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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Newsletter 22 Fall 2018



NYU | ISAW

From the Director

Fall is the season associated with harvest, and this issue of the ISAW Newsletter is a cornucopia filled with articles exhibiting the abundance of our institute's research and programming. The range is astonishing, whether considered from the point of view of time—from the Bronze Age through the late first millennium CE—or space—from the north of Roman Gaul, where a cult site of Mercury attracted the dazzling hoard of silver objects at the heart of our new exhibition *Devotion and Decadence* (pp. 4-5), by way of the Egyptian Fayum and Cappadocia, where archaeological work is casting light on ancient local economies (pp. 7 and 8), to the Indus Valley, where Islam first confronted the cultures of India (p. 6).

There is another respect in which this issue brings out ISAW's range, namely the career stages of the people doing this wonderful research. ISAW's students and postdoctoral scholars are not so much apprentices as junior colleagues of our faculty, with their own fascinating projects and publications. In addition to Emily Cole's fieldwork in Egypt, we have an advance peek into an interdisciplinary conference on neighborhood life in ancient cities co-organized by another of our Visiting Assistant Professors, Andrew Dufton (p. 14). And alongside Lorenzo Castellano's soon-to-be-published work on structures for crop storage at Kinik Höyük, we feature two other advanced students, Maria Americo and Andrea Trameri, who have been awarded fellowships by the Graduate School of Arts and Science as they finish dissertations that are again poles apart in time and methodology: ninth-century CE astronomical texts in Arabic that draw on the legacy of Greek science, and the Bronze Age buffer state of Kizzuwatna (p. 9).

We have a full slate of public events this Fall (pp. 5, 13, and 15); I hope you will be able to join us for some of them!

Alexander Jones
Leon Levy Director and Professor of the History 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: Beaker Commemorating the Isthmian Games (detail). Roman, 1–100 CE. Findspot: Berthouville, France. Silver and gold. H. 12.6 cm; Diam. 10.3 cm. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris; inv. 56.10. Inscription: MERCVRIO Q DOMITIVS TVTVS VSLM (To Mercury, Quintus Domitius Tutus fulfilled his vow willingly as merited)

Image: Tahnee Cracchiola © Getty-BnF

Photo: Courtesy of Andrea Brizzi

Exhibitions

Devotion and Decadence

The Berthouville Treasure and Roman Luxury from the Bibliothèque nationale de France

October 17 - January 6, 2019

While plowing a field in 1830 near the village of Berthouville, in rural Normandy, a French farmer unearthed a cache of ancient silver objects. The Berthouville Treasure, as the find has come to be known, is the largest and best-preserved hoard of silver from the ancient world. After news of the discovery was communicated to Paris, the collection of silver and gilt-silver statuettes and vessels—ninety-one silver pieces weighing over fifty pounds in total—were acquired by the Cabinet des médailles et antiques of the Bibliothèque royale (now the Département des Monnaies, médailles et antiques of the Bibliothèque nationale de France) following a bidding war with the Louvre Museum.

In the decades that followed, excavations were carried out on the farmland where the farmer unearthed the treasure. These archaeological investigations revealed the foundations of a Gallo-Roman *fanum*, a theater and temple complex devoted to Mercury Canetonensis, a god particularly revered in the region. Subsequent research at the site clarified successive stages of the sanctuary's construction and revealed a second temple dedicated to Mercury's mother Maia or Gallo-Roman consort Rosmerta. It is now believed that the temples were a pilgrimage site, where votive gifts were dedicated to Mercury and his counterpart. Although it is not known when the buildings were destroyed, we do know that the treasure was deliberately buried in the late second or early third century CE.

The Berthouville Treasure includes two striking statuettes of Mercury, around seventy vessels including bowls, cups, pitchers, and plates, as well as separate handles, feet, appliqués, and fragments. Even the earliest studies of these objects revealed that this was a temple treasure, rather than a personal service, as a number of the pieces not only represent Mercury, but also include dedicatory inscriptions to the god. The inscriptions on some of these vessels also tell us something about the diverse people who consecrated them and the operation of the shrine. The Gallic names, Combaromarus and Camulognata, inscribed on a ladle and pitcher respectively, identify their Gallic donors. Other objects were dedicated at the temple by women as well as men, by ex-slaves and the freeborn. Located in an

area of ancient pilgrimage and assembly, the collection offers a striking example of the cross-cultural interactions between Roman and indigenous Gallic culture.

Approximately seventy-five other luxury objects from the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale de France including silver platters, cameos, intaglios, coins, and jewelry will join the Berthouville Treasure for this exhibition. In addition to temple dedications, opulent prestige objects also had a lived history as signs of their owner's wealth, power, and refinement. *Devotion and Decadence* highlights the significance of Roman luxury arts and their role in both devotional and domestic settings.

Devotion and Decadence: The Berthouville Treasure and Roman Luxury opens on October 17, 2018 and will be on view through January 6, 2019.

This exhibition is made possible by generous support from the Selz Foundation, The Achelis and Bodman Foundation, and the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional funding was provided by Frances Marzio and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.



Bowl with a Medallion Depicting Omphale. Roman, 1-100 CE.
Findspot: Berthouville, France. Silver and gold. H. 8.2 cm Diam. 28.9 cm.
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris: inv. 56.11.
Inscription: MERCVRIO AVGVSTO Q DOMITIVS TVTVS EX VOTO
(To Augustan Mercury, Quintus Domitius Tutus in fulfillment of a vow).
Image: Tahnee Cracchiola © Getty-BnF

Public Programming

Exhibition Gallery Talk: *Object Histories*
Wednesdays, October 17 - December 19, 12-12:20pm
No RSVP Required

Thursday, October 25
Exhibition Lecture: *Seeing the Supernatural: Art and Religion in Roman Gaul*
Kimberly Cassibry, Wellesley College

Tuesday, October 30
Exhibition Lecture: *The Cabinet des médailles: Luxury and Power from Ancient Rome to Modern France**
Clare Fitzgerald, ISAW
*Please note that this event will take place at
La Maison Française NYU at 16 Washington Mews

Saturday, November 10, 5:30-8:00pm
Exhibition Gallery Event: *Sketch Night*
Joan Chiverton, Fashion Institute of Technology

Thursday, November 15
Exhibition Gallery Talk: *Ancient Silversmithing and Modern Practice*
Wendy Yothers, Fashion Institute of Technology

Thursday, November 29
Exhibition Lecture: *A Roman Temple Treasure: The Berthouville Silver and Its Contexts*
Kenneth Lapatin, J. Paul Getty Museum

Thursday, December 6
Exhibition Panel Conversation: *The Berthouville Treasure and the Gallo-Roman World: Art, Literature, and Cultural History*
Moderator: Clare Fitzgerald, ISAW
Panelists: James Uden, Boston University; Andrew Johnston, Yale University; Francesco de Angelis, Columbia University

Saturday, December 15, 4:00-5:00pm
Exhibition Gallery Talk: *Ancient Silversmithing and Modern Practice*
Wendy Yothers, Fashion Institute of Technology

Saturday, January 5, 2019, 9:00-11:30am
Exhibition Gallery Event: *Sketch Morning*
Joan Chiverton, Fashion Institute of Technology

All events require an RSVP at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or 212.992.7800 and begin at 6pm unless otherwise noted.
Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Please visit isaw.nyu.edu for event updates.



Perfume Flask with Three Figures Representing the Seasons.
Roman, 25 BCE-50 CE
Cameo glass with modern resin neck and enameled metal foot.
H. 15.5 cm; Diam of foot. 3.2 cm
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris: Camée.623
Image: Serge Oboukhoff
© BnF-CNRS-Maison Archéologie & Ethnologie, René-Ginouvès

Faculty Focus

The Muslim Discovery of India

Robert Hoyland

Professor of Late Antique and Early Islamic Middle Eastern History

What peoples and cultures did the Muslim Arabs encounter when they entered northern India in the eighth century from their newly acquired base in the lower Indus Valley, in modern Pakistan? This is the question that I am trying to answer for my next project. It is not an easy question. For the educated Muslim elite of Baghdad, the Indus Valley was remote and alien, and on the rare occasions that reports of it reached the Muslim capital they had generally acquired a somewhat fabulous quality. On the Indian side, the powerful Gupta Empire that dominated the north of the subcontinent from the fourth to the sixth centuries AD had imploded and been replaced by numerous regional princes and warlords, who were not interested in commissioning chronicles. Piecing together the history of this world therefore requires some detective work.

This summer I have been polishing my Sanskrit after many years of neglect and applying it to two particular forms of evidence. The first is copper plates. These survive well in the wet climate of India and so were commonly used to record important transactions, and, usefully for us, their authors would often take the opportunity to boast of their accomplishments. For example, on a plate dated to 736 AD the king of Gujarat, after recording the details of a land grant, proclaims how he “forcibly vanquished the Arabs, who greatly opposed all people, just as a cloud extinguishes with its showers the fire that troubles all people”.

Only a short time later, a lord of the more powerful Chalukya kingdom to the south, sent troops to help his neighbors fight the Arabs and he likewise memorialized his victory in a document and described the battle in particularly vivid terms,

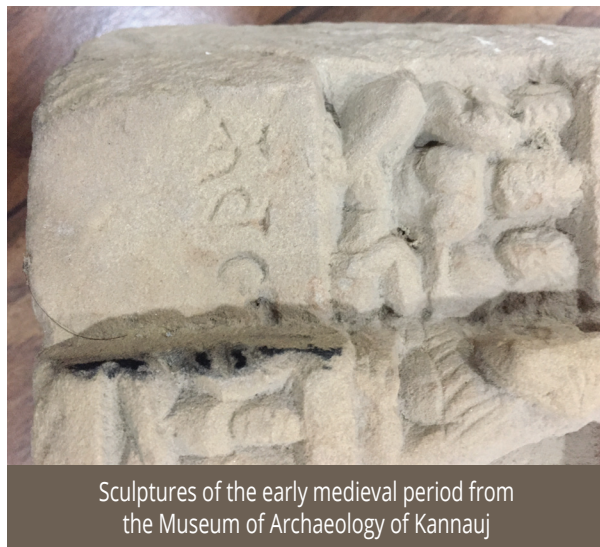
speaking of “the torrents of blood from innards that had burst out from the heavy bellies of great warriors” and of “the turbans and trenchant swords reddened by a thick veil of blood that had poured from wounds in the trunks and cheeks of enemy elephants”.



Sculptures of the early medieval period from the Museum of Archaeology of Kannauj

The territories of these two monarchs lay either side of the Gulf of Cambay (modern Khambhat, north of Bombay), through which many ships passed on their way to the ancient port of Barygaza, and so it is likely that the Arabs were trying to extend their control over international trade routes in the Indian Ocean.

The second type of evidence is sculptures, usually from religious contexts, which tell us about beliefs and aesthetic traditions of the local culture and, if we are lucky, bear informative inscriptions. I spent some time at Kannauj, south of Delhi, which was the capital of one of those regional kingdoms that emerged out of the rubble of the Gupta Empire. The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzhan, who visited in the 630s, tells us of its “lofty structures, beautiful gardens and reservoirs of clear water”, where many Buddhist and Hindu monasteries flourished. Some sculptures that survived from these monasteries have been collected and sensitively displayed at Kannauj’s archaeological museum (under the expert directorship of Deepak Kumar). Some date to the early medieval period (7-9th centuries AD) and my current intention is to study and record as many of these as possible in the hope that, cumulatively, they and other objects of local provenance will enable me to form a picture of the world that the Muslim Arabs found when they first began to have dealings in northern India.



Sculptures of the early medieval period from the Museum of Archaeology of Kannauj

Scholar Focus

Living at the Lake's Edge: Excavations at the Graeco-Roman Settlement of Qarah el-Hamra in the Fayum, Egypt

Emily Cole

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2016-18

Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for the Tebtunis Papyri, University of California, Berkeley

If Egypt is a gift of the Nile, then the Fayum is one of its gems. Located about an hour’s drive southwest of Cairo, the Fayum depression has been filled by water diverted from the Nile since prehistoric times. To varying degrees throughout its history, the centralized Egyptian state concentrated resources on exploiting this rich agricultural region for the cultivation of grain, grapes, olives, and other commercial crops.

Under the rule of the Ptolemaic kings in the late 4th century BCE, new settlements were founded in order to maximize production in the area. Of these, many are famous for their spectacular finds of papyri, mummies, temples, and estates. They are fantastic displays of everyday life in urban centers, as the dry sand has preserved ancient remains to a degree similar to Pompeii. These towns, however, present only one side of ancient life. The region was not exclusively populated by temple officials and elite landowners living in developed centers.

To provide a more nuanced understanding of where people lived in the Fayum, I am co-directing excavations at Qarah el-Hamra, a small 2-hectare town site on the north shore of Lake Qarun, with my colleague, Dr. Bethany Simpson. The site exists at the edge of what would have been cultivatable land, with desert to the north and west, the lake to the south, and marshes to the east. Our priority has been to complement on-going archaeological work at well-known sites like Karanis, Soknopaiou Nesos, and Tebtunis with the detailed analysis of faunal and botanical remains as well as domestic mudbrick architecture and small finds from the site (above).

Our 2018 season was dedicated to processing excavation material that was collected in 2004 and 2016 (right). It was generously supported by funding from the Rust Family Foundation and ISAW. From our new understanding of this material, we can now speak of a village economy largely dependent on fishing



In a ground-floor room of one of the excavated houses, pottery vessels and other artifacts are found resting on the surface and against the walls where they were abandoned. These contextualized ceramics will be used to reconstruct a history of life at Qarah el-Hamra

in Lake Qarun, but also connected to trade in goods from other sites in Egypt and abroad. Villagers borrowed architectural styles from their larger neighbors, most noticeably Karanis, which at 10 km away as the crow flies, was the closest large town to Qarah el-Hamra. While the lake provided the primary reason for Qarah el-Hamra’s existence, it was also the source of its eventual abandonment. A rising water table and gradual flooding of the site, meant that it was abandoned well before the 7th century CE. Despite these insights, there are several important questions that remain to be answered. For instance, the ancient name for Qarah el-Hamra remains a mystery! In future seasons, we will continue to look for answers, and in so doing, shed light on where the inhabitants of Qarah el-Hamra fit within the broader urban fabric of Graeco-Roman Egypt.

For further information on the project and to keep up with our progress, visit our blog: <https://www.facebook.com/QHfayumproject/> (no sign-up to Facebook is required to access the posts).



Several trenches were excavated at the site by an international team of archaeologists with the help of colleagues from the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Community: Students

Grain Storage and the Economy of Post-Hittite Polities

Lorenzo Castellano
PhD Candidate

The Anatolian agricultural landscape is at the same time both rich and fragile: if soil productivity generally allows significant yields, below average fall and winter precipitation often causes major agricultural losses. Those problems are not new; they were recurrent throughout Anatolian history, and as such were confronted through an array of buffer strategies. Recent research has shown that with the establishment of the Hittite Kingdom (beginning in the 16th century BCE) those strategies reached an unprecedented scale and level of sophistication, with a centralized effort intended to minimize the agricultural risks inherent in such a challenging landscape. The two hallmarks of this program were large-scale storage facilities and hydraulic infrastructures such as water reservoirs and dams, discovered in the past few years in a number of Central Anatolian sites.

Together this infrastructural network, coupled with an underlying administrative structure, is to be understood as part of a planned economy aimed at extracting and accumulating large quantities of agricultural products (including grains such as barley and wheat). The recognition of this crucial role of staple finances in the Hittite Kingdom is a very recent achievement in the field. It is not surprising, therefore, that in the literature is still missing an analysis of what happened to this economic system after the fall of Hattuša, the capital of the Hittites in the early 12th century BCE. It leads to questions such as did this form of political economy disappear together with the Empire, or did it somehow survive the wave of changes taking place at the transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age?

In a recent study, to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*, I have attempted to answer these questions. The task is not easy, mainly because of a general paucity of sources and an overall lack of attention in the scholarship on the economy of post-Hittite polities.

In our favor comes the recent discovery of large-scale storage facilities at the site of Kınık Höyük, a mound in Southern Cappadocia excavated by a joint project of ISAW and Pavia University, under the direction of Professor Lorenzo d'Alfonso. This evidence consists of two large-scale underground silos, dated to the Early Iron Age and particularly remarkable for their dimensions and urban location. Leaving to the forthcoming article the description of those structures, it is clear that we are speaking of facilities built for the storage of very large amounts of crops, far above domestic demands, indicating the existence of an institution able to extract and administer large quantities of agricultural surpluses.



One of the silos from Kınık Höyük under excavation during the 2018 campaign

Photo Courtesy of Paola Venturini

Epigraphic and archaeological data indicate the existence of other large-scale storage infrastructures, recalling the ones from Kınık, in other coeval sites. This evidence appears limited to the former southern and eastern peripheries of the Hittite Empire; hence, hardly a coincidence, in those regions in which continuity between Hittite and post-Hittite period has already been stressed. It appears, therefore, tempting to include centralized large-scale storage and the connected political economy among the distinctive features of Hittite tradition surviving in those regions the end of the Late Bronze Age—together with hieroglyphic writing, artistic style, and religious beliefs. Besides reinforcing the degree of continuity between the two historical phases, this recognition challenges us to rethink the nature and modality of transmission of Hittite heritage into the Iron Age.

ISAW Students Recieve GSAS Awards

Marc LeBlanc
Associate Director for Academic Affairs

ISAW doctoral students Maria Americo and Andrea Trameri were recently awarded NYU Graduate School of Arts and Science dissertation fellowships for the 2018-19 academic year. Maria is one of 30 recipients from the NYU Graduate School of Arts and Science to receive the prestigious Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, which is intended to support students during the final year of dissertation writing. Andrea is the recipient of the equally prestigious Lane Cooper Fellowship, which supports dissertation research for a GSAS student who intends to pursue a teaching career in history, literature, philosophy, or classical and medieval languages.

Maria's dissertation examines the extant corpus of major astronomical texts written in Arabic during the ninth century, all of which engage directly with the ancient Greek astronomical tradition, most notably the work of the second century Alexandrian astronomer Claudius Ptolemy, whose ideas influenced the science of astronomy for many centuries after his death. The project includes a translation and edition of a never before published manuscript, a ninth-century Arabic astronomical text alleged to have been authored by Qusṭā ibn Lūqā, a Syrian Christian physician and scientist who worked as a translator for the Islamic caliphs.



Andrea's dissertation focuses on Kizzuwatna, a buffer state located in South-Eastern Anatolia, between the territories of two major political protagonists of the Eastern Mediterranean Late Bronze Age, the Hittite kingdom in Anatolia and the Hurrian kingdom of Mitanni in Northern Syria. Involved in the warring neighbors' aggressive expansion, the state had a significant role in the geopolitical layout of the macro-region. Conceived as a comprehensive history of Kizzuwatna, the dissertation will investigate the process of formation, the political history, the cultural influence, and the inter-regional contacts of this kingdom from its origins to its demise (ca. 1600-1200 BCE). Since the origins and formative phase of this state in the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 2000-1600 BCE) and its political-historical developments remain rather obscure, the dissertation aims at providing new insights in this chapter of Ancient Near Eastern history.

Community: Students

Incoming Graduate Students

Mariana Castro received a BA in Archaeology and Asian Studies (Honors) from Brigham Young University, where she focused on Classical and Chinese history, language, and archaeology. During her master's degree at the University of Oxford—which she attended as an Ertegun Scholar—Mariana enriched her knowledge of the Hellenistic and Roman periods and engaged more directly with the fields of landscape and frontier archaeology, geographical information systems, and site management and protection. Her MPhil dissertation was entitled “The Function of the Roman Army in Southern Arabia Petraea” and was done in cooperation with the EAMENA and APAAME Oxford-based projects. This capstone project employed a landscape approach unprecedented in the region and used a variety of digital resources to map and model the ancient system of fortifications, settlements, and trade routes. Meanwhile, Mariana has participated in several archaeological field projects in the USA, Belize, Portugal, Croatia, Greece, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Egypt, most directly concerning long-distance trade and exchange. At ISAW, Mariana hopes to better understand the eastwards spread of Hellenism, modern approaches to ancient globalization, and the modus operandi of Eurasian trade during the three centuries before and after the Common Era.

Emily Frank is an objects conservator interested in the ways that study informed by conservation, technical imaging, and scientific analysis of material culture can contribute to understanding of the ancient world. She received an MS in Conservation of Artistic and Historic Works and an MA in History of Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU in 2018. Prior to her graduate work at the Institute of Fine Arts, she received an MA in Principles of Conservation from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London in 2014 and a BA in Art History with minors in Chemistry and Archaeology at McGill University in 2011. Emily has worked in conservation throughout her education, at the Yale University Art Gallery, the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, the Brooklyn Museum, Agora Excavations, the Natural History Museum (London), the American Museum of Natural History, Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. Working within these institutions, Emily has found that close technical study of objects of diverse materials and contexts can allow for fruitful study of intellectual and artistic connections across cultural and temporal boundaries; she plans to pursue this object-based, comparative method of study at ISAW.

Shannon Monroe is from North Carolina and graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Classics & Archaeology and Modern Languages (French and Mandarin) with a minor in Asian and Pacific Studies from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California in 2018. While there, she worked as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. John Dionisio in his Honors Research and Exhibition class and for Dr. Caroline Sauvage in her Archaeological Methods and Techniques class. She also spent three years as Dr. Sauvage's Rains Research Assistant. During the summer of 2016, Shannon participated in the Yangganzhai Archaeology Field School in Xi'an, China, which excavated a neolithic settlement situated in the Jing River Valley, and in 2017 she joined the Western Mongolia Archaeology Project Field School in Uvs Province, Mongolia to survey Bronze Age sites and excavate settlements as well as graves in this region. She is interested in early interactions between sedentary Chinese communities and nomads of the Inner Asian steppe and the respective life-ways of these groups. While at ISAW, Shannon plans to study these interactions through bioarchaeology: analyzing human remains from archaeological contexts to learn more about the health of past populations.

Ryan Schnell received his BA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies with an emphasis in Biblical Hebrew from Brigham Young University. He then received his MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago, where he wrote a thesis entitled, “Shall No Man Raise His Sister's Son?: The Anatolian Avuncular System in the II and I Millennia.” In his thesis work, he focused on using anthropological models to reconstruct kinship and inheritance systems integral to the Anatolian ethnolinguistic group, placing them in the context of their Near Eastern and Aegean neighbors, and providing new insights into the history of the Hittite Old Kingdom. In his time at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, he plans to focus his research on the interaction between Indo-European and Semitic cultures in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, using the Hittite and Luwian Kingdoms as a case study. One of his research goals will likely include a diachronic history of Hittite sacrificial practice and the role that it played in intercultural exchange. He also hopes to examine the extent to which verbal formulae were able to pass between languages as evidence for cultural interaction and the effects of this cultural interaction on the historical development of the respective cultures.

Mi Wang received her BA in Translation and Interpreting at the Zhejiang Normal University, China in 2016 and her MA in Archaeology at Boston University in 2018. Her undergraduate studies mainly focused on theories and methods of translating from the original language to the target language and cross-cultural communication; her thesis dealt with the translational restitution of several examples of classical Chinese literature. Mi's interest in further understanding culture via material culture brought her to Archaeology. During her MA, she pursued archaeological theories and methods, archaeological sciences, and cultural heritage management. Her MA project investigated identity formation in Neolithic Liangzhu Culture in south China using Geographic Information System (GIS), as well as the legacy of Liangzhu in the present Jiangnan region, put forward her own hypothesis and suggestion for future cultural

heritage management plans based on archaeological data, reports, and museum displays, and is an example of the three-dimensional (past-present-future) relationship in which she has always been interested. From the result of her MA project, Mi suspects that there might be a transformation of cultural identity during the mid-to-late Liangzhu period. At ISAW, she wishes to further explore the existence of this transformation and whether/how it influenced other cultural behaviors such as diet through the study of stable isotope analysis, archaeobotany, and residue analysis. Furthermore, Mi wants to investigate how non-Central Plains cultures in China like Liangzhu were embodied into the modern concept of Chinese Civilization and how these social memories have influenced contemporary interpretations of these cultures.



Incoming ISAW Graduate Students. (L to R): Ryan Schnell, Mariana Castro, Mi Wang, Shannon Monroe, Emily Frank

Community: Scholars

Visiting Research Scholars 2018-19

Ursula Brosseder, University of Bonn
Dynamics of Social Change in Early Inner Asia: A Comparative Study of Societies from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and the First Steppe Empire of the Xiongnu

Coleman Connelly, Visiting Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University
Athens in Baghdad: The Abbasid Search for a Greek Past

J. Andrew Dufton, Visiting Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Brown University
Works in Progress: Regional Trends and Grassroots Developments in the Cities of Roman North Africa

Ethan Harkness, NYU Gallatin and East Asian Studies
A Complete Translation and Study of the Zhoujiazhai Daybook

David Kertai, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Otherworldly Places of Assyria

Visiting Research Scholars Alumni News

Gilles Bransbourg, Research Associate and VRS 2010-11, was appointed Deputy Director at the American Numismatic Society in January 2018.

Emily Cole, VRS 2016-18, was appointed Postdoctoral Scholar at the Center for the Tebtunis Papyri, Classics Department, University of California, Berkeley, in September 2018.

Damián Fernández, VRS 2009-10, will be a Fellow in the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University for the 2018-19 academic year.

Jinyu Liu, VRS 2007-8, was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Classical Studies at DePauw University in July 2018; Prof. Liu will be Visiting Professor in the Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia during fall 2018 and Distinguished Guest Professor at the Guangqi International Center for Scholars of Shanghai Normal University during spring 2019.

Elizabeth Murphy, VRS 2014-16, was appointed Assistant Professor of Classics at Florida State University in August 2018.

Perrine Pilette, VRS 2014-15, will start a new position as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Sorbonne Université in Paris in October 2018.

Allison Miller, Southwestern University
Color in Ancient China: Sources, Culture, Technology, and Science

Pénélope Riboud, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris
Defining Xian: An Investigation into the Visual, Textual and Archaeological Sources of Zoroastrianism in Medieval China

Stephanie Rost, Visiting Assistant Professor
Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook
Ancient State Economies: A Case Study of the Umma Province of the Ur III State (2112-2004 B.C.)

Daniela Wolin, Visiting Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Yale University
Bioarchaeology of Health and Medical Intervention in Late Shang Dynasty, China

Darrel Rutkin, VRS 2009-10, was appointed Associate Professor in the Dipartimento di Filosofia e Beni Culturali at the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia in September 2018.

Caroline Sauvage, VRS 2009-10, was promoted to Associate Professor of Classics and Archaeology at Loyola Marymount University in August 2018.

Juan Manuel Tebes, VRS 2015, was appointed Käte Hamburger Kolleg Research Fellow at the Centrum für Religionswissenschaftliche Studien, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, for May-August 2018.

Marja Vierros, VRS 2012-13, was appointed Associate Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Helsinki in March 2018.

Zeev Weiss, VRS 2016, will be the Leon Levy Foundation Professor of Jewish Material Culture at the Bard Graduate Center during spring 2019.

Mantha Zarmakoupi, VRS 2009-10, recently began a new position as Morris Russell and Josephine Chidsey Williams Assistant Professor in Roman Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

Lectures

Twelfth Annual Leon Levy Lecture

supported by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation

Urbanism and the History of Architectural Restlessness

Thursday, November 8, 6:00pm



Monica L. Smith

Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair in Indian Studies
Department of Anthropology &
Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
University of California, Los Angeles

The world's first cities started only 6,000 years ago, and in that short amount of time have become the dominant form of human settlement. Among the many alterations of daily life, evident in even the first cities, was the creation of a purposeful built environment resulting in distinct patterns of residence, commerce, ritual engagement, transportation, and entertainment. Yet one of the most interesting things about urban architecture is its high rate of turnover compared to the conservatism of rural settlements. Through archaeological examples from both the Classical world and ancient India, this lecture will explore the implications of the ways in which urban residents are constantly renewing, upgrading, and redefining their place in the city through architectural change, and the way in which architectural restlessness carries forward into the present day of our own urban experiences.



View of Trafalgar Square and Nelson's Column from the interior of the National Gallery in London



The Roman forum in Rome

Monica L. Smith is Professor in the Department of Anthropology and in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at the University of California, Los Angeles and holds the Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair in Indian Studies. She is the author of *A Prehistory of Ordinary People*, *The Archaeology of an Early Historic Town in Central India*, and the forthcoming *Cities: The First 6,000 Years*; her edited volumes include *Abundance: The Archaeology of Plenitude* and *The Social Construction of Ancient Cities*. For the past ten years she and her Indian-based colleague Prof. R.K. Mohanty have co-directed excavations at the Early Historic settlements of Sisupalgarh and Talapada in Odisha state, India.

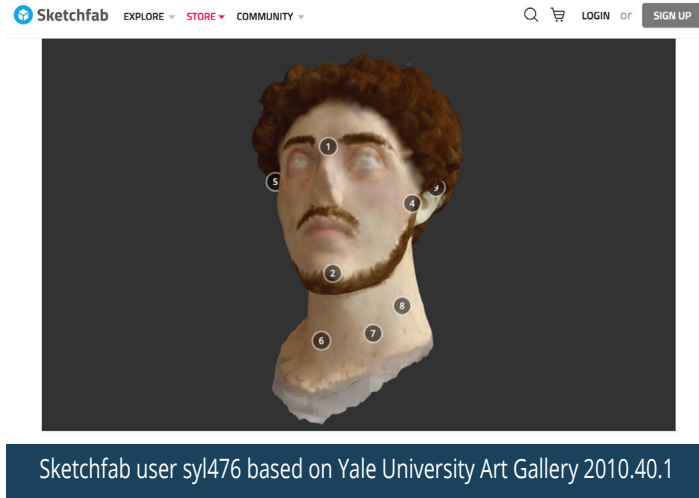


Stone Pillars at Sisupalgarh, India

Conferences

Digital Approaches to Teaching the Ancient Mediterranean

Conference organized by Sebastian Heath (ISAW), David Ratzan (ISAW), Tom Elliott (ISAW), and Patrick J. Burns (ISAW)
October 26, 9:15am-5:30pm



Digital resources have become an essential part of studying the languages, history, and material culture of the Ancient Mediterranean. This one-day conference looks at how this disciplinary turn is being integrated into both undergraduate and graduate courses. There will be sustained attention during the day on current practice and the speakers all bring considerable experience. Speakers will also address the goals of using digital methods, tools and resources in a wide range of pedagogic and institutional settings. Digital approaches to teaching do not merely replicate earlier methods so new possibilities for expanding the scope of curricula will be an important topic. The day will end with a panel discussion and we will welcome input from all who are in attendance.

The conference is co-sponsored by ISAW and the Society for Classical Studies. RSVP required at isaw.nyu.edu/RSVP

The Archaeology of Neighborhood Life: Concepts, Communities, and Change

Conference organized by J. Andrew Dufton (ISAW) and Katherine Harrington (Florida State University)
December 14

The neighborhood offers rich ground to explore the social life of the ancient city—an intermediate unit of study, smaller than issues of top-down urban planning or state action but larger than the intimate details of the household. Yet despite this potential, the archaeology and history of neighborhoods remains underappreciated.



This conference takes full advantage of a growing number of scholars interested in the communal and cultural aspects of city districts. Thematic topics include the conceptual and methodological implications of the neighborhood, its role in community formation, and its relevance in understanding long-term urban developments. Conference speakers, drawn from diverse departments with research in disparate regions and periods, all share a commitment to understanding and comparing neighborhoods. Their work relies not solely on quantification but on social foundations, not only on big data but also on close, comprehensive readings of the dynamic sphere of daily interaction among city residents. The interdisciplinary exchange and dialogue created by this event will set an exciting new research agenda for future studies on the archaeology of neighborhood life.

RSVP required at isaw.nyu.edu/RSVP

Public Events

20	SEPTEMBER AIA Lecture: <i>Troy and Gordion: The Historiography of Excavation at Two Legendary Sites in Anatolia</i> C. Brian Rose, University of Pennsylvania	8	The Twelfth Annual Leon Levy Lecture <i>supported by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation</i> <i>Urbanism and the History of Architectural Restlessness</i> Monica Smith, University of California, Los Angeles
26	<i>Ancient Iran in Muslim Eyes: The Fate of Persian History in the Islamic World</i> Robert Hoyland, ISAW The reception to follow will celebrate recent publications by ISAW community members	10	Exhibition Gallery Event: <i>Sketch Night</i> Joan Chiverton, Fashion Institute of Technology 5:30-8:00pm
		15	Exhibition Gallery Talk: <i>Ancient Silversmithing and Modern Practice</i> Wendy Yothers, Fashion Institute of Technology
11	OCTOBER ARCE Lecture: <i>Understanding Ancient Egyptian Comics: Conversations, Quarrels, and Songs in Ancient Egyptian Tombs</i> Stephen Harvey, Ahmose and Tetisheri Project	29	Exhibition Lecture: <i>A Roman Temple Treasure: The Berthouville Silver and Its Contexts</i> Kenneth Lapatin, J. Paul Getty Museum
22	Prospective Student Open House 10:30am	4	DECEMBER <i>Site Under Construction: A Century of Monuments at Thuburbo Maius, Tunisia</i> J. Andrew Dufton, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor
25	Exhibition Lecture: <i>Seeing the Supernatural: Art and Religion in Roman Gaul</i> Kimberly Cassibry, Wellesley College	6	Exhibition Panel Conversation: <i>The Berthouville Treasure and the Gallo-Roman World: Art, Literature, and Cultural History</i> Moderator: Clare Fitzgerald, ISAW Panelists: James Uden, Boston University; Andrew Johnston, Yale University; Francesco de Angelis, Princeton University
30	<i>From Hebrew Bible Studies to the Studies of the Ancient Near East: Approaches Towards a History of Religion of Mesopotamia</i> Beate Pongratz-Leisten, ISAW		
30	Exhibition Lecture: <i>The Cabinet des médailles: Luxury and Power from Ancient Rome to Modern France*</i> Clare Fitzgerald, ISAW *This event will take place at La Maison Française NYU at 16 Washington Mews	15	Exhibition Gallery Talk: <i>Ancient Silversmithing and Modern Practice</i> Wendy Yothers, Fashion Institute of Technology 4:00-5:00pm
6	NOVEMBER <i>Defining 'Xian': Methodological Approaches and Questions to the Study of Zoroastrianism in Medieval China</i> Pénélope Riboud, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar	5	JANUARY Exhibition Gallery Event: <i>Sketch Morning</i> Joan Chiverton, Fashion Institute of Technology 9:00-11:30am

All events require an RSVP at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or 212.992.7800 and begin at 6pm in the Lecture Hall unless otherwise noted. Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Please visit isaw.nyu.edu for event updates.

Unless otherwise indicated, public events sponsored by ISAW take place on the first or second floor of our building. Both floors are accessible by elevator from our entry lobby, and an ADA-compliant bathroom is available in the basement level, which is also accessible by elevator. Our Lecture Hall is equipped with an FM assistive listening transmitter. A small number of personal receivers, compatible with headphones and hearing aids, are available for checkout from staff on a first-come, first-served basis.

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DOCTORAL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 22, 10:30AM

Register at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp

ISAW is focused on creating a new generation of scholars whose work crosses over the disciplinary boundaries of traditional departments. Comprehensive funding packages are available for all accepted students.



isaw.nyu.edu/graduate-studies