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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Newsletter 16 Fall 2016



NYU | ISAW

From the Director

As I embark on my term as Interim Director of ISAW, I cannot help being struck by the complex entity that it has come to be in the nine years since its foundation— in eight of which I have had the privilege of participating. We are, by a considerable margin, the smallest of New York University's many schools; in terms of faculty, if we were a mere university department, we would be a smallish one. But we are active, and excel, in a spread of dimensions that function as essential implementations of our mission that it would be difficult to find paralleled in any academic institution even several times ISAW's size.

One reason that we have been able to do this is that ISAW's principal components, faculty, doctoral students, associated and visiting researchers, library, digital team, and exhibitions, interact and collaborate. Several of our exhibitions, including the soon-to-open *Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity* featured on this issue's cover, have been curated or co-curated by ISAW faculty, research associates, and visiting research scholars; and at least three of our students will be involved in *Time and Cosmos* during its run. Again, one of our doctoral seminars this fall, "Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World," is being team-taught by Tom Elliott, our Associate Director of Digital Programs, our faculty colleague Sebastian Heath, and our librarian, David Ratzan. ISAW is about breaking down imagined barriers not just between ancient civilizations but also between present-day institutional cultures.

Life at ISAW is also shaped by a counterpoint of transitions taking place on distinct time-scales. A recent, and very happy, landmark in the evolution of our faculty is Sören Stark's tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Readers of his article in this issue on the excavations at Bash-tepa will vicariously share the "renewed sense of academic freedom" with which he was able to approach the first full-scale season of fieldwork at the site. The one or two years during which we come to know our visiting research scholars seem all too fleeting, but fortunately our "VRS alumni" often drop by ISAW and keep connected with us in other ways. Our doctoral students are part of our community for more than half a decade, long enough to experience multiple intellectual metamorphoses. Last year we celebrated our first graduations; this fall our incoming cohort of five students is the largest ISAW has ever had. Like every year so far, ISAW's tenth year promises to be always busy, and always stimulating.

Alexander Jones
Interim Director and Professor of the Exact Sciences in Antiquity

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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Cover Photo: Mithraic Relief with Zodiac

Marble

H. 44.5 cm; W. 77 cm; D. 9.5 cm

Mithraeum, Sidon

2nd century CE–4th century CE

Musée du Louvre, Paris, Département des Antiquités orientales: AO 22255

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Exhibitions

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity

October 19, 2016 – April 23, 2017

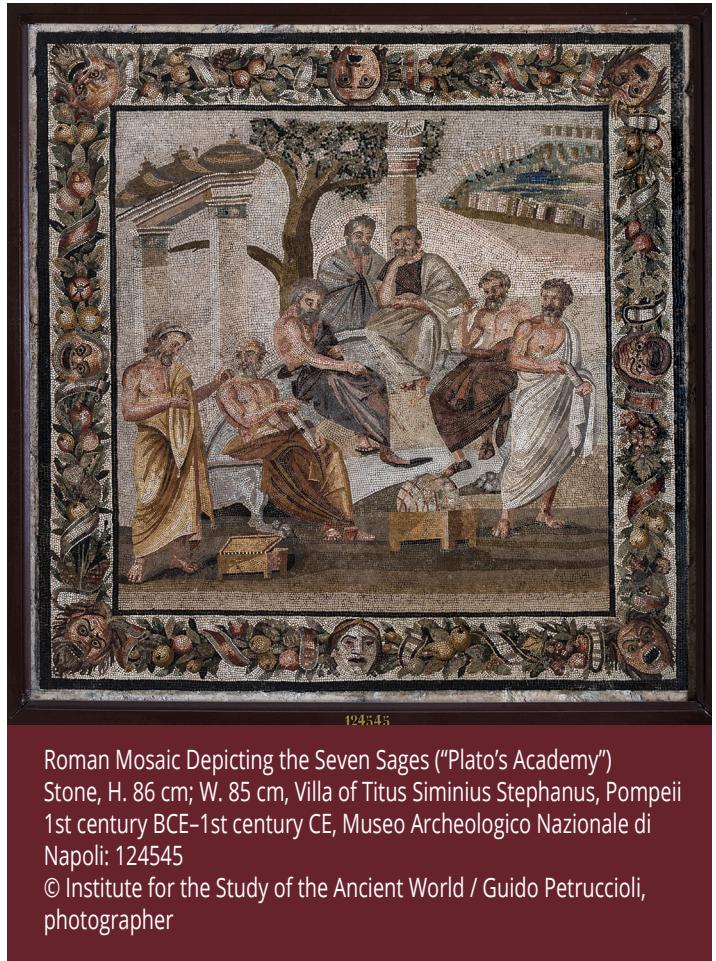
Rachel Herschman, Curatorial Assistant

The ancient Greeks and Romans contributed more than any other past civilization to the rise of time's dominion over individual and public life. *Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity* explores the ways in which they organized time, marked its passage, and linked it to their understanding of the larger universe. The exhibition brings together more than 100 objects from international collections, comprising both tools of time reckoning and items—many of them rarely on public display—that illuminate the social role, perception, and visualization of time and its relationship to the cosmos. In so doing, it opens a window onto the roots of our modern system of time measurement, as well as how our understanding of it influences our conceptions of the world and our place in it.

Greek philosophers and astronomers conceived of the cosmos, or universe, as a self-contained space in which Earth stood at the center, surrounded—and profoundly affected—by the constant motions of the heavenly bodies and the constellations of the zodiac. In developing time-keeping devices that explicitly aligned the passage of time with these movements, they linked time to the celestial powers that they believed shaped the environment and human destiny. As Professor Alexander Jones notes in his introduction to the exhibition catalogue, “What distinguishes our experience of time from that of the Greek or Roman is that our time technology . . . conceals the science on which it is based, where ancient time-telling devices were individual, local illustrations of the cosmology in which their designers believed.”

Time and Cosmos explores and interweaves the practical and iconographic aspects of time and its relationship to the heavens. The exhibition's opening gallery provides an overview of time-telling technology with a display of eleven sundials—the emblematic clock of Greco-Roman antiquity—and water clocks, devices that would have been found in public places such as gymnasia, as well as on private estates. The examples on view encompass an enormous diversity of historical periods, geography, and geometry, ranging from one of the earliest Greek sundials in existence, made in Oropos during the late 4th century BCE, to later examples from Greece, Italy, North Africa and elsewhere.

In addition to the time-keeping devices, this gallery presents a great variety of objects that illuminate the role of time in belief systems. Greco-Roman astrology, for example, sought to link time and astronomy to human lives by deducing an individual's character and destiny from the horoscope—the arrangement of the sun, moon,



Roman Mosaic Depicting the Seven Sages (“Plato’s Academy”)
Stone, H. 86 cm; W. 85 cm, Villa of Titus Siminius Stephanus, Pompeii
1st century BCE–1st century CE, Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli: 124545
© Institute for the Study of the Ancient World / Guido Petruccioli, photographer

and planets in the zodiac at the instant of his or her birth. Seen here are two exceptionally rare examples of astrologer’s boards—each featuring a combination of Babylonian and Egyptian imagery—on which astrologers displayed clients’ horoscopes while providing oral commentary.

Another highlight is a Roman mosaic from a villa in Pompeii, dating from the first century BCE–first century CE, that depicts the Seven Sages, or Plato’s Academy, gathered in an olive grove. The superbly crafted image brings time and cosmos together, with one of the philosophers explaining the globe of the heavens, while a pillar topped by a sundial, representing daytime, is in the center of the background, and oil lamps, representing nighttime, are depicted on the left side. Elsewhere, a superlative second–fourth century CE marble relief depicts the Roman god Mithras slaying a bull. The image is circled by representations of twelve zodiacal signs, organized so that Scorpio is simultaneously in its place in the zodiac and participating in the sacrificial act.

In the second gallery, *Time and Cosmos* explores time in both the private and public spheres, with examples of the material objects that gave temporal structure to the daily life of both individuals and the community in such areas as religion, commerce, agriculture, and law. Among these objects are six portable sundials. Precursors of the modern-day watch, these were prestige objects largely owned and used by those at the upper echelons of society. But they were also used by professionals, as seen here in a remarkable installation of objects from a physician's tomb from the late first century CE, where a portable sundial was deposited along with medical instruments and pills for eye ailments. Another example of a portable sundial provides a superb example of ancient precision metalworking, with nested rings that functioned as images of circles on the celestial sphere.

Much of communal life, from feast days, to religious rituals, to the harvest, to local government, unfolded according to publicly displayed calendars that measured time in months and years rather than hours. Greek calendar inscriptions typically provided a month-by-month listing of festivals, sometimes specifying the animals to be sacrificed for each one, while the ancient Romans also used publicly displayed calendars as a means of civic and cultural organization: dates when the courts and assemblies could or could not meet were inscribed or painted, as were various festivals and other key events. The (probably) first-century CE calendar known as the *Menologium Rusticum Colotianum* includes a range of information for each month. For the month of January, for example, inscriptions range from measurements (the month has 31 days, the days are 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours long), to astrological information (the sun is in Capricorn), to agricultural and religious activities to be undertaken ("Stakes are to be sharpened," "Willow and cane to be felled," and "Sacrifices are made to the Di Penates").

Time and Cosmos includes several digital displays, including one in this gallery that is devoted to the Antikythera Mechanism, a sophisticated simulator of time cycles and the motions of the sun, moon, and planets. Discovered in 1900–01, when excavation of an ancient Greek shipwreck uncovered pieces of a bronze device consisting of complex systems of gears and dials, it is today recognized as the most important artifact of ancient science that archaeology has ever brought to light.

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity opens to the public on October 19, 2016 and runs through April 23, 2017. The exhibition is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11am 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 programming will run through the exhibition's duration. Please visit the ISAW website for updates on when these events will take place.

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity is accompanied by a catalogue, co-published by ISAW and Princeton University Press. It will be available for purchase in the ISAW galleries and on amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and press.princeton.edu.

This exhibition and its accompanying catalogue have been generously supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Arete Foundation, a private donor, the Selz Foundation, an anonymous foundation, Louise Hirschfeld Cullman and Lewis B. Cullman, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional funding provided by Frances Marzio and Furthermore: a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

Exhibition Event Series

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Herodes Atticus and the Greco-Roman World: Imperial Cosmos, Cosmic Allusions, Art and Culture in his Estate in Southern Peloponnese
Georgios Spyropoulos, Directorate General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Athens

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Ancient Sundials: Art, Technology, and Culture
James Evans, University of Puget Sound

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Weeks, Months, and Years in Greek and Roman Calendars
Daryn Lehoux, Queen's University

Thursday January 26, 2017

Geographical Portable Sundials: Reliable Instruments or Roman Fashion Statements?
Richard Talbert, University of North Carolina

Monday February 27, 2017

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Astrology
Stephan Heilen, University of Osnabrück

Thursday April 6, 2017

A Portable Cosmos: The Antikythera Mechanism
Alexander Jones, ISAW

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.

Faculty Focus

Hellenism at the Fringes: The First Season of Excavations at Bash-tepa, Bukhara Region, Uzbekistan

Sören Stark

Associate Professor of Central Asian Art and Archaeology

Hellenism in Western Central Asia has attracted the interest of amateurs and scholars for more than two centuries: first by the chance discovery of Greek-style coins, and later by the archaeological exploration of Greek-Macedonian colonies as far east as Northeastern Afghanistan. However, despite such a long and rich history of research, archaeological investigations remained largely focused on urban centers, such as Ay-Khanūm in Bactria or Erk-kala/Gyaur-kala in Margiana. There was much less attention paid to the rural countryside during this period, let alone in peripheral regions such as the Zerafshan delta in Sogdiana, far from the centers of Greek and Macedonian settlement in Bactria and Margiana.

To throw light on the rural fringes of the Hellenistic “Far East” is the aim of a new field project I am co-directing with Dr. Jamal Mirzaakhmedov, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, and Dr. Fiona Kidd, NYU Abu Dhabi. After a promising preparatory survey carried out in the summer of 2015, we prepared for a first full-fledged fieldwork season this past summer. Armed with the news of my tenure at NYU, I embarked on this work with a renewed sense of academic freedom and a comprehensive research agenda.

Integral to this research are excavations at Bash-tepa over several years. The site is situated some 50 km northwest of the city of Bukhara

and 14 km outside of the present-day limits of the oasis—in the midst of shifting sand dunes and haloxylon bushes. But back in Antiquity this landscape must have looked very different. From roughly the third century BCE to the 3rd or 4th century CE Bash-tepa was the westernmost site within a cluster of about a dozen small settlements, hamlets, and manor houses along what was then the border of the oasis. The surrounding area was watered by a sophisticated system of irrigation canals, drawing from a terminal river arm of the Zerafshan River delta system, one of the main rivers of the historic region of Sogdiana.

What makes this micro-region particularly interesting is that this river arm seems to have stopped functioning at some point during the 3rd or 4th century CE, after which all permanent settlement and irrigation farming in the neighborhood of Bash-tepa came to an end, which leaves us with a perfectly preserved relict landscape, practically undisturbed since late Antiquity. This circumstance offers unique opportunities to study the rural countryside during the Hellenistic and post-Hellenistic periods with an amazing degree of detail. For instance, in areas not covered by sand dunes one can still see, right on the present-day surface, the system of field lots and small terminal irrigation canals, dating back to Antiquity.



Photo courtesy of Sören Stark

2016 Team of the Uzbek-American Expedition in Bukhara. Upper row from left to right: Reilly Jensen, Sören Stark, Sirodj Mirzaakhmedov, Viktor Guev, Husniddin Rakhmanov; lower row: Maik Evers, some of our workers (Islam, Kadir, Dilshad and Sadik), Zachary Silvia, Sergey Krivonogov

We expect the excavation of Bash-tepa to provide the chronological anchor for this study and offer new insights into the character of settlement and material culture in this borderland during the Hellenistic and post-Hellenistic periods. A detailed study of when and how the site of Bash-tepa evolved will give us a basic understanding of the settlement and land-use dynamics in the area, the palimpsest of which we see on the surface surrounding the site.

Our team this year was composed of scholars and students from the U.S., Germany, Russia, and Uzbekistan (see image on page 6). A substantial stratigraphic trench (more than 12 m long and up to 6 m deep) revealed the complete profile of the fortifications of the site, enabling us to identify three major construction phases of the fortifications. We secured a large number of radiocarbon samples from the masonry of all three phases and we are confident that lab analyses will substantiate absolute dates for each of these three construction phases. We were actually quite surprised about the monumentality of these fortifications at this locality: during the last phase of its existence the curtain wall of the site was at its base more than 10 m wide! Obviously Bash-tepa functioned as a major border fortress during the Hellenistic and post-Hellenistic periods vis-à-vis the nomadic steppe.

What was inside this imposing fortress during the various stages of its existence is still largely unknown to us after only one season of excavation, but the investigation of this question has begun with two trenches inside the perimeter of the fortification walls on the summit

Staff Highlights

Andrea Chang and Maggie Pavao sit together at the 3rd floor reception area and perform administrative tasks to keep ISAW running smoothly.

Maggie Pavao is ISAW's Development Associate, beginning as a temporary staff member in October 2014 and becoming a full-time administrator in March 2015. Maggie is originally from Stony Brook, NY and earned her B.A. at Wheaton College (IL) in Art History with a minor in French. During her undergraduate studies, Maggie spent a semester at the Paris College of Art, with a focus on art criticism and graphic design. After completing her studies, she returned to New York and held positions in galleries and arts organizations, including the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the South Street Seaport Museum.

As ISAW's Development Associate, Maggie supports ISAW's fundraising team, coordinates and supports events, runs ISAW's marketing efforts, including ISAW's social media and designing promotional materials. In the Fall of 2016, Maggie began classes towards an M.A. in NYU's Program in Museum Studies. In her free time, Maggie enjoys biking, gardening, and exploring New York's many museums and cultural institutions.



of the site. To date, they give us a more systematic and complete picture only for the very last stage of the occupation of Bash-tepa. Close to the surface we uncovered a series of pit-houses and the character of the cultural layers associated with them (containing a large assemblage of sheep or goat bones) strongly suggests the seasonal presence of pastoralists. Most likely, during its last phase the site was seasonally occupied by nomads, who used the surrounding territory as winter pasture for their herds. The ceramic inventory from these strata currently suggests a date close to the end of the fortress at Bash-tepa during Late Antiquity (3rd/4th century CE). If this turns out to be confirmed by the date of radiocarbon samples from these pit-houses, we would have the first nomadic campsite of this period in the oases belt of Central Asia ever investigated in detail—a find of considerable importance.

These pit houses were sunk into monumental architectural structures built of unfired mud-bricks and pisé (“pakhsa”), which we are just beginning to understand. What is clear already is that the ceramic complex from the site features some close connections with Hellenistic Bactria, such as specimens of fine tableware (including an imitation of a so-called “Megarian bowl”). These specimens were probably imported from late 3rd/2nd century BCE Bactria and its Greek-Macedonian colonies—a truly surprising (if preliminary) conclusion, given the peripheral location of the western Sogdiana within the Hellenistic “Far East.” At any rate: exciting prospects for our next season at Bash-tepa!

Andrea Chang is a native New Yorker from Brooklyn and earned a B.A. at the University at Buffalo in Political Science, during which time she worked for the Attorney General. After graduation, she returned to New York City to model, and later held positions in fashion retail, the hospitality industry, and real estate. She eventually worked her way up to a licensed real estate salesperson in a top firm in Manhattan focusing on residential condo sales. Raised by academics, her father a professor emeritus at National Taiwan University and her mother a former high school teacher, Andrea found herself drawn back to academic life and joined the ISAW administrative team in April 2013 as Administrative Aide.

At ISAW, Andrea supports the administrative and financial functions of ISAW: facilities, travel, food service, and procurement. Andrea began as a part-time employee but is now a full-time staff member, providing support to all members of the ISAW community. Outside of ISAW, Andrea's interests lie in costume and interior design, sustainable living, and carpentry.

Faculty Focus

Chinese Bronze Age Economy Project

Rod Campbell

Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History

The work continued this summer on the long-term, multi-site Chinese Bronze Age Economy Project - this time with the generous support of the New York University Research Challenge Fund. While most of the summer was spent in Zhengzhou, continuing to analyze the animal bones recovered from the only well-excavated Shang dynasty village site, ISAW professor Rod Campbell and ISAW PhD student Zhang Yan also visited the Shang regional center of Daxingzhuang in Shandong province to look for evidence of specialist bone working. As a result, a new collaboration with Shandong University was brokered for a full study of Daxingzhuang worked bone, bringing the three most important Anyang period (ca. 1250-1050 BCE) Shang sites into the ambit of our investigation: Anyang, the 3000 ha capital; Daxingzhuang, a 30 ha regional center; and Guandimiao, the remote 2 ha village.

Despite their disparate natures and the hundreds of kilometers that separate them, they appear to be linked in the distribution of bone hairpins that the team is increasingly certain were mass-produced solely in Anyang. It appears that not only did the royal capital possess precociously large and well-organized workshops dedicated to the large-scale production of quotidian bone artifacts, but the products of these workshops were distributed to remote villages and regional centers alike. Our preliminary study at the regional center of Daxingzhuang, moreover, makes us increasingly certain that while minor bone working may have occurred locally, it is clearly distinguishable from the products of the Anyang workshops. If these



Photo courtesy of Rod Campbell

ISAW Graduate Student Zhang Yan and Rod Campbell at the Anyang municipal museum examining bone artefacts in their collection

preliminary conclusions turn out to be correct, we will be forced to confront the realization that the ancient Chinese economy was far more precocious and integrated than anyone has dared imagine and that its history will need to be re-written.



Photo courtesy of Rod Campbell

A composite slide comparing Anyang decorated pin heads to pins recovered from a site in Shandong province (where Rod Campbell's team went to investigate the possibility of connections between Anyang bone working and other Shang centres)

Dispatch From the Archives: Defining the Ancient in Early Modern Europe

Frederic Clark

Visiting Assistant Professor

Thanks to the generosity of ISAW's research support, I spent part of this summer in England, finishing up work on my book, *Dividing Time: The Invention of Historical Periods in Early Modern Europe*. This book explores how European scholars in the period between 1400 and 1800 began to separate historical time into ancient, medieval, and modern phases. It begins with the fourteenth-century Italian humanist Petrarch and ends with the eighteenth-century English historian Edward Gibbon. During these centuries, early modern Europeans debated when exactly the modern age had begun, and which eras counted as truly ancient. Had Rome "fallen," and if so *when* and *why* had such a fall taken place? Was it possible, or desirable, to revive antiquity? And what purposes did a millennium-long "middle" age between ancient Rome and contemporary Europe serve?

Dividing Time examines evidence of changing perceptions of the past in acts of reading, some of them performed by well-known scholars, and others by obscure or even anonymous individuals. For this reason, I spent most of my days at the British Library, tracking down marginal notes that readers entered in the copies of their books. History textbooks proved to be fruitful sources. For instance, how did students respond to key events on the seeming borderlands between antiquity and the middle Ages, from Constantine's conversion to Christianity to Charlemagne's coronation as emperor? Here is an example of one such response: student notes in the 17th-century

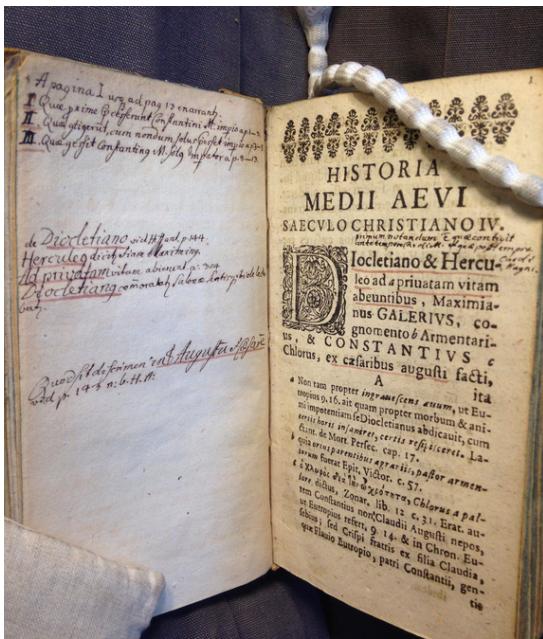


Photo courtesy of Frederic Clark

A student's notes in the 17th-century German scholar Christopher Cellarius' *Universal History Divided into Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Times*

German scholar Christopher Cellarius' *Universal History Divided into Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Times* (one of the first textbooks to use this threefold division of time in such explicit fashion).

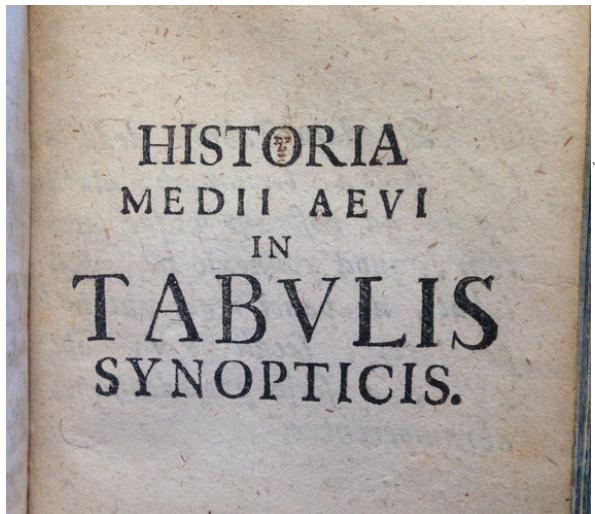


Photo courtesy of Frederic Clark

A face sketched in the "O" of *Historia medii aevi* or "The history of the Middle Ages"

Although this reader was an assiduous note-taker, all was not serious. I was delighted to see that they too engaged in a pedagogical practice that transcends historical periods: namely, the art of the doodle. Above is a face they sketched in the "O" of *Historia medii aevi* or "The history of the Middle Ages." *Dividing time* required both learning and levity!

I'm immensely grateful for this wonderful opportunity, and look forward to sharing the results of my research with the ISAW community this fall.

Community

Visiting Research Scholars 2016-17

Frederic Clark

Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Princeton University, *Dividing Time: The Making of Historical Periodization in Early Modern Europe, c.1500-1750; The First Pagan Historian: The Fortunes of a Fraud from Antiquity to Enlightenment*

Emily Cole

Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, *Translation on Display: Multilingual Monuments in Ptolemaic Egypt*

Alan Greene

Ph.D., University of Chicago, *Provisioning the Political: Material Economies, Ritual Life, & Social Inequality Among the Earliest Polities of the Ancient World*

Yitzchak Jaffe

Ph.D., Harvard University, *Rediscovering the Multiethnic & Multi-cultural Origins of Chinese Civilization*

Incoming Graduate Students

Narges Bayani

I received a B.A. in Near Eastern Archaeology from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2008 and completed my M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania in 2012, focusing on the interactions of the Iranian Plateau with Central Asia during the Bronze Age. My M.A. thesis explored the dynamics of cultural interaction at the site of Tepe Hissar in NE Iran and also solidified my interest in studying the frontier zones on the Iranian Plateau. I intend to undertake an in-depth study of frontiers and borderlands in the Ancient World from anthropological and archaeological perspectives and to explore the cross-regional encounters that shape and impact frontier communities. I am also interested in applying curatorial practices as an alternative and more public outlet for academic research and an integral link between the world of academic archaeology and the public perception of the ancient world. I also hold an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from New York University.

Kyle Brunner

I received my B.A. in History and Classical Studies with a minor in Archaeology in 2014 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While at UNCG, I honed my interest for the Early Islamic period of the Middle East. I have worked on a number of archaeological excavations in Jordan with the University of Copenhagen investigating Islamic Jarash and 'Aqaba. I have also excavated in the Moquegua Valley, Peru. After graduation, I became a member of the Monastic Social and Spatial Networks Project, through which I have been conducting social network analysis and GIS research on Syriac-speaking monastic communities of northern Syria and Iraq during the Byzantine and Early Islamic period. During my time at ISAW, I hope to expand my monastic research to incorporate rural estates across the northeastern Islamic frontier through both archaeological and geospatial methods.

Gina Konstantopoulos

Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan, *Elsewhere is a Negative Country: The Role of Supernatural Figures & the Construction of Imaginary and Abstracted Lands in the Ancient Near East*

Bill Mak (August 2016-February 2017)

Kyoto University, *Transmission and Dissemination of Greek Astral Science in South & East Asia during the First Millennium CE*

Maya Maskarinac

Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, *Unsafe for Saints: Alternate Histories of Christian Rome*

Robert Spengler

Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis, *How the Silk Road Shaped Your Dinner Table: A Study of the Origins & Spread of Agriculture in Central Eurasia*

Kate Justement

I received a B.A. in History and Anthropology with a minor in Classics in 2015 at Auburn University. During my time at Auburn and after graduation, I worked as an intern at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and Archives of American Art as well as at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Islamic Art Department. While at the Met, my work with the Ernst Herzfeld papers and my research for my senior thesis on American archaeologist, William Arthur Shelton, influenced my interests in the art and archeology of the Near East and Anatolia during the first and second millennia BCE. At ISAW, I am eager to investigate the multitude of widespread, influential interactions and encounters between the Near East and Anatolia, and how they precipitated change and the exchange of ideas and cultural trends, especially in visual and material culture. I will also further pursue my interests in curatorial work while at ISAW and will gain more hands-on experience with collections through both fieldwork and exhibition work.

Alireza Khounani

I earned my B.A. in Archaeology from Bu-Ali Sina University in Iran. While there, I focused on combining historical evidence with material culture to study the socio-political formation of the Parthian Empire through the study of its local vassals. I participated in several archaeological fieldwork projects in Iran before receiving a scholarship in 2014 to study for my master's degree at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. At VU, with an interest in interdisciplinary studies, I decided to pursue Landscape Archaeology in order to focus on the ways in which people in the past constructed and used the environment around them. In addition to learning about theoretical approaches in Landscape Studies, I took courses in "Cultural Hybridity" and "Romanization" to be able to write a master's thesis to investigate the material culture of the

city of Hatra, which was located on the Romano-Parthian border in Northern Mesopotamia. In 2015, I was a member of an archaeological survey on the Hellenistic and indigenous sites located in the region of Puliga in southwestern Italy. At ISAW, I intend to continue my previous research and expand my focus to Central Asia by applying interdisciplinary methods and digital humanities to better investigate the antique sites in the region.

Nathan Lovejoy

I graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2016 with a B.A. in Archaeology and the Ancient World (with honors) and Classics. I wrote my honors thesis on the reception of Anatolian tumuli from the Archaic Period to the present. Using archaeological, literary/historical, and more recent ethnographic evidence, I created a typology of engagements with the monumental burial mounds that punctuate the landscape of modern Turkey, and attempted to explain the motivations behind such interactions and the memories associated

with the tumuli. During my time at Brown University, I participated in the Brown University Labraunda Project (BULP) as a trench supervisor for two field seasons, where we excavated a monumental fountain house (referred to as the Hypostyle Building in publications) outside the temenos of the sanctuary of Zeus Labraundos. Our goals were to explain the phasing of the building, how it interacted with the other buildings of the sanctuary, and to explain water management at the site. At ISAW, I intend to continue acquiring and developing ancient language skills from the cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean and Near East in order to access primary sources without external interpretations. With a combination of philological and archaeological skills, I aim to continue my research into the reuse of ancient monuments and architectural structures, the reception of stories and artifacts among various cultures as they develop over time, and how memories are created and transmitted through the cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, with particular attention to the Archaic Period.



Incoming ISAW Graduate Students. (L to R): Alireza Khounani, Narges Bayani, Nathan Lovejoy, Kate Justement, Kyle Brunner

Visiting Research Scholars Alumni News

Gilles Bransbourg, Research Associate, VRS 2010-11, was appointed Associate Curator at the American Numismatic Society on September 1, 2016, after several years of joint appointment at ISAW and ANS.

Ari Bryen, VRS 2008-9, assumed a new position as Assistant Professor of History and Classics at Vanderbilt University on August 15, 2016, after several years at West Virginia University.

Claire Bubb, VRS 2014-15, was appointed Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow of Classical Literature and Science at ISAW on September 1, 2016.

Daniel F. Caner, VRS 2011-12, is assuming a new position as Associate Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University, after 16 years in a joint position in History and Classics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Muriel Debié, VRS 2009-10, will be a member in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton for the 2016-17 academic year.

Jacco Dieleman, VRS 2010-11, will be a member in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton during fall 2016.

Lidewijde de Jong, VRS 2010-11, received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor/Rosalind Franklin Fellow in the Department of Archaeology, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (University of Groningen), in April 2016.

Annalisa Marzano, VRS 2010-11, has been appointed Hugh Last Fellow at the British School at Rome for fall 2016.

Elizabeth Murphy, VRS 2014-16, will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilization in Istanbul, Turkey, for the 2016-17 academic year.

Michael Penn, VRS 2011-12, will assume a new position on January 1, 2017, as Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University, after many years at Mount Holyoke College.

Digital Programs

Tom Elliott

Associate Director for Digital Programs

Work continued apace under the auspices of my grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to upgrade and expand the Pleiades gazetteer of ancient places (<http://pleiades.stoa.org>). Work recently completed by our subcontractor, Jazkarta Inc., includes enhancements to the user interface and dynamic map components; upgrades that make it easier to import and cite locations in Open Street Map (<http://openstreetmap.org>); and modifications that allow users to record and document historical relationships between places (for example, administrative connections between cities and provinces). A second phase of the project has just begun: Ryan Baumann from Duke University's Collaboratory for Classics Computing is working on software that will enable us to collate Pleiades content with place information found in other gazetteers (like the Getty Research Institute's Thesaurus of Geographic Names and the German Archaeological Institute's iDAI Gazetteer), thereby providing users of all participating systems with richer and more complete geographic information for the ancient world.

Kristen Soule, IT Support Administrator, and I also oversaw Jazkarta's work on a series of upgrades to the ISAW website. Beyond routine security and performance enhancements, we implemented a number of behind-the-scenes improvements that make it easier for ISAW faculty and staff to create, edit, and publish the content you see on the website. This fall we will be rolling out a more efficient and engaging experience for the on-line components of ISAW exhibitions, as well as the ability to add dynamic maps to the website using data drawn from Pleiades and other sources.

We are also integrating both Pleiades and the ISAW website with the open-source Zotero citation management system, which is operated by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University (<https://www.zotero.org/>). This is the same bibliographic management tool that Patrick Burns (Assistant Research Scholar, Digital and Special Projects) is using to manage the bibliographic information that flows into the "Library New Titles" section on the ISAW website (<http://isaw.nyu.edu/library/Find/>). The integration of Zotero with Pleiades and the ISAW website will make it easy not only for our content creators to pull in bibliographic citations from Zotero, but also for external users of Zotero to capture bibliographic information about individual sections of our digital publications for later citation elsewhere. The twin goals are to make the discovery and citation of information resources -- both in print and on-line -- fast, easy, and accurate across all ISAW publications, research projects, and pedagogical efforts.

I traveled extensively, doing outreach and collaboration for ISAW's digital programs this summer. I delivered keynote addresses for the "Mapping the Past" conference at the University of North Carolina and the "Linking the Big Ancient Mediterranean" conference at Iowa State University. I also participated in workshops and project meetings for the Digital Latin Library (Duke University), the Open Ottoman platform (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton), the Periodo temporal gazetteer (University of Texas), and an initiative to improve data collection and use for Cultural Property Protection during NATO planning and operations (held at the NYU School of Law).

This fall I am team-teaching (with ISAW's Sebastian Heath and David Ratzan) a graduate seminar at ISAW entitled "Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World". Participating students and visiting scholars will gain hands-on experience with digital text encoding, computational analysis, 3D modeling, digital mapping, content management systems, and current issues in the discipline.



Kristen Soule, IT Administrator, in the new IT office located on the 6th Floor, complete with renovated desk and storage space

Summer 2016 saw renovations on the 6th floor of ISAW to accommodate staff and faculty changes. This process gave us the opportunity -- with generous support from the Leon Levy Foundation -- to renovate an office and storage space for Kristen's use. She moved into the space in August and now for the first time has purpose-built space for hardware troubleshooting, one-on-one software training, and equipment storage.

Libraries

David M. Ratzan
Head Librarian

I know I say this every year, but ... this was a great year in the ISAW Library! Indeed, it was a great year not only for our collections, which continued to grow both in print and digitally, but also for our building capacity to support twenty-first century scholarship and teaching in the ancient world.

Our print collection grew 7% last year, and this does not count the recent acquisitions of the libraries of Prof. Aleksandr Leskov, a renowned Russian archaeologist and one of the world's leading authorities on the Scythians and the ancient Eurasian Steppe, or of Susan Beningson, the Assistant Curator of Asian Art at the Brooklyn Museum and a specialist in Chinese art history and the material culture of the Silk Road. Dr. Beningson was one of several scholars and organizations that have recently recognized ISAW's growing importance in ancient studies with generous library donations. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the main German funding body for humanistic and scientific research, for its donation this past May. For more information about these and all other donations, as well as monthly lists of new titles, please see the ISAW Library website (isaw.nyu.edu/library).

On the digital side, we have been similarly busy, laying the foundation for what promises to be a very productive year. A central pillar of this foundation was our successful recruitment of Patrick Burns to the ISAW Library team as our first Assistant Research Scholar for Digital and Special Projects. This two-year position will help the ISAW Library to fulfill a key component of its broader mission, namely to provide access to and support for new forms of digital scholarship, scholarly communication, and pedagogy in ancient studies. Patrick comes to ISAW from Fordham University, where he recently earned his Ph.D. in Classics and had been deeply involved with the emerging landscape of digital humanities and ancient studies. Patrick's current academic research deals with defining genre in Latin literature through computational approaches to diction and developing natural language processing tools for historical languages in the Classical Language Toolkit (CLTK), having participated this past summer as a CLTK fellow in Google's Summer of Code. Patrick will work both to advance our current initiatives, including the Ancient World Digital Library and ISAW's born-digital publications, and to help develop new digital projects and programs with colleagues at other institutions and the Society for Classical Studies. He will also collaborate

with ISAW faculty, researchers, and students to help them incorporate digital resources into their research and teaching.

Finally, I am excited to report that the ISAW Library is becoming more actively engaged in the research and teaching missions of ISAW. This year library staff helped organize and will teach in a new ISAW graduate course, "Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World." In the spring I will be teaching an undergraduate course on race and ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean, and this year you will likely see all of the library staff members at one time or another in the "Recent Publications" section of the Newsletters.

If you would like updates on our activities between Newsletters—from monthly reports of new acquisitions to news about our digital projects and the staff's scholarly work—please follow the ISAW Library Blog (isaw.nyu.edu/library/blog) or the ISAW Library Facebook and Twitter accounts (@ISAWLib).



Patrick Burns, Assistant Research Scholar
for Digital and Special Projects

Lectures and Conferences

Tenth Annual Leon Levy Lecture
supported by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

A People Without a Name or, Who Were the Hittites

Theo van den Hout

Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Hittite and
Anatolian Languages

Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

November 3, 2016 at 6pm

Whereas the civilizations of the Assyrians and Babylonians in Mesopotamia, and that of Egypt, never faded from memory, knowledge of the Hittites was almost fully erased after the collapse of their kingdom around 1200 BC. In the now one-hundred-year old resurrection of Hittite culture and society that followed the decipherment of the Hittite language in 1915 they were largely cast in the image of Mesopotamian civilization, especially where Hittite sources remain less eloquent or even silent. But is this always justified? Are we at liberty to assume entire text genres and social systems just because others had them? What would Hittite society look like without them? This lecture will address these questions and explore some of the definitions of the term “Hittite.”

About the Speaker: Theo van den Hout (PhD, University of Amsterdam 1989) is the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Western Civilization and of Hittite and Anatolian Languages at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and chief-editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD). He is the author of several books, most recently *The Elements of Hittite* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), and many articles. He is a corresponding member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences, a 2016 Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, as well as a Senior Fellow at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University.

Additional funding provided by the Leon Levy Foundation.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; registration required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or to 212.992.7800.

or 212-992-7800. Please note that admission to the lecture hall will not be permitted once the lecture begins.

The Mechanics of Extraction: Comparing Principles of Taxation and Tax Compliance in the Ancient World

Workshop, organized by Irene Soto, PhD Student, and
Jonathan Valk, PhD Student

September 30, 9:30am-5:00pm

October 1, 10:00am-4:00pm

The exercise of power depends on the ability of governing structures to collect and reallocate resources—be they in the form of currency,

labour, agricultural produce, raw materials, or processed goods. Systems of taxation are the basis for the collection of resources and the generation of revenue. Today, such systems are ubiquitous, embedded in the socio-political structures associated with the modern state. While there are ongoing arguments about who should be taxed and precisely how much, there nevertheless exists a widespread recognition of a social contract, whereby the state enjoys widespread tax compliance in return for the provision of a variety of services. To what extent is this true for ancient societies? Ancient polities often diverge in many important respects from modern states—not least in the practical tools at their disposal when assessing the availability of resources or enforcing tax compliance. How did ancient administrative systems determine the quantity and character of taxes that were to be levied? What were the procedures for the collection of said taxes? Numerous types of taxes and forms of tax collection are attested in the ancient world; what conditions determined the preference for certain types and forms over others? How much agency did ancient polities enjoy in the determination of preferred systems of taxation? Addressing these and related questions in the context of spatially and diachronically distinct ancient societies will serve not only to establish a foundation for comparative research, but also to sharpen thinking about taxation in the ancient world from a practical perspective.

The workshop is co-sponsored by ISAW, the NYU Center for Humanities, the NYU Center for Ancient Studies, the NYU Classics Department, and an anonymous gift.

Hic Sunt Dracones: Creating, Defining, and Abstracting Place in the Ancient World

Workshop, organized by Gina Konstantopoulos, ISAW
Visiting Assistant Professor
October 28, 9:00am-6:00pm

Borders, frontiers, and the lands beyond them were created, defined, and maintained through a variety of physical, geographical, and moreover, social and cultural means in the ancient Near East, Biblical World, and the ancient Mediterranean. While the first two definitions were most often enforced through open military conflict, the maintenance of forts or frontier territories, or the more fluid existence of trading networks, these real encounters interacted with a tradition of fictionalizing foreign locations, as well as inventing new and distant lands entirely. This workshop is principally concerned with this process of creating and sensationalizing, to a degree, distant lands in the ancient world, and the ways by which these spaces were represented in literary, religious, and economic texts, as well as being depicted artistically. This process of “othering” foreign lands, as well as those who lived there, speaks to the ways in which the separate civilizations of the ancient world each constructed their own mental maps of the world around them, and created points of both contact and conflict when those mental maps intersected with each other.

Public Events

SEPTEMBER

September 13

Herodes Atticus and the Greco-Roman World: Imperial Cosmos, Cosmic Allusions, Art and Culture in his Estate in Southern Peloponnese * †

Georgios Spyropoulos, Directorate General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Athens

September 22

The World of Egypt's Elephantine Island: Recent Discoveries and New Approaches * †

Verena Lepper, Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
ARCE Lecture

September 29

Death and Taxes? Economy, Society and the Imperial State in Babylonia in the Sixth Century BCE

Michael Jursa, University of Vienna

OCTOBER

October 6

Columbia University's Excavation Project at the Sanctuary of Poseidon at Onchestos, Boeotia †

Ioannis Mylonopoulos, Columbia University
AIA Lecture, 6:30pm

October 24

Prospective Student Open House, 12:00pm *

October 24

Terrace House 2 in Ephesos: Reconsidering Daily Life in the 3rd Century AD

Sabine Ladstätter, Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut

October 25

Decrepit Rome, your morals disintegrate, your walls collapse!: Critique of Rome in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages †

Maya Maskarinec, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

NOVEMBER

November 3

Tenth Annual Leon Levy Lecture

supported by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

A People Without a Name or, Who Were the Hittites? * †

Theo van den Hout, The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

November 10

Ancient Sundials: Art, Technology, and Culture * †

James Evans, University of Puget Sound

November 15

Fruits of the Silk Road: The Spread of Agriculture through Central Asia †

Robert Spengler, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

November 29

Late Antiquity in Early Modernity: Debating the End of the Roman World in the Centuries Before Gibbon †

Frederic Clark, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

DECEMBER

December 1

Weeks, Months, and Years in Greek and Roman Calendars * †

Daryn Lehoux, Queen's University

December 8

Muhammad's Community and the Spread of Monotheism in Late Antique Arabia †

Robert Hoyland, ISAW

December 13

A Cumulative Han Culture: Paradigms of Tradition and History in the Study of Early China †

Yitzchak Jaffe, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

*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.*

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

†Reception to follow

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SCHOLARLY RESEARCH & GRADUATE EDUCATION

ISAW is an independent research center within NYU that cultivates comparative and connective investigations of the ancient old world from the Mediterranean to East Asia. It was founded by Shelby White and the Leon Levy Foundation in 2006.

APPLY TO ISAW'S DOCTORAL PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

ISAW is now accepting applications for its Doctoral Program and its Visiting Research Scholar Program. The recommended deadline for applications for fall 2017 enrollment in ISAW's Doctoral Program is December 18, 2016, and the final deadline is January 4, 2017; please visit <http://www.isaw.nyu.edu/graduate-studies> for more information

and to apply. The deadline for applications for one-year Visiting Research Scholarships (2016-17) and two-year Visiting Assistant Professorships (2016-18) at ISAW is November 20, 2016; please visit <http://www.isaw.nyu.edu/visiting-scholars> for more information and to apply.