Ed. with P. G. van Alfen and M. Amandry. *FIDES: Contributions to Numismatics in Honor of Richard B. Witschonke*. New York: The American Numismatic Society, 2015.

Claudia Chang

with M.G. Macklin, I.P. Panyushkina, W.H. Toonen, P.A. Tourtellotte, G.A. Duller, H. Wong, and M.A. Prins. "The influence of Late Pleistocene geomorphological inheritance and Holocene hydromorphic regimes on floodwater farming in the Talgar catchment, southeast Kazakhstan, Central Asia." *Journal of Quaternary Science Reviews* 129 (2015): 85-95.

with M. Heinsch, P.B. Vandiver, K.L. Lyublyanovics, A.M. Choyke, and P. Tourtellotte. "Ceramics at the Emergence of the Silk Road: A Case for Southeastern Kazakhstan." *MRS Proceedings* 1656 (2015).

with R. Beardmore. "The Tale of a Mud Brick: Lessons from Tuzusai and De-Assembling an Iron Age Site on the Talgar Alluvial Fan in Southeastern Kazakhstan." In *Incomplete Archaeologies: Knowledge in the Past and Present*, eds. E.M. Bonney, K.J. Franklin, and J.A. Johnson. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2015.

Ogden Goelet

"The Elements of Format in Middle Kingdom Papyri." In *Joyful in Thebes. Egyptological Studies in Honor of Betsy M. Bryan*, eds. R. Jasnow and K.M. Cooney, 197-210. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2015.

Judith Lerner

"Arthur Upham Pope and Sasanian Art." In *Arthur Upham Pope and a New Survey of Persian Art*, ed. Y. Kadoi, 166-229. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

"A Case of Synchronicity: Photography and Qajar Iran's Discovery of Its Ancient Past." In *The Eye of the Shah: Qajar Court Photography and the Persian Past*, ed. J.Y. Chi, 158-177. New York: Institute for the Study of the Ancient World; Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Karen Rubinson

"Revisiting South Caucasus- Iranian Azerbaijan Connections." In *International Symposium on East Anatolia-South Caucasus Cultures: Proceedings*, eds. M. Işıklı and B. Can. Newcastle on Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015.

with Katheryn M Linduff. "Obituary: Elena Efimovna Kuz'mina (Kuzmina) (1930-2013)." *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology* 6 (2015): 211-214.

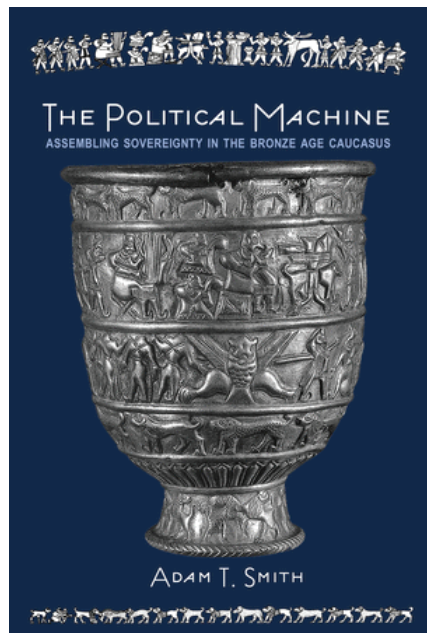
Rita Watson

"Archaic lists, writing, and mind." *Pragmatics and Cognition* 21:3 (2015): 484-504.

VRS Alumni

Jan Bemann (2014-15)

Ed., with M. Schmauder. *Complexity of Interaction along the Eurasian Steppe Zone in the First Millennium CE*. Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, 2015.



Publications

VRS Alumni (continued)

with U. Brosseder, J.-O. Gantulga, G. Grupe, G. McGlynn, S. Reichert, and C. Yeruul-Erdene. "Bioarchaeological Research on the Bronze and Iron Age Cemetery of Maikhan Tolgoi, Upper Orkhon Valley, Central Mongolia." In *Актуальные вопросы археологии и этнологии Центральной Азии. Материалы международной научной конференции Улан-Удэ, 7-8 апреля 2015 г.*, ed. Б. В. Базаров, 188-199. Иркутск: Оттиск, 2015.

Jan Bremmer (2012-13)

Ed., with D. Boschung. *The Materiality of Magic*. Munich: Wilhelm Fink, 2015.

"From Books with Magic to Magical Books in Ancient Greece and Rome." In *The Materiality of Magic*, eds. D. Boschung and J.N. Bremmer, 241-269. Munich: Wilhelm Fink, 2015.

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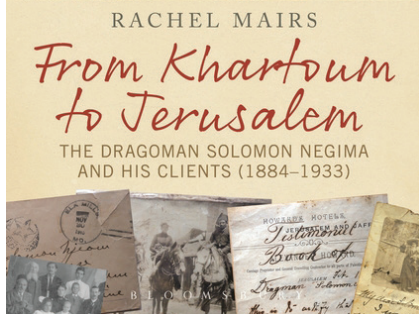
Ari Bryen (2008-09)

"Reading the Citizenship Papyrus (P.Giss. 40)." In *Citizenship and Empire in Europe, 200-1900: The Antonine Constitution after 1800 Years*, ed. C. Ando, 29-43. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2016.

Muriel Debié (2009-10)

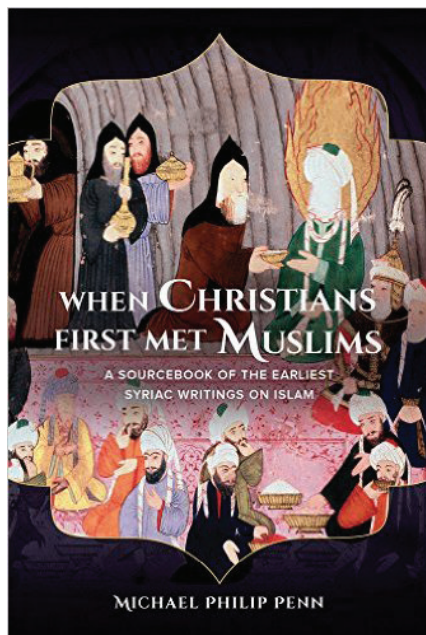
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Jacco Dieleman (2010-11)

Ed., with B. Backes. *Liturgical Texts for Osiris and the Deceased in Late Period and Greco-Roman Egypt: Proceedings of the Colloquiums at New York (ISAW), 6 May 2011, and Freudenstadt, 18-21 July 2012*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015.



Fiona Kidd (2011-12)

with E. Baker Brite. "Colour in context: status indicators and elite dress in pre-Islamic Central Asia." *Arts Asiatiques* 70 (2015): 33-48.

Sarah Laursen (2011-12)

with D. Strahan. "Art and Technology in a Chinese Gold Cicada Plaque." *Archives of Asian Art* 64.1 (2014): 43-57.

Rachel Mairs (2007-08)

The Hellenistic Far East: Archaeology, Language and Identity in Greek Central Asia. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.

From Khartoum to Jerusalem: The Dragoman Solomon Negima and his Clients, 1885-1933. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2016.

Annalisa Marzano (2010-11)

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"Reshaping the Past, Shaping the Present: Andrea De Jorio and Naples' Classical Heritage." In *Remembering Parthenope: The Reception of Classical Naples from Antiquity to the Present*, eds. C. Buongiovanni and J. Hughes, 266-283. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Mathieu Ossendrijver (2010-11)

"The Story of the Magi in the Light of Alexander the Great's Encounters with Chaldeans." In *The Star of Bethlehem and the Magi: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Experts on the Ancient Near East, the Greco-Roman World, and Modern Astronomy*, eds. P. Bartel and G. van Kooten, 217-230. Boston: Brill, 2015.

"Compendia and Procedure Texts in the Mesopotamian Astral Sciences." In *In the Wake of the Compendia: Infrastructural Contexts and the Licensing of Empiricism in Ancient and Medieval Mesopotamia*, ed. J. Cale Johnson, 47-57. Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

"The Powers of 9 and Related Mathematical Tables from Babylon." *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 66 (2014): 149-169.

Michael Penn (2011-12)

Envisioning Islam: Syriac Christians in the Early Muslim World. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.

When Christians First Met Muslims: A Source Book of the Earliest Syriac Writings on Islam. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.

Christine Proust (2009-10)

"A tree-structured list in a mathematical series text from Mesopotamia." In *Texts, Textual Acts and the History of Science*, eds. K. Chemla and J. Virbel, 281-316. Cham: Springer, 2015.

"Mathematical Lists: From Archiving to Innovation." In *Tradition and Innovation in the Ancient Near East. Proceedings of the 57th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Rome, 4-8 July 2011*, eds. A. Archi and A. Bremanti. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2015.

"Des listes pour apprendre, résoudre, classer, archiver, explorer ou inventer." In *The Frontiers of Ancient Science: Essays in Honor of Heinrich von Staden*, eds. K.-D. Fischer and B. Holmes, 493-514. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015.

J. Nicholas Reid (2014-15)

"Runaways and Fugitive Catchers during the Third Dynasty of Ur." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 58 (2015): 576-605.

Francesca Rochberg (2013-14)

"Conceiving the History of Science Forward." In *The Frontiers of Ancient Science: Essays in Honor of Heinrich von Staden*, eds. K.-D. Fischer, and B. Holmes, 515-531. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015.

"The Babylonians and the Rational: Contexts of Rational Reasoning in Cuneiform Scribal Scholarship." In *In the Wake of the Compendia: Infrastructural Contexts and the Licensing of Empiricism in Ancient and Medieval Mesopotamia*, ed. J. Cale Johnson, 209-248. Boston: De Gruyter, 2015.

Caroline Sauvage (2009-10)

with D. Pardee. "L'itinéraire maritime d'une reine d'Ougarit. Note sur le texte RS 94.2406 – in memoriam Pierre Bordreuil." *Syria* 92 (2015).

"A Maritime Celebration to Aphrodite-Astarte: A Note on the Dor Scapula." *Israel Exploration Journal* 65 (2015): 69-89.

"Nouvelle réflexion sur le dépôt aux 80 jarres de Minet el-Beida." In *De l'île d'Aphrodite au Paradis perdu: itinéraire d'un gentilhomme lyonnais: en hommage à Yves Calvet*, eds. M. Al-Maqdissi, B. Geyer, and V. Matoian, 63-76. Leuven: Peeters, 2015.

Juan Manuel Tebes (2015)

"Investigating the Painted Pottery Traditions of the First Millennium BC Northwestern Arabia and Southern Levant: Contexts of Discovery and Painted Decorative Motives." *ARAM* 28 (2015).

Víctor Alonso Troncoso (2013)

"The Zoology of Kingship: From Alexander the Great to the Epigoni (336 - c. 250 BC)." *Anabasis: Studia Classica et Orientalia* 5 (2014): 53-75.

Li Zhang (2012-13)

"Landscape of China's Participation in the Bronze Age Eurasian Network." *Journal of World Prehistory* 28:3 (2015): 179-213.

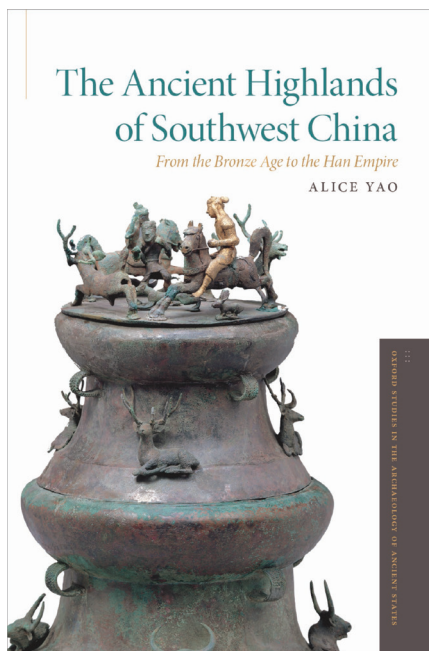
Liangren Zhang (2013-14)

with H. Wang. "Painted pottery from the Xichengyi Site in Zhangye City (张掖市西城驿遗址的彩陶)." *The Archaeology of Northern Ethnicity (北方民族考古)* 2 (2015): 91-101.

with E. Lü and Y. Zhang. "Early Iron Age archaeology of the Turfan Basin (吐鲁番地区早期铁器时代考古)." *Study of Early China (早期中国研究)* 2 (2015/16).

Alice Yao (2008-09)

The Ancient Highlands of Southwest China: From the Bronze Age to the Han Empire. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.



Mantha Zarmakoupi (2009-10)

"Les maisons des négociants italiens à Délos: structuration de l'espace domestique dans une société en mouvement." *Cahiers Mondes anciens* 7 (2015).

"Balancing Acts Between Ancient and Modern Cities: The Ancient Greek Cities Project of C. A. Doxiadis." *Architectural Histories* 3:1 (2015).

"The spatial environment of inscriptions and graffiti in domestic spaces: the case of Delos." In *Inscriptions in the Private Sphere in the Greco-Roman World*, eds. R. Benefiel and P. Keegan, 50-79. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2016.

Announcements and News

Library News

Gabriel McKee

Gabriel McKee has been appointed ISAW's first Librarian for Collections and Services. Gabriel arrived last year as a cataloger and immediately immersed himself in the work of our library and the life of our community. As a faculty librarian, Gabriel will help manage ISAW's growing print and digital collections and contribute to the development of new public services and instructional offerings in ISAW Library. In addition to his MLIS, Gabriel holds a Master's degree in Theological Studies from the Harvard Divinity School. His areas of scholarly interest include patristics, medieval mystical literature, the intersection of science fiction and theology, metadata and scholarly communication in ancient studies, and small press bibliography (and you may see him pursue some of these interests on the ISAW Library blog). His publications include *The Persistence of Poe: The Edgar Allan Poe Collection of Susan Jaffe Tane* (2014), *The Gospel According to Science Fiction* (2007), and *Pink*

Beams of Light From the God in the Gutter: The Science Fictional Religion of Philip K. Dick (2003) and he is currently working on a bibliography of the West Virginia-based fringe publisher Saucerian Books, a guide to best practices for the cataloging of comics and graphic novels, and a study of the fourth-century heresiarch Priscillian of Avila.



VRS Alumni News

Gilles Bransbourg

Gilles Bransbourg, ISAW Research Associate and Adjunct Curator of Roman Coins at the American Numismatic Society, gave a talk at this year's 22nd International Congress of Historical Sciences (ICHS). His talk was entitled "Reddite quae sunt Caesaris, Caesar. Late Antiquity and the Dream of Fair Taxation" and was presented as part of the Late Antiquity in Contemporary Debate on August 26, 2015. The Debate was one of the "Specialized Theme" series of the ICHS and was organized by Rita Lizzi Testa with the support of the Italian National Committee.



a conference titled *The Sources of Evil: Complexity and Systematization, Differentiation and Interdependency in Mesopotamian Exorcistic Lore*. On November 20, 2015, Rochberg presented "The Representation of Phenomena in Babylonian Astronomical Models" in a session titled "Knowing Nature in the Ancient



Francesca Rochberg

Francesca Rochberg, ISAW Senior Fellow and VRS Alumna (2013-14), has shared the results of her research at numerous academic conferences in the United States and Europe in recent months and will continue her active presentation schedule in 2016. On November 17, 2014, she presented "Categories, Kinds, and Determinatives" in Berlin at a conference titled *Die Sprache des Bewusstseins und das Bewusstsein von Sprache im Alten Orient*. In April 2015, she gave a paper on the topic of "Ina lumun attali Sin: On Evil and Lunar Eclipses" in Würzburg at

World" at a meeting of the History of Science Society in San Francisco. In a session on "Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literatures" at a meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta on November 22, 2015, she presented "What we Talk about when we Talk about Knowledge: Historical Epistemology in the Ancient Near East" for the panel "Interaction and Change in Ancient Near Eastern Scribal Cultures." In May 2016, Rochberg will give a paper titled "Tradition and Innovation in Late Babylonian Astral Sciences" at the conference *Scholars, Priests and Temples - Babylonian and Egyptian Science in Context*, to be held at TOPOI, Humboldt University, in Berlin. And, finally, in June 2016, she will present "Observation and the Empirical Attitude of Babylonian Astronomers" at the conference *Keeping watch in Babylon: from evidence to text in the Astronomical Diaries*, to be held in Durham, UK.

Public Events

February 2

Excavating One Man's Lifeworlds in Early China †
Jue Guo, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

February 4

Narrative Approaches to Counting Roman Amphitheaters †
Sebastian Heath, ISAW
AIA Lecture, 6:30pm

February 11

A View from Below: What a Bronze Age Village Can Tell Us About the Shang Dynasty †
Roderick Campbell, ISAW

February 16

Shaping Religious Space in Roman and Late Antique Sepphoris †
Zeev Weiss, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

March 1

Territorial Barriers in Central Asia: Investigating the "Long Wall" of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) †
Sören Stark, ISAW

March 7

Material Worlds: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Contacts and Exchange in the Ancient Near East *
Workshop, organized by Arnulf Hausleiter (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar), 10:00am-7:15pm

March 8

(Re-)Defining an Ancient Near Eastern Contact Zone: Northwest Arabia in the 2nd Millennium BC †
Arnulf Hausleiter, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

March 11

Maya Cultural Heritage: How Archaeologists and Indigenous Peoples Create and Conserve the Past †
Patricia McAnany, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brush Lecture (AIA), 6:30pm

March 22

Through the Looking Glass: An Evolving Perspective on Northern Zhou Dynasty (557-581) Buddhist Art †
Annette Juliano, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

March 24

Memory, Tradition, and Image Production in Ancient Mesopotamia †
Beate Pongratz-Leisten, ISAW

March 10

Veiling the Late Roman House * †
John Stephenson, Appalachian State University

The 7th Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

Silk Roads and Steppe Roads of Medieval China: History Unearthed from Tombs

Jonathan K. Skaff, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

March 29

Rostovtzeff Lecture Series I:
Settlers and Merchants on the Silk Roads: Sogdians at Turfan *

April 5

Rostovtzeff Lecture Series II:
Sogdians or Borderlanders?, Part I: Lives Revealed in Epitaphs *

April 12

Rostovtzeff Lecture Series III:
Sogdians or Borderlanders?, Part II: Death Rituals Revealed in Tombs *

April 19

Rostovtzeff Lecture Series IV:
A Tang Dynasty Ally in Mongolia: Pugu Yitu (635-678) † *

April 8

The Formation of Cultural Memory: Ancient Mesopotamian Libraries and Schools and Their Contribution to the Shaping of Tradition and Identity *
Workshop, organized by Beate Pongratz-Leisten (ISAW), 9:00am-5:00pm

April 15-16

The Global Eighth Century: A Comparative Assessment of Socio-economic and Political Developments in the Eighth Century CE Across Eurasia *
Workshop, organized by Erik Hermans (ISAW); April 15, 10:30am-5:30pm; April 16, 9:00am-1:00pm

April 22

Iran Across the East/West Trade: Routes of Communication and Exchange, Products of Exchange, and Networks of Trade Circa 500-900 CE *
Workshop, organized by Parvaneh Pourshariati (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar), 9:00am-4:30pm

May 3

At the Intersection of Work, Economy, and Society: Cross-Industry Relations in the Roman World †
Elizabeth Murphy, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

May 16-17

Cult Practices in Ancient Literatures: Egyptian, Near Eastern and Graeco-Roman Narratives in a Cross-Cultural Perspective *
Workshop, organized by Franziska Naether (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar); May 16, 10:00am-6:30pm; May 17, 9:00am-12:00pm

May 19

Coptic Art, Modern Design, Art History: The Changing Value of Late Antique Textiles at the Brooklyn Museum * †
Edward Bleiberg, Brooklyn Museum

* Registration is required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or to 212.992.7800

† Reception to follow

All events are held in the ISAW Lecture Hall and begin at 6 pm unless otherwise noted.

Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Please visit isaw.nyu.edu for event updates.

Designing Identity

Location and Hours

About ISAW Exhibitions

▶ Press Room

DESIGNING IDENTITY: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity

Future Exhibition: February 25 - May 22, 2016

ISAW's spring exhibition, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity*, offers intimate glimpses into the lives of those who commissioned and used textiles and more sweeping views across Late Antique society (roughly third to seventh century CE). The exhibition brings together over fifty textiles of diverse materials, techniques, and motifs to explore how clothing and cloth furnishings expressed ideals of self, society, and culture. By their valuable materials and virtuoso execution, the textiles displayed their owners' wealth and discernment. To modern viewers, the materials and techniques also attest to developments around the Mediterranean world and farther east along the routes of the silk trade. The Late Antique owners, in choosing from a vast repertory of motifs, represented (hopefully more than actually) the prosperity and well-



WEBSITE UPGRADE

ISAW's redesigned website features improved navigation menus, easier-to-find information for visitors and staff, and a responsive layout that works equally well on desktops, laptops, tablets, and phones. Behind-the-scenes improvements have boosted security and performance, and have made it easier for ISAW personnel to create and edit the content that appears on the site.

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.