A photograph of a grand, curved staircase with a dark blue wrought-iron railing. In the foreground, a glass display case sits on a pedestal, containing a small, ancient vase. The scene is set in a well-lit, classical-style interior.

**ISAW AT FIVE**  
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF  
THE ANCIENT WORLD  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
MAY 2012

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**FIGURINE OF HERAKLES**  
 Terracotta  
 Top of the Frescoes (C7, Vestibule A), Dura-Europos, early 3rd century ce  
 YUAC 1936.418

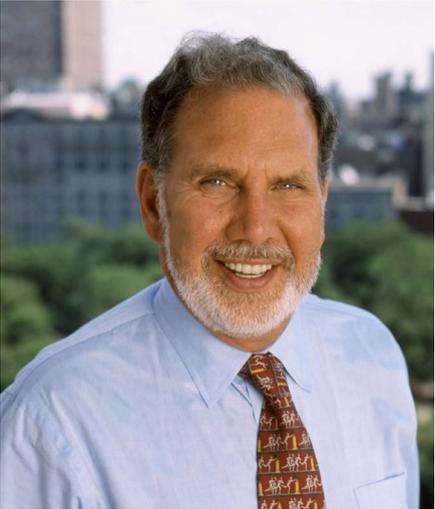
**FIGURINE OF HERMES AS A CHILD**  
 Terracotta  
 Macropolis, Tomb 24, Dura-Europos, 2nd century ce  
 YUAC 1936.488

**FIGURINE OF A HALF-DRAPE APHRODITE**  
 Terracotta  
 of the Largo Atrium (D6), ca. 200–286 ce  
 YUAC 1937.417

The decoration of houses reveals the activities and interests of their residents. Herakles and Aphrodite were worshipped in domestic shrines at Dura-Europos. As a semidivine figure, Herakles was an ideal in a domestic setting; his primary function was to ward off evil. A standard element of the lion skin (a reference to his first labor), but to highlight the god's strength, the sculptor has fashioned the lion's mane to resemble a woman's hair. The popularity of the lion's skin may have been due in part to the similarity to a fertility goddess. She is the only goddess generally represented entirely or partially nude. This finely carved statuette is modeled on a famous Classical Greek work by the Greek sculptor Praxiteles. Herakles was thought to lead souls to the underworld, and the terracotta Herakles was found with a bunch of fruit in addition to his usual staff, suggesting an association with an Eastern deity.

# A Note from the President

**John Sexton**  
 President, New York University



This is a time for grand celebration. An esteemed NYU Institute for the Study of the Ancient World exists and thrives. It has even come of age, for five years in the modern world is a significant period of time.

When Leon and Shelby began to think of the ancient world as a great continuum, rather than segmented areas of study, the dream was born. Grounded in their inspiration, ISAW has opened its inquiry to all of Asia and the Greco-Roman world—from the western Mediterranean to China—and has sought to integrate into its study every category of evidence transcending contemporary academic disciplines.

No NYU entity shows better than ISAW our common purpose of creating what we must become while maintaining the essence of what we have been. After only five years, ISAW has successfully modeled the means of preserving what we know and celebrate of the ancient world, while building academic programs and hosting public events to transmit even greater knowledge.

We celebrate an exceptional faculty and cadre of graduate students. They have helped shape an outstanding graduate Ph.D. program, welcomed eminent visiting scholars from a wide range of the humanities and sciences, launched excavations, published widely, and mounted exhibitions of extraordinary merit, bringing to the general public greater appreciation for the ancient world—all distinctive contributions to the academy.

ISAW has incorporated an impressive range of individual and institutional assets within NYU, drawing on the expertise of preeminent scholars from the various schools and the fine collections of the Bobst Library and the Institute of Fine Arts.

I applaud its initiatives in collaborative teaching and the imagination of our students in developing research interests across a broad swath of disciplines and areas of study.

As a global university soon to be located in sixteen cities on six continents, we will seek out those relationships and connections that will best serve ISAW even as we continue to shape its graduate training to ensure that our students of the ancient world will find appropriate places in the modern job market.

The New York University community joins me in saluting those extraordinary individuals who have built ISAW. They are many, but we salute especially Shelby White, whose passion, vision, and generosity have made it all possible; our esteemed colleagues of the Leon Levy Foundation; and Roger Bagnall, whose preeminent scholarship and skillful leadership have been integral to our success.

# Foreword

**Shelby White**  
Founder



When I was recently asked “where was ISAW before it moved to its current location?” I knew it was time to write a brief history. Although ISAW is celebrating its fifth year, its origins go back to my late husband Leon’s childhood interest in reading about the ancient world, to my early work on a film about Greek art, to our visits to museums and archaeological sites. Leon said, “Archaeology appealed to me because it deals with the complex and obscure problems of reconstructing the past.” Leon read extensively about Alexander the Great, and we once took a dinghy on the Granicus River looking for the site of Alexander’s first battle. He greatly admired Schliemann’s discovery of Troy. His knowledge of history gave him insights that helped him develop a long-term vision in his own professional world of finance. He was particularly fascinated by the writings of Michael Rostovtzeff, especially *The Animal Style in South Russia and China*, and Rostovtzeff’s interest in ancient taxation.

It was Harry Bober, a professor of Medieval Art at NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts and a great connoisseur, who

encouraged us to look at the visual connections between cultures as seen in the objects they produced. I remember looking at the griffin protomes in the Samos Museum and suddenly seeing their links to the Orient. Over time, Leon and I began to think of the ancient world as a great continuum, not as distinctly segmented areas of the ancient Near East, Greece, and Rome. We began to envision an institute that would change the way the ancient world was studied. On January 17, 2001, we convened a group of educators, scholars, and museum curators and directors to talk about a center that would incorporate literature, history, sociology, economics, and religion, not along traditional vertical lines but horizontally across the broad cultural spectrum. Participants at that first meeting talked about a program that would be “interdisciplinary.” We looked at various models, including The Institute for Advanced Study and the Institute of Fine Arts, where Leon served on the board, as well as the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, where I was on the advisory board. We wanted the program to include publications, archaeological excavations, travel grants, and conservation, projects we already supported.

At a subsequent meeting we discussed a degree granting program and an exhibition program. Students would have to enter with a solid, traditional background and would have had to be trained in art history, archaeology, classical studies, literature, and economics. We also proposed a postdoctoral program and a research center with a non-teaching research component.

On June 8, 2001, we met at the Bard Graduate Center. A full day program looked at designing an interdisciplinary curriculum “bridging the civilizations of the ancient

world and crossing traditional academic disciplines, leading to a new degree in the study of Ancient Culture.” We talked about the need for a broad reach, perhaps best summed up by the late David Pingree of Brown University, who said, “the center’s goal would be to further cross cultural studies of the ancient world – from Western Europe to China and Japan.” The goal, said David, would be to offer an opportunity to replace “what humanistic scholarship has lost.” We realized that the study of the ancient world had become increasingly narrow, with specialists in philology, anthropology, literature, science and technology, history, archaeology, and art history. The meeting brought out some of the problems we would face as we attempted to change a system that had been in existence for over a hundred years. Glen Bowersock of the Institute for Advanced Study wisely said that the resulting scholarship could “achieve analysis and interpretation that can only arise from a cross-disciplinary perspective.”

We ended the day exhilarated by the possibilities, envisioning exhibitions that would be the visual manifestation of our new program, public lectures, and scholarly publications. We would create a small program that would attract the brightest students and a select faculty who would work with students on a tutorial basis.

Leon and I continued to discuss ways to structure our program, and I began to look at townhouses. When Leon died unexpectedly in 2003, I put aside any thoughts of starting the center—until a friend called and told me she had found the perfect building: a 27,000 square foot town house, originally built as a private residence. The old paneled library was intact and the central spiral staircase was magnificent; the rest of the building needed massive renovations. I submitted a bid on behalf of the foundation created after Leon’s death, and on July 20, 2004, the Leon Levy Foundation owned a building. Now Elizabeth Moynihan -- the co-trustee of the Foundation -- and I needed an Institute.

We began discussions with various academic institutions, finally deciding that New York University, already home to the Institute of Fine Arts, was the right place. John Sexton, the university’s president, was fully supportive of our goals. Annabel Selldorf agreed to renovate the building. To begin the necessary library, I began purchasing collections even before the renovations were completed.

By the spring of 2006 we were ready to begin a search for a director, a critical selection. New York University helped assemble a search committee including two attendees at the June 2001 meeting, David O’Connor and Glen Bowersock, who had helped shape the original concept, and talked with Leon about his ideas for the new center. The other members of the committee included Wu Hung, Holly Pittman, Paul Zanker, and Daniel Fleming, all outstanding scholars. The Search Committee selected Roger Bagnall as our first director.

Roger was the ideal choice. He is a distinguished scholar in two fields -- classics and history-- had been a dean, and immediately understood and embraced our mission, believing it was possible to succeed without teaching traditional disciplines. He said, “In modern universities, many scholars with overlapping interests do not end up talking to each other, and that can obscure continuities and relationships.” The Institute would bring that conversation “under one roof.” Roger understood our geographical range from the Atlantic to China and our chronological range from the Neolithic to Late Antiquity. As he said, “for a scholar of Greek, Persia can be considered the fringe or periphery. Our goal is to make nowhere the fringe.”

ISAW is still evolving. But as we look back at our first five years, I believe the Institute has fulfilled, if not surpassed, most of the goals that Leon and I set out more than a decade ago.

# Introduction

## Roger Bagnall

Leon Levy Director



portfolio of important digital projects (with substantial external funding), a history and present of well-attended public events, several archaeological field projects, and a wide network of scholarly partners.

The completion of our fifth year offers a good opportunity to reflect on what ISAW is now and on the challenges ahead. As it has now essentially achieved the structure and population imagined in early 2007 in my discussions with Shelby White and Daniel Fleming, now chair of ISAW's Advisory Committee, it is time to look to what may lie ahead. In part, that will mean the realization of the potential of a relatively young faculty and the further development of this stable of active programs. Those by themselves will be considerable challenges for the coming few years, but the ambitions with which ISAW was born mean that it will succeed only if it is always questioning itself and its programs.

ISAW's founding vision developed out of years of thought about the need for a means of fostering research and education about antiquity that were not constrained by traditional departmental boundaries, whether university or museum. Those boundaries, for us rather axes of work, are not only geographical but chronological and disciplinary. Our emphasis is on connections and commonalities; we value the new questions and perspectives that can come from comparative study. One major challenge, given this mission, is to give our students both the breadth we seek and the disciplinary strengths they will need both for research and to be vital members of their future departments. An important advantage we have is the role of the visiting research scholars program in bringing new fields of study through

There are not many experiences like that of building an intellectually ambitious institution from the ground up. When I took office, ISAW was a vision (see Shelby White's foreword), but it had as yet no tangible form other than a magnificent building near the end of renovation. It is now a lively institution with a tenured and tenure-track faculty of seven persons, soon (I hope) to be nine. It has a doctoral program, a flourishing visiting research scholar program, a substantial library, a highly visible and successful exhibitions program, a

the Institute each year, connecting our students with a broad academic network and extending their perspectives.

What would we expect to see, at this point in ISAW's life, in the way of outward and visible signs of its becoming the intended boundary-stretching engine? It has to be kept in mind that only two of the faculty members have been on the scene for longer than 30 months. Even at this early stage, however, I think it reasonable to look for collaborations between faculty and across fields in teaching and research; sharing of research infrastructure and methods; a student body that develops continuously in its interests and moves beyond original comfort zones; strong interaction between faculty and programmatic units in the administration; an emphasis on various types of outreach; and ties with faculty and students outside ISAW. In the longer horizon, it is reasonable to hope that faculty will spend part of their research and teaching energies in directions well beyond their original disciplines, but this seems to me to be something that will take longer and result from extended exposure to other disciplines and methods on a day to day basis.

For the most part, these hopes are being realized. We have had quite a bit of joint teaching take place or be put onto the calendar for the coming few years, involving practically every faculty member and two of our Senior Fellows. I expect more. Student wanderlust has been encouraged and encouraging. Of the three students in the first cohort, Zoe Misiewicz has built from her base in Greek mathematics to study both Akkadian and Arabic, especially the Babylonian tradition. Martin Reznick has gone to Columbia to learn Sanskrit. Mehrnoush Soroush has broadened from her original early Islamic water-management focus to add a millennium of Mesopotamian history and archaeology.

The active engagement of faculty with the exhibitions program, in collaboration with the Exhibitions Director, Jennifer Chi, has been partly serendipitous, some more

planned. So far Alexander Jones has done a highly successful Babylonian mathematics exhibition, Sören Stark has been a pillar of this spring's Kazakh show and senior editor of its catalogue, and future shows involving Beate and Alex are under development. Lillian Tseng is chairing the new exhibitions committee. Discussions are underway about creating an graduate internship program in exhibitions.

Digital programs is another area where we have been pursuing strategies consistent with our mission. The major projects that Tom Elliott, the associate director, and I brought to ISAW in ancient mapping, papyrology, and epigraphy have all begun to broaden their geographical and chronological scopes through collaborations; our technology for the digital representation of epigraphical texts is now in use in a project on Vietnamese epigraphy. The database structure developed for my Amheida excavation has been adapted slightly to serve the needs of Lorenzo d'Alfonso's project in Cappadocia.

We have also begun to develop closer linkages with the rest of the university. We have appointed more than twenty of our colleagues as affiliated faculty and involved many of them in graduate student committees, had active supervision by our faculty of some students from downtown, and created a visiting fellowship each year for an affiliated faculty member.

This is far from an exhaustive catalogue, but it highlights some of the most crucial indicators of success in realizing our vision. In general, I think there is a strong collaborative disposition among the faculty. What I would emphasize is that success in our collective mission can come only from the combined individual desires and interests of the faculty. Sustaining the energy necessary for bring about change and avoiding a reversion to the mean will never be easy.

## Faculty and Research

Our faculty includes seven internationally respected scholars whose knowledge encompasses the broad geographic, chronological, and cultural range of ISAW's mission. They are devoted primarily to research and graduate teaching. In addition, it has at present one research faculty member and two clinical faculty members-- who teach in the Program in Egypt as well as at NYU's downtown campus at Washington Square. With just two members on the scene longer than 30 months the faculty reflects ISAW's youth.

**Lorenzo d'Alfonso**, Assistant Professor of Ancient Western Asian Archaeology and History works in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 1500-700 BCE) in Anatolia and Syria. Within this historical context he is interested in three themes: the social and political history of Late Bronze Age Syria; the forms of government in pre-classical Anatolia; and the afterlife of the Hittite Empire and its regional developments, from the Aegean coast to the Levant. His historical research, which is based on the study of primary sources, encompasses his knowledge of Hittite, Akkadian, and Hieroglyphic Luwian, as well as archaeological materials of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages from Syria and Anatolia. His archaeological method is oriented to knowledge of and interest in the broader historical discourse.

Professor D'Alfonso previously taught at the Universities of Mainz and Konstanz, and at the Universities of Pavia and Catholic University in Milan. He has published a monograph on court procedures and law in LBA Syria, co-edited three volumes, and published more than 40 scholarly contributions in international journals, proceedings of conferences, and edited volumes. He has been participating in archaeological missions in the Near East

since 1995 and is currently the director of the archaeological excavations at Kınık Höyük, in Cappadocia, Turkey

**Roger S. Bagnall** is Professor of Ancient History and Leon Levy Director of the Institute. He came to ISAW as founding director in 2007 after 33 years at Columbia University, where he taught classics and ancient history and held a variety of administrative positions. He has combined history, texts, and archaeology in his work since undergraduate days, when he wrote a thesis at Yale on the end of the Bronze Age in Greece, through a graduate training (at Toronto) and an early career largely devoted to the Hellenistic period and to epigraphic sources, and a gradual move into later periods in the history of the Roman East, particularly Roman and Late Antique Egypt. He has published many papyri and ostraka, with particular emphasis on texts concerning taxation, administration, the Roman army, and the society and economy of Late Antiquity.

Since 2000 he has led an excavation project at Amheida in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis, where the textual discoveries are studied as much as artifacts in stratigraphic context as they are as texts. The first volume of ostraka from these excavations appeared this year as ISAW's first book publication, available in both open-access digital form and hard copy. A large part of his energies over the last 20 years has gone into digital projects in papyrology and related fields, some of which are now housed at ISAW. Apart from Amheida, he is also currently involved in publishing graffiti from Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey) as well as papyri and ostraka from Berenike, on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, a major port in the Roman trade with India. He is currently proofreading 7,200 pages of the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, of which he is a general editor.



**Roderick B. Campbell** is Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History. Broadly speaking Campbell's interests are at the intersection of anthropology and history in the broadest sense of both terms. His current focus in space and time radiates out from Shang Anyang (ca. 1250-1050 BCE) and topics ranging from human sacrifice and moral economies of violence, to social, political, and economic organization, and, more broadly, historiography and social theory. Campbell is currently working with his collaborators at the Chinese Academy of Social Science's Institute of Archaeology on a production organization study at a gigantic Anyang bone artifact workshop (see "Fieldwork," pg. 17). Other current projects include a paper that reinterprets a key oracle-bone graph with significant ramifications for Early Chinese history, a paper calling for a historical turn in archaeology and a book on the nature of Shang political authority.

Publications in process include a book-length synthesis of 2nd millennium BCE Chinese archaeology under review for the Cotsen Institute Press, an edited volume on *Violence and Civilization* that will appear as the third installment in the Joukowsky Institute Publication series as well as several book chapters in forthcoming volumes on topics ranging from sacrifice to ancestor veneration and animals and inequality.

Campbell graduated in 2007 from Harvard with a dual degree in Anthropology (archaeology) and East Asian Languages and Civilizations (Chinese history), and he actually held his first of many post-doctoral positions at ISAW during its inaugural year of 2007-2008. Subsequent positions included post-docs at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University, a Luce-ACLS post-doc taken in Anyang, China, and a Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College, Oxford. He is extremely happy to have come back to ISAW on a more permanent basis and is enjoying the process of making ISAW and the wider NYU community his academic home.

**Alexander Jones**, Professor of the History of the Exact Sciences in Antiquity, studies the mathematical and physical sciences in ancient civilizations. His work centers on the astronomy, astrology, and mathematics of the Greco-Roman world, extending into neighboring disciplines, cultures, and chronological periods. Archaeologically recovered papyri, inscriptions, and objects relating to science figure prominently in his research. He also serves as ISAW's Director of Graduate Studies.

Inspired by Neugebauer's pioneering studies of astronomical texts, tables, and horoscopes in papyri from Roman Egypt, Professor Jones began a systematic

investigation of such documents in the 1990s. The project was transformed in scope and significance when Jones gained access to the almost entirely unknown astronomical materials among the papyri excavated by Grenfell and Hunt at Oxyrhynchus in 1896-1906. Roughly tripling the corpus of known astronomical papyri, the Oxyrhynchus fragments made it possible for the first time to make an accurate classification of the astronomical tables employed during the first centuries of our era, to identify their applications in astrological practice, and to demonstrate their extensive dependence on earlier Babylonian mathematical astronomy as well as on the Handy Tables of Ptolemy.

Professor Jones's current work on papyri has extended to horoscopes, fragments of astrological manuals, and didactic mathematical texts. He is collaborating with Roger Bagnall and ISAW seminar participants on an edition of a 4th century AD papyrus codex of mathematical problems, mensurational texts, and model contracts.

In 2007 Professor Jones began working with the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project to study the imaging and X-ray tomographic data of the 82 fragments of this remarkable artifact of Hellenistic technology and science, recovered from a shipwreck site in 1901. An early outcome was the discovery that dials on the Mechanism displayed the Corinthian calendar and the four-year cycle of Greek athletic competitions. More recently, Jones has found conclusive evidence for the presence and manner of a display of the motions of the planets.

**Beate Pongratz-Leisten**, Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, came to ISAW in 2009. Her published work and research focuses on issues of the intersection between the political, intellectual, and religious history of the ancient Near East, as well as on materialities of culture, literature, formation of textual communities, transmission of cultural memory, ritual performance, and ritual texts.

Her publications include several books on the cultural and religious history of ancient Mesopotamia, among them *Reconsidering the Revolutionary Concept of Monotheism* (2011). She is currently working on a book, *Cosmology and Kingship in Assyria*, which investigates the origins of Assyrian royal discourse as a product of the cooperation between the elites and the king in shaping the ideal image of the king. Her editorial work includes the Ancient Near Eastern section in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, and, with Gonzalo Rubio, the series *Studies of Ancient Near Eastern Resources* published by De Gruyter.

Together with colleagues from classics, art history, cognitive sciences, and linguistics Professor Pongratz-Leisten has founded the research group Ancient Cultures and Cognitive Sciences (ACCS) to investigate aspects of ancient cultures including the shaping of belief and social bonding with the divine, divine agency, the construction of demonology, and the formation and textualization of knowledge. Out of this cooperation grew several workshops, including *Materiality of Divine Agency in Cross-Cultural Perspective* in 2011, which aimed at re-defining divine agency in examining the multiple forms divinity assumes in presenting itself in various institutional and cultural contexts. Its proceedings are currently being prepared for publication. *Writing, Law, Divination, and Religion in the Ancient Near East* explored how organizational aspects of writing, reading signs, divination, and law intersect to arrive at a new approach to ancient Near Eastern religion by emphasizing its deeply exegetical nature rather than merely focusing on cultic performance (2012).

**Sören Stark** is Assistant Professor of Central Asian Art and Archaeology. His primary research interest is the economic, social, and political interactions between nomadic populations of Central Asia and their sedentary neighbors—one of the dominant and recurrent themes in the history of the region. In particular, he is interested in how these interactions shape the material culture and

visual arts of both mobile and sedentary populations in Central Asia.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Halle-Wittenburg (Germany) with the book *The Early Turkic Period in Central Asia* (2008). Prior to joining ISAW in 2010, he directed fieldwork in the highlands of Northern Tajikistan and taught at Freie Universität Berlin. Currently he is engaged in fieldwork on the ancient and medieval oasis defense system of Bukhara, in Uzbekistan and is co-editor with Dr. Fiona Kidd, Visiting Research Scholar of a handbook on the archaeology of Central Asia (Oxford University Press) and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology*.

**Lillian Tseng**, Associate Professor of East Asian Art and Archaeology, specializes in Chinese art and archaeology. Prior to joining ISAW in 2010, she served as Associate Professor in the Department of the History of Art at Yale University. She received her Ph.D. in history of art and architecture from Harvard University.

Professor Tseng's research explores the interface between art history and cultural history. Her book, *Picturing Heaven in Early China* (2011) addresses the connection between image and text, art and science, and architecture and politics in Han China. She is also interested in challenging the boundaries of art history; she is currently editing a book, *Representing Things in East Asia*, which argues for a better understanding of artifacts through an examination of the fusion of visual culture and material culture. Although the anchor of her research is Han China (207 BCE–220 CE), Professor Tseng also advocates the study of the reception of antiquity, a topic that not only traces the afterlife of antiquity but also clarifies how various perspectives came into being in the modern academic world. Another book project she is conducting, *Inspecting Steles in Early Modern China*, will investigate how stone steles served as an agency of the past and how the rediscovery of ancient steles triggered new modes of cultural production.



Since joining the faculty of ISAW, Professor Tseng has been experimenting with ways of positioning China in the broader ancient world. In teaching, she initiates seminars that address either the interconnection of cultures or the comparison of empires. In research, she is developing several projects that examine how the expansion of the Han Empire, which opened up the so-called Silk Road, did not merely enhance the frequent material exchanges along the border zones but further refashioned the material production in the heartland. She offers her preliminary thoughts in papers such as "Positioning Heavenly Horses in Han mirrors" (published in 2011), "The Presence of Ancient Iran in Han China" (presented in 2011), "Text and Textile: Inscribed Brocade in the Tarim Basin" (presented in 2012), and "Absence and Presence: The Great Wall in Chinese Art" (forthcoming).

**Nicola Aravecchia**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Archaeology, is Academic Director of NYU's semester abroad program in Egypt and Deputy Field Director of the excavations at Amheida. In Fall 2012, he will also begin

teaching courses on Classical Art and Archaeology in the Department of Classics. He has held previous appointments at ISAW as a Visiting Research Scholar (2009-10) and Visiting Research Associate (2010-11).

Dr. Aravecchia received his B.A. in classical studies from the University of Bologna, followed by an M.A. in ancient and medieval art and archaeology and a Ph.D. in art history (2009), both from the University of Minnesota. His main area of interest is Egypt in Late Antiquity, with a particular focus on the origins and development of Early Christian art and architecture in that region. Another academic interest lies in the application of models of spatial analysis to archaeology, with the goal of studying how public and private spaces affected social relationships in antiquity. One of his articles analyzes the social construction of space within Egyptian monastic settlements in Late Antiquity.

From 2006 to 2008, he served as the field director of the archaeological mission at Ain el-Gedida, a late antique settlement in the Dakhla Oasis of Upper Egypt. An early fourth century church complex and a mud-brick temple (turned into a ceramic workshop in Late Antiquity) were among the site's most significant discoveries. Currently, he is working on the final archaeological report of this excavation, due for publication in 2013.

**Sebastian Heath** is Research Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies. His fieldwork at Troy (Turkey) involves publication of Roman-period ceramics from an area that mixed domestic use, craft production, and large-scale dumping. His particular focus is the presence of Aegean, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western ceramic imports. This is part of a larger interest in how personal use of material culture ties individuals to Empire-wide economic and cultural trends. As part of facilitating this research, he works to increase the availability of digital resources for Mediterranean archaeology and other aspects of the Ancient World. At ISAW, his work concerns the development of digital publications that contribute to the goal of

creating links between scholarly communities around the globe. More important than the medium of publication-- whether print or online-- is the cost of information and the opportunity for subsequent researchers to reuse scholarship. Accordingly, much of Heath's own research on Roman pottery is available online, often under Creative Commons licenses -- particularly the co-edited digital publication *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Pottery at Ilion (Troia)*. His interest in digital technologies extends to the impact of the Internet on the illegal trade in antiquities and on the public representation of the Ancient World as seen in digital resources such as Wikipedia.

**Ellen Morris**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Egyptology, is the academic director of NYU's Archaeology and History in Egypt study abroad program. Her research and teaching has focused on the interaction between the inhabitants of Dakhla Oasis and the contemporary Nile Valley dwellers, especially as they occurred at the site of Amheida during the Old Kingdom. More broadly, she writes extensively on the interactions between Egypt and its neighbors during the third and second millennia BCE. Her book, *The Architecture of Imperialism: Military Bases and the Evolution of Foreign Policy in Egypt's New Kingdom*, examined political and prosaic cross-cultural encounters at the site of military bases on Egypt's frontiers in Syria-Palestine, Nubia, and Libya, detailing the juxtaposition of ground-level imperialism to the ideological official reports of military campaigns. She is currently completing *Egyptian Imperialism*, taking a broader look at imperial themes in Egyptian history. She has also published on the ideology of divine kingship, the performance of sacred and sexual rites, the distribution of power in the aftermath of state formation, and the social inversion that characterized Egypt's First Intermediate Period.

## Faculty Fieldwork

### **Lorenzo d'Alfonso** **Kınık Höyük, Turkey**

From 2006 to 2009, Lorenzo d'Alfonso led an archaeological survey in Southern Cappadocia, Turkey. Aimed at identifying long-term changes in political power in the region during the Bronze and Iron Ages, the survey encompassed communication routes, land utilization, climatic and environmental changes, and cultural contacts with neighboring areas. Southern Cappadocia was strategic in antiquity, as a result of its geographic position on one of the main land-routes between Anatolia and the Levant (the Cilician Gates) and its wealth from metal and mineral resources, agriculture, and animal herding. During the Iron Age, the "forgotten" Kingdom of Tuwana flourished. The archaeological survey evaluated several sites within 300 square miles. Among them, the site of Kınık Höyük (covering 60 acres), played a prominent role. Geophysical investigations in 2010 highlighted the presence of an elliptical stone structure, believed to be the city walls, surrounding the remains of an important stone building.

Inspired and hopeful based on the survey, archaeological excavations started in 2011, under a five-year excavation permit from the Turkish authorities, becoming one of the biggest international archaeological projects in Turkey today. During the first campaign, the archaeologists found the remains of impressive Iron Age stone walls that protected the citadel of the settlement. Some 13 feet thick and 20 feet high, these walls are in a remarkable state of conservation. Their external face is still covered by the original plaster, perfectly preserved to 11.5 feet high. Excavation has also uncovered the remains of a small medieval village, with well-preserved mud-brick walls of earlier periods underneath. The earlier

architecture and the monumental city-walls will be the prime focus of coming excavation seasons.

### **Roger Bagnall** **Amheida, Egypt**

Excavations undertaken at the ancient city of Amheida (Trimithis in the Roman period) are a unique combination of archaeological fieldwork and educational program. A modern, multidisciplinary excavation under the direction of Roger Bagnall, the project also offers undergraduate students a semester study in Egypt combining fieldwork with classroom study, as well as visits to archaeological sites and museums. Begun at Columbia University in 2001, the Amheida program has been sponsored by NYU, in partnership with Columbia, since 2008.

The excavations at Amheida collaborate with other participating groups in the Dakhleh Oasis Project, dedicated to studying the interaction between human settlement and the environment from the earliest human presence to modern times. Amheida itself has remains spanning nearly three millennia and Paleolithic material has been found.

The excavations have focused on three areas of this large site: a centrally located upper-class fourth-century AD house with wall paintings, an adjoining school and public building with pillared hall, and remains of a Roman bath complex; a modest house of the third century; and the temple hill, with remains of the Temple of Thoth built in the first century AD, as well as earlier structures. Excavation has begun on a fourth-century church.

Architectural conservation has protected and partly restored two standing Roman period funerary monu-



Top, Left: Amheida Egypt

Top, Right: Kınık Höyük, Turkey

Bottom, Left: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

ments, a mud-brick pyramid and a tower tomb. A replica of the fourth-century house, with its paintings, has been built near the site entrance as a future visitor center with support from the Leon Levy Foundation, and a protective enclosure for the decorated blocks from the temple has been built with support from the American Research Center in Egypt.

**Roderick Campbell  
Tiesanlu, Anyang, China**

Salvage excavations in 2002 and 2006 in what is now Anyang, China turned up remarkably large deposits of worked animal bone, dating to the Late Shang or Anyang period (ca. 1250-1050 BCE). Brought back to the Anyang field station of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS, IA) in 80 truckloads, the material was not subjected to its initial study until 2009. Campbell used an eight month Luce-ACLS East Asian archaeological initiative to conduct the first study of these materials in collaboration with Li Zhipeng, He Yuling and Yuan Jing of the CASS, IA, publishing some of the early results in *Antiquity*.

While previous archaeological research indicated that cattle, animals linked to large-scale royal sacrifice, would predominate, the prevalence of animals and quantity of artifacts was staggering. Recovered artifacts seem to indicate the workshop production was surprisingly quotidian --everyday objects of the sort that are found far and wide at Shang Anyang are in numbers too numerous for local consumption to account for. Since it had been understood that Early China had not developed markets or specialized non-elite craft production for another 600 years, the abundance of artifacts is leading to a re-evaluation of models of ancient Chinese economy and civilization.

Work on the Tiesanlu assemblage continues under a generous Wenner-Gren International Collaboration Grant. This phase seeks to understand the organization of production and specifically to answer the question of

whether the deposits were produced by a single, large, integrated workshop or by a number of smaller bone working groups. That answer will help us understand the nature of craft production at what once may have been the largest city in the world.

**Sören Stark  
Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

Territorial barriers are a widespread but still little known phenomenon in several micro-regions of Western Central Asia and Eastern Iran, where they take the shape of large-scale oasis walls or linear barriers, similar to “long walls” in other parts of the Old World. Although some of these impressive monuments are mentioned and described to varying extents in ancient and medieval sources (mostly by Arab and Persian geographers of the 10-12th centuries) we still know very little about their layout and actual purpose. The dating of most of these walls remains a matter of considerable debate, with proposals ranging from the pre-Achaemenid Iron Ages to the early Middle Ages.

Under the direction of Sören Stark and Djamal Mirzaakhmedov, a cooperative effort between ISAW and the Institute of Archaeology at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Samarkand will focus on an oasis wall of Bukhara in the historical region of Sogdia. The Bukhara wall’s original length was at least 200 miles, with some parts well preserved. It is the most impressive example of an oasis wall in western Central Asia. For the first time, all surviving wall sections, together with related archaeological sites (such as forts, watchtowers, and gates), are being examined and documented systematically. Preliminary results of investigations at the Eastern section of the wall during the first field season in 2011 point to an initial date in the late 4th or 5th century. This dating raises the question of whether the oasis wall was related to political unification of Bukhara at about the same time, as suggested by numismatic materials.

## Advisory Committee and Affiliates

### Advisory Committee

The work of ISAW's Advisory Committee began more than five years ago, as a Search Committee to find the first Director. After considering an impressive roster of candidates, the Committee unanimously chose a highly distinguished scholar who was also an experienced administrator. The Committee continued to provide support in its search role for faculty until the faculty was large enough to assume its proper role in recommending professors and visiting scholars; the Committee's focus then shifted from searching to advising. Under its current mandate it offers advice not only to the Director but also to the Leon Levy Foundation and to the Provost of NYU. As Glen Bowersock has said, "All of us on the committee have been privileged to participate in the birth and growth of a unique academic entity whose mission and program are without parallel anywhere in the world."

Under the watchful eye of its Chair, Professor Daniel Fleming, the Committee has scrupulously supported the Director in assuring that the newly emerging Institute holds to the innovative principles that Leon Levy and Shelby White proposed. It has monitored everything from the fledgling library and digitalization to curricular planning, the graduate student community, and public events. It has shown particular interest in the Exhibitions Department, which has won for ISAW some of its most enthusiastic coverage in the press. It has met regularly with faculty, staff, and students, as well as the Director, and the university Provost and President as necessary. It has reviewed budgets and fund-raising as well as interaction with other departments and institutes at NYU. It has encouraged cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and approved the designa-

tion of an international group of Senior Fellows to enrich the scholarly resources of ISAW. Committee members have sometimes been invited to join searches for new Faculty.

The Advisory Committee remains just as it has been from its first days as a Search Committee -- an exceptionally varied group of scholars whose scholarly expertise and methodologies exemplify collectively both the chronological and geographical range of ISAW. This means that its meetings are both lively and productive. "We are all extremely different people and yet have a profound respect for each other. Under the Chair's wise leadership we have learned to blend our diversity in issuing candid observations and recommendations that speak to the aims of the Founder and the vision of the Director," said Glen Bowersock, who participated in the original conversations with Leon Levy and Shelby White.

The members of the Advisory Committee are Daniel Fleming (New York University, Chair), Glen W. Bowersock (Institute for Advanced Study), Wu Hung (University of Chicago), David O'Connor (Institute of Fine Arts, New York University), Holly Pittman (University of Pennsylvania), and Paul Zanker (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa), together with Shelby White (ex officio, as Founder).

### Affiliated Faculty

With its mission encompassing such a wide range of periods and disciplines, ISAW depends upon its affiliated faculty within New York University to supplement the faculty's areas of expertise and provide students with the highest level of training in their field. The affiliated faculty are drawn from many NYU schools and departments



including Classics, Hebrew and Judaic Studies, History, the Institute of Fine Arts, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, and Anthropology. In addition to including ISAW students in their departmental classes, these faculty members may also serve on student committees, team-teach with ISAW's faculty, or run directed studies with our students. A full list of these affiliates can be found on our website.

### Senior Fellows

The Senior Fellows are a group of distinguished scholars from universities, museums, and research institutes around the world who have a continuing relationship with ISAW. They are available for consultation by our students, allowing them access to even more specialized knowledge in their research areas. They are also involved in the intellectual life of the community in a variety of ways, depending on proximity and other commitments. Senior Fellows have organized conferences (Wu Hung, *The Sarcophagus: East and West*, 2009; Norman Yoffee, *A World of Cities*, 2011), offered lectures (Nicola di Cosmo, Marianne Bergmann, Francesca Rochberg, Leon Levy Lectures 2010-2012; Felix Pirson, ISAW/ATS Lecture 2010, and others), and participated in ISAW seminars or offered directed studies with students (Gonzalo Rubio, Norman Yoffee, Nicola di Cosmo, Sheldon Pollack). James Watt, former Chair of the Department of Asian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and currently lecturing at the University of Hong Kong, is the ISAW Senior Fellow in Residence. A full list of Senior Fellows can be found on our website.

### Research Associates

ISAW Research Associates have no fixed duties at ISAW, but they have full use of facilities and the opportunity to shape an active role in the intellectual life of the community. Typically they take part in seminars but may also organize conferences, work with graduate students, advise on exhibitions, or have a role in a research project.

### Gilles Bransbourg

Dr. Bransbourg is also Assistant Roman Curator at the American Numismatic Society and was an ISAW Visiting Research Scholar in 2010-11. His work concentrates on linking numerical information for the ancient economy with social, political, and military evolutions in order to achieve a better understanding of some of the trends they display.

### Judith A. Lerner

An independent art historian, Dr. Lerner's research is focused on the art of pre-Islamic Iran, specifically that of the Achaemenid (550-330 BCE) and Sasanian (224-651 CE) Empires, and also on the artistic and cultural interchanges of societies along the so-called "Silk Road." She was an ISAW Visiting Research Scholar in 2010-11. She is also co-editor of the *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology*, now under the aegis of ISAW.

### Naomi Miller

Dr. Miller is a member of the Near East Section at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. She works in the field of archaeobotany and uses those remains to investigate human-environment relationships in West and Central Asia.

### Karen S. Rubinson

The research of Dr. Rubinson is focused on the steppe and Central Asia in the first millennium BCE and early first millennium CE and the South Caucasus in the Bronze Age and Early Iron Ages. She was co-curator for ISAW's most recent exhibition, *Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan*.

### Rita Watson

Formally trained in the psychology of language and literacy, Dr. Watson's current interests lie with the role of writing in conceptual change, particularly as evidence in ancient texts. She is part of ISAW professor Beate Pongratz-Leisten's research initiative Ancient Cultures and Cognitive Sciences (ACCS).

## Doctoral Program and Students

ISAW's graduate program distinguishes itself from traditional academic departments through a focus on individualized study and the freedom to take classes that interest students most. Students arrive with a core interest area, but research and coursework takes them across disciplinary lines to contextualize their area of study within the ancient world. Supervised by a three-person committee, chaired by an ISAW professor, and recorded in their doctoral contract, they aim to complete their degrees in six years. Coursework includes participation in ISAW seminars and directed studies, courses at other NYU departments and other New York area universities. ISAW embraces our wide geographical scope by attracting doctoral students from around the world.

### Randolph Ford

#### 2nd-year, Greco-Roman and Chinese ethnographic traditions

During my two years at ISAW, I have taken coursework in Greek and Latin literature, done readings in Late Antiquity and early medieval Chinese history, and attended seminars in topics ranging from memory and material culture to the uses of walled fortifications in frontier defenses against nomadic peoples. So far, areas of research have included the military strategies favored by the Northern Wei conquest dynasty of north China in the fifth and sixth centuries, the configuration of the Getica of Jordanes in the Greco-Roman ethnographic tradition, the ethnic discourse in the *Variae* of Cassiodorus, and a translation of a fifth century cave inscription in modern Inner Mongolia that was commissioned by the Northern Wei emperor Tuoba Tao. I am currently working on a study of the *origines gentium* that were created for the most prominent peoples to estab-

lish polities in north China in the fourth and fifth centuries: the Xiongnu, Di, Qiang, Jie, and Xianbei. With an eye towards comparative study, I am hoping to look more closely at the ways in which ethnographic discourse changed in the later Roman Empire and early medieval China when erstwhile barbarian groups had established their own states within imperial borders.

### Alan Gampel

#### 1st-year, origins of western musical notation

After only one year as a student at ISAW, I have already discovered an institution that provides students of the ancient world a unique range of opportunities for inter-disciplinary study. This includes informal interactions with visiting post-doctorates and scholars, consultations with leading academics, and courses in a wide range of disciplines supplemented by support staff that includes administrators, information technology experts and library personnel. During the course of my previous research in musicology, it became clear to me that a deeper knowledge in seemingly unrelated disciplines was necessary for my work. One of the most valuable assets at ISAW from my perspective is its flexibility, which is tantamount to discovery and learning in a multi-disciplinary context. It is also a pleasure to work in a beautiful building with a creative faculty and chef! I am grateful for the opportunity to do my doctoral work at this young and vibrant, developing institution.

### Erik Hermans

#### 2nd-year, classical culture in late antiquity

In an average week of this academic semester I have conversations about the history of Kazakhstan and the origin of the Goths over lunch, a thorough discussion about the end of the classical tradition in Byzantine

literature with a professor at Columbia, practice my Arabic while buying a cup of tea on a busy street in Greenwich Village before going to my daily Arabic class, attend an inspiring graduate seminar on Merovingian historiography at Princeton, and at home combine the large amount of knowledge I have acquired in just a few days with the various insights about, for instance, the classical tradition and rise of Islam I studied in previous semesters. In other words, the graduate program at ISAW provides me with the most tailor-made, varied, and innovative training imaginable. I am planning to write a dissertation on the classical heritage in intellectual circles in the Carolingian world, Constantinople, and the Arabic caliphate and my current training lives up to all my expectations of becoming a better scholar than I would have in a traditional department.

**Zoe Misiewicz**

**3rd-year, ancient sciences**

I came to ISAW with a background in classics and mathematics, intending to expand my scope to include ancient Near Eastern and Arabic mathematics. Without a background in ancient Near Eastern studies, this would have been difficult in traditional universities, but not at ISAW. Tutorials and seminars have allowed me to work directly with professors to efficiently learn basic material, while participating with established scholars in discussions at the frontiers of a wide variety of fields. As I have learned more, I have shifted my focus to ancient astrology. In a history of science program, I might have been forced to justify the inclusion of astrology as a science. At ISAW, such disciplinary boundaries are simply not a concern; I'm free to follow the course of my research wherever it takes me, to pursue the most exciting questions that arise without being tethered to a narrow subject or time period. This academic freedom is exhilarating and I know that my future will be the better for it.

**Martin Reznick**

**3rd-year, political economy in Roman Egypt**

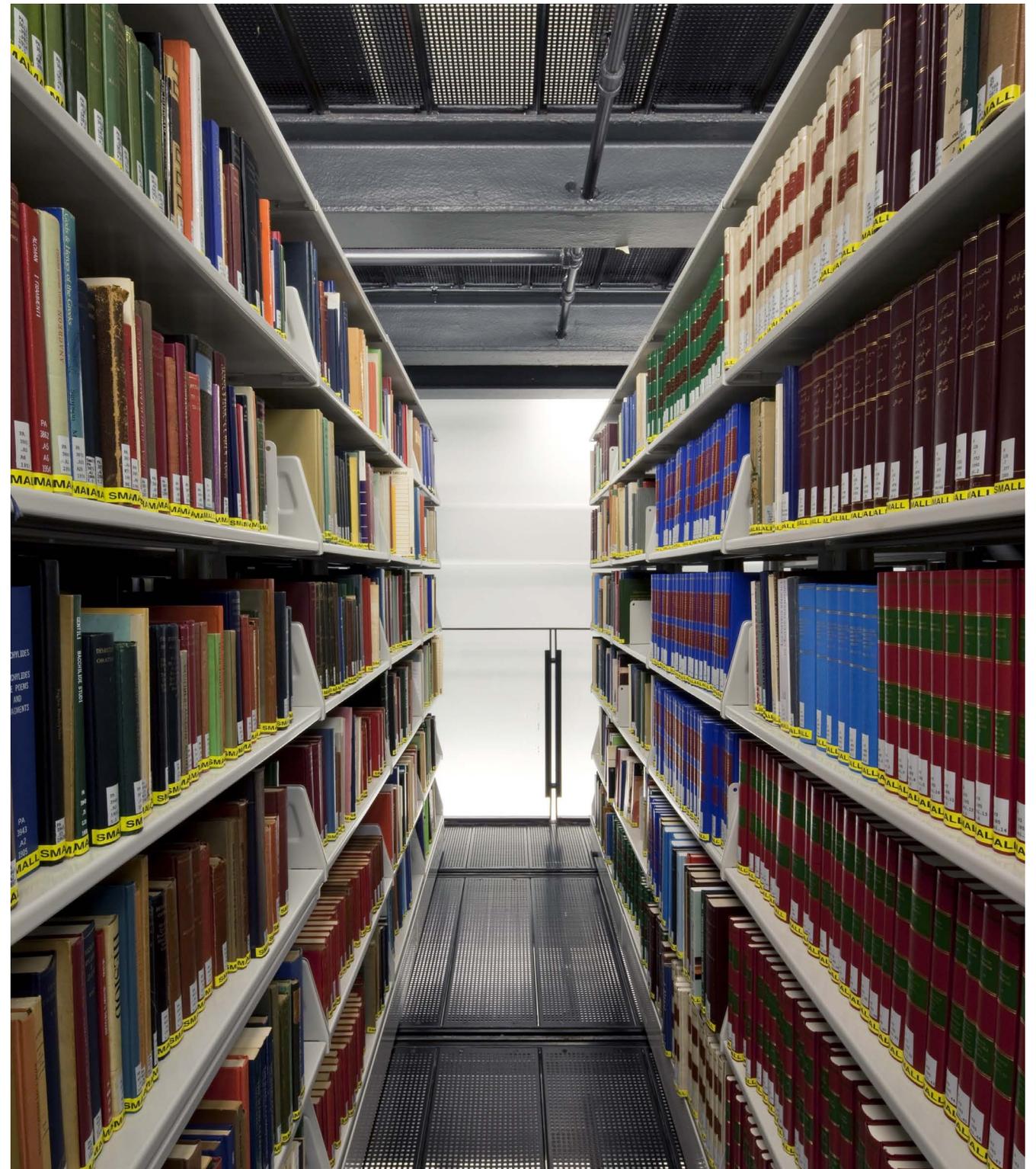
I expected life at ISAW to transform how I approach and solve research problems. But I mistakenly expected that my focus on deep connections between seemingly distant things across time, space, and discipline would confine itself to my perspective alone.

Teaching in two seemingly unrelated classes, I have already seen this. In history of Ancient Egypt, we read the *Instruction of Merikare*, where the text advises an incoming Egyptian king how to rule. It is full of political questions: how does a king motivate powerful agents to be loyal? How does a king survive in a world of intense political competition? We teased political theory out of an ancient text. We connected the tribulations of one pharaoh to classic problems of human governance. In political theory, we read *The Prince* by Machiavelli. The politics students were prepared to dissect Machiavelli's theoretical logic and connect it to the formation of western Liberalism. Seeing *The Prince* as a product of Machiavelli's time and place, they didn't see how it is part of a long tradition of world literature on counsel to rulers. To demonstrate the point, we read the *Instruction of Merikare*.

**Anthony SooHoo**

**1st-year, demonology, necromancy, and divination in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Levant**

I study the religion of the ancient Near East, especially the practice of divination. At ISAW I have been able to interact with experts in the field with many different perspectives. I appreciate the contextualized approach that is common in many of our classes. I have had a chance to consider how knowledge of the art, literature, and language of Mesopotamia and its neighbors enriches the understanding of ancient religion. I have had the opportunity to study the early writing and iconography of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Being able to explore a theme over time in different cultural contexts has



improved my understanding of the methodological issues that transcend the boundaries of various disciplines. This “big picture” approach complements and informs the focused work of translating texts and examining artifacts. The professors and peers I encounter each day are enthusiastic, intellectually curious, and supportive.

### **Mehrnoush Soroush**

#### **3rd-year, ancient irrigated landscapes of the Iranian Plateau and Mesopotamia**

In the three years I have been at ISAW, I have broadened my horizons to a variety of fields and aspects that are enmeshed in the question of landscape. First and foremost, I have had the opportunity to explore and discover myself through the window of this multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary topic in the dynamic environment of ISAW and ensure that I study what fits me best. The seminars, tutorials, and lectures at ISAW have taken me from the world of royal ideology of Assyrian kings to social theories, and from multi-lingual archives of the Hittite empire to Central Asian wall paintings. On top of that, I have sat in on geology courses and learned GIS and remote sensing in different universities; any further exploration was welcomed! My life at ISAW is definitely not formed by lectures and seminars alone. Visiting scholars from a range of fields come to ISAW to work on their research projects. You can never guess what unexpected fields will be open to you through new friendships and the conversations that occur.

### **Irene Soto**

#### **1st-year, Greco-Roman Egypt**

When I started at ISAW, I did not anticipate the extent to which my intellectual horizons would be broadened. ISAW has taken me from excavating in a Saharan oasis to diving for a Mediterranean shipwreck, from local conferences to opportunities to collaborate with scholars around the globe. However, beyond my archaeological adventures, what has made ISAW great is the way in

which my daily life at the Institute has been enriched through innovative exhibitions, numerous lectures, pottery reading groups, and enlightening conversations with my advisor. At ISAW I have learned that good scholarship comes not only from classes and books, but also from belonging to a community that nourishes the passion to create boundless intellectual networks.

### **Fan Zhang**

#### **1st-year student, early Chinese art and material culture**

Focusing on early Chinese art and archaeology from the second century BCE to the second century CE, I came to ISAW expecting to expand my vision on temporal and spatial scales to better understand cultural transmission within ancient Eurasia. This year not only helped me to break the boundaries between different areas (I now explore the world beyond China to the west in Central Asia) and time periods (I also pay attention to the later eras of Northern and Southern Dynasties), but also blur the distinction among the disciplines of art history, archaeology, and history. It can only happen in a typical ISAW seminar that people ranging from beginners like me to senior researchers with focuses extending from Rome to India exchange ideas together. With a diversified community, every class, every lecture, and even a brief talk over lunch helps me understand that cultural exchange happens today just as our ancestors experienced thousands of years ago.

## **Staff**

Since ISAW’s offices opened, staff members have greeted visitors and new community members, organized and facilitated numerous events, cataloged books, curated and installed international exhibitions projects, and created the infrastructure to support an on-going academic community’s growth and development. ISAW’s skilled, diverse staff is organized into four departments to provide crucial program administration and support.

### **Administration**

Diane W. Bennett, Associate Director for Administration, leads the administrative team with a background in administration and organizational development in the corporate world. Having lived and worked internationally and with an academic background in cross-cultural education, she came to NYU after co-founding a humanitarian organization in South Sudan. She leads the administrative efforts to support academic programs and projects.

Working closely together, the administrative team runs the general administrative services for the entire ISAW community and its frequent guests, including human resources, budgets and financial management and reporting, facilities and space planning, and events and hospitality services. The team includes Whitney Steen as Administrative Coordinator, Kathryn Lawson as Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, and Tiffany Wall as Senior Budget Manager. Chef Kathleen McEwan, supported by Desiree Carrasquillo, provides the daily coffee and tea service, common meals during the academic term, and catering for select events.

In addition to the core administrative team, Elizabeth Bulls serves as Program Coordinator for Excavations and provides additional support to the Director, while Building Manager Mike Kojasevic and primary Security Guard Garfield Caleb oversee the safe and efficient operation of the ISAW property.

### **Exhibitions**

Dr. Jennifer Y. Chi, Exhibitions Director and Chief Curator, established and leads ISAW’s exhibition program. Jennifer has curated, or been a member of the curatorial team, of all of ISAW’s exhibitions and has been a member of the editorial committee of the accompanying catalogues. She is also part of the sculpture publication team of NYU’s excavation at the Greco-Roman site of Aphrodisias in Turkey, where she is currently researching a series of late antique sculptures. She holds a Master of Studies from the University of Oxford with distinction and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

The Exhibitions Department curates two innovative, highly regarded shows per year in the galleries on the ground floor. Since much of the material that ISAW displays is relatively unknown or poorly published, we place great emphasis on our gallery didactics and the accompanying catalogues, which have become a major resource in the scholarly community. Local archaeologists are usually part of an exhibition’s curatorial team and work with the department on all aspects of the project. In this way, our exhibitions projects have created lasting ties between international experts and ISAW’s scholarly community. In addition, each exhibition is complemented by a full range of public programs, from

lectures that further explore topics presented in the exhibition, to musical concerts and film series.

The Exhibitions Department team researches and produces all components of our exhibitions projects, from object selection and grouping, to transportation and installation, to presentation to the media and public. In addition to Jennifer, the permanent team consists of Dr. Peter De Staebler, Assistant Curator (Ph.D., Art History and Archaeology, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU); Irene Gelbord, Department Manager (M.A., Museum Studies, NYU); Julianne Kim, Managing Editor (M.F.A., NYU); and Abby Lepold, Associate Registrar (M.A., Anthropology and Museum Studies, George Washington University).

### Libraries

Charles E. Jones is the Head Librarian and a member of the NYU Faculty of the Libraries. In 2008, he came to ISAW from being the Head of the Blegen Library at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and previously the Librarian of the Research Archives, Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago. Trained in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in ancient Near Eastern history and Assyriology, Mr. Jones is on the editorial board of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Publication Project. In addition to building and running focused academic libraries, he works on a range of issues related to scholarly communication in digital environments.

Library collection development efforts have focused on acquiring core collections representing the various disciplines within ISAW's academic scope that are not yet well represented within the NYU library system. The library staff catalogues these volumes, as well as handles the responsibilities of an active branch of a university library.

Dawn Gross, Assistant Head Librarian and also a member of the Faculty of the Libraries of New York University, manages the technical and public services aspects of the

ISAW Library; she is also responsible for planning the metadata strategy for the Ancient World Digital Library. Cataloguers Sara Roemer and Jessica Shapiro provide quality records for ISAW's growing collection of books, work on collection management projects, and create metadata for the Ancient World Digital Library (see "Digital Programs," pg 40).

### Digital Programs

Tom Elliott, Associate Director for Digital Programs, leads a team that provides the ISAW community and its collaborators worldwide with increasingly unfettered access to information about the ancient world. They advance ISAW's mission through information technology support, web development, and digital publications that span fields like geography, papyrology, epigraphy, and archaeology.

Dr. Elliott graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in computer science and classical studies and a Ph.D. in ancient history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. While at Chapel Hill he worked for the Classical Atlas Project, helping to produce the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*. His work has focused on creating tools and guidelines for the digital encoding of epigraphic and papyrological texts. Prior to coming to ISAW in 2008, he served as founding director of the Ancient World Mapping Center (AWMC), where he developed the Pleiades Project, now a joint effort of the AWMC and ISAW.

The Digital Programs team is a quartet of senior information architects, whose advanced degrees and experience in both the study of antiquity and the theory and practice of software development are essential to ISAW's success. Hugh Cayless, Sean Gillies, Sebastian Heath, and Christopher Warner share responsibility for information strategy and support. They work closely with colleagues at the NYU Digital Library Technology Services group. They are supported in their efforts by part-time and student employees, including Iris Fernandez, who serves as Managing Editor of the Ancient World Image Bank.

## Postdoctoral Program and Scholars

Each academic year, ISAW appoints eight to ten visiting research scholars who take up residence at ISAW to pursue a research project. These projects can constitute anything from editing a Ph.D. dissertation for publication to analyzing archaeological excavation data, or even exploring an entirely new avenue of study. Scholars are given their own workspace at ISAW and access to the vast resources of New York University Libraries as well as the libraries of neighboring institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They participate in the intellectual community of ISAW by attending seminars, giving a talk on their work as part of the Visiting Research Scholar Lecture Series, and serving as a resource to our graduate students.

Our scholars have come from campuses and institutions as close as Philadelphia, Boston, and elsewhere in New York, and as far afield as Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, Ukraine, China, and Australia. Despite their geographical diversity, ISAW attempts to link each year's scholars through their academic interests, if even by the slightest connection, in order to encourage interdisciplinary work and new approaches to traditional subjects. Scholars have come from not only the classical ancient world fields of Greek and Roman antiquity, but also Babylonian Astronomy, the Eurasian Steppe, Central Asian Art and Archaeology, Iranian History, early Bronze Age China, Chinese Art History, and Ancient Near East Art and History, among others. Listed here are ISAW's Visiting Research Scholars, their project or area of study while at ISAW, their current affiliation, and awards that have honored their work. More information on the visiting scholar program and the application process can be found on the ISAW website.



### 2011-12

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Daniel Caner, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut, Storrs

*Christian Gifts and Religious Society in Early Byzantium*

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Alexander Dale, D.Phil. Oxford

*The East Shore of Lesbos: Greek Poetry at the East Aegean-West Anatolian Interface*

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George Hatke, Ph.D. Princeton

*Africans in Arabia Felix: Relations between Ethiopia and South Arabia in Late Antiquity*




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Fiona Kidd, Ph.D. University of Sydney  
*Beyond the Boundaries: Identifying Exchange Relations in Central Asian Visual Art Based on the Akchakhan-kala 'Portraits'*

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Sarah Laursen, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania  
*Unearthing the Ancient Craft: The Art of Goldsmithing in Early Medieval China*

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Justin Leidwanger, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania  
*Maritime Landscapes and Regional Economic Networks in the Roman Mediterranean*

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Rita Lucarelli, Research Scholar, University of Bonn  
*Demons in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia*

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Michael Penn, Associate Professor, Mount Holyoke College  
*Imaging Islam: Syriac Christian Reactions to the Islamic Conquests*

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Emmanuelle Raga, Ph.D. Université Libre de Bruxelles  
*Classical Conviviality in the Christianization of the Roman World, 250-550 AD*

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**2010-11**

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Jonathan Ben-Dov, Lecturer, University of Haifa  
*The Astronomical Book of Enoch: a Corpus of Popular Ancient Science between Mesopotamia, Judea, and Ancient Ethiopia*

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Winner of the 2012 Michael Bruno Memorial Award for his biblical scholarship. This award annually recognizes Israeli scholars and scientists under 50 whose achievements to date suggest future breakthroughs in their respective fields.

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Gilles Bransbourg, Assistant Roman Curator, American Numismatic Society  
*Tax and Money as Economic Indicators in the Later Roman Period*

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Jacco Dieleman, Associate Professor, UCLA  
*A Critical Edition of the Unique Cult Rituals on the Artemis Liturgical Papyrus*

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Günter Dreyer, Director Emeritus, DAI Cairo  
*The Archaeology of Early Egypt*

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Lidewijde de Jong, Assistant Professor, UNC Chapel Hill  
*Becoming a Roman Province: Burial and Empire in Roman Syria*

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Judith Lerner, Independent Researcher, ISAW Research Associate  
*The Glyptic Art of Bactria and the Western Indian Culture Zone: Usage, Style, and Iconography*

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Annalisa Marzano, Reader, University of Reading  
*The Exploitation of Marine Resources in the Roman Mediterranean and the Transfer of Technology*

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Honorable Mention and a Silver Medal from The Premio Romanistico Internazionale Gérard Boulvert for her book, *Roman Villas in Central Italy. A Social and Economic History* (Brill 2007). The award is given every three years under the auspices of the President of the Italian Republic with other government institutions and various private foundations and recognizes the work of younger scholars of all nationalities in topics related to Roman law.

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Mathieu Ossendrijver, Excellence Cluster, TOPOI, Humboldt University of Berlin  
*Babylonian Mathematical Astronomy: Tables in Context*

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Seth Sanders, Assistant Professor, Trinity College  
*Rituals of Revelation: The Ancient Near Eastern Roots of Jewish Mysticism*

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Awarded the Frank Moore Cross Award for his book *The Invention of Hebrew* (University of Illinois Press, 2009). The award is presented by the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) to the editor or author of the most substantial volume related to ancient Near Eastern and eastern Mediterranean epigraphy, text, and/or tradition.

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Karen Sonik, ACLS Faculty Fellow, UCLA  
*The Monster as a Marker of Intercultural Exchange (1st Millennium BCE)*

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Winner of the Donny George Youkhana Dissertation Prize for best US doctoral dissertation on ancient Iraq from The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII).

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Joan G. Westenholz, Member, Institute for Advanced Study  
*Religions in Contact: The Case of the Mesopotamian Goddess Nanaya*

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**2009-10**

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Nicola Aravecchia, Clinical Assistant Professor, ISAW  
*Excavation Report on Ain el-Gedida*

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Muriel Debié, Researcher, CNRS and Director, École des Langues et Civilisations de l'Orient Ancien  
*Multilingualism and Diglossia in the Late Antique Near East*

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Damian Fernandez, Assistant Professor, Northern Illinois University  
*Late Antique Aristocracies in the Atlantic World*

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David Klotz, Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University  
*Nadura in the Khargeh Oasis*

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Xiaoli Ouyang, Noble Fellow, WF Albright Institute of Archaeological Research  
*Temple Treasury Records and Politics in Ur III Mesopotamia (c. 2112-2004 BCE)*

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Christine Proust, Director of Research, CNRS Paris  
*Ancient Mesopotamian Mathematical Texts*

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Winner of the Institut de France's Prix Paul Doistau-Émile Blutet de l'information scientifique for 2011. This prize is awarded in alternate years for work in the history of science and epistemology.

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H. Darrel Rutkin, Visiting Scholar, Stanford University  
*Astrology, Transmission of Knowledge*

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Caroline Sauvage, Postdoctoral Fellow, Macalester College

*Maritime Trade Routes in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Bronze Age*

Winner of the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres Prix de la fondation Louis de Clercq* for her work on the material from Ugarit and Minet el-Beida preserved at the Museum of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

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Oleksandr Symonenko, Chief Research Fellow, Institute of Archaeology, UNAS, Kiev

*The Sarmatians: Riding from the Hung-Ho to the Danube*

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David G.K. Taylor, Lecturer, Oxford University

*Syriac Language, History, and Literature*

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Wu Xin, Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania

*Central Asian Art in the Context of the Achaemenid Persian Empire*

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Mantha Zarmakoupi, Humboldt Research Fellow, Archaeological Institute, University of Cologne

*The "Quartier du Stade" on Late Hellenistic Delos: A Case Study of Rapid Urbanization and a Showcase of Computer Applications in Archaeological Studies*

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## 2008-09

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Mikheil Abramishvili, Professor and Curator, Ilia State University and Georgian National Museum

*Bronze Age Relations between the South Caucasus, the Near East and the Aegean*

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Lindsay Allen, Lecturer, King's College London

*Through the King's Gate: Images and Reflections of Achaemenid Kingship*

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Ari Bryen, ACLS Faculty Fellow, UC Berkeley

*Local Legal Cultures in the Greek-speaking Provinces of the Roman Empire*

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Tamara Chin, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago

*East Asia, Comparative Ethnographic and Geographic Literature*

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Valeriya Kozlovskaya, Director of Ancient Studies Program, Russian Center for Languages and Arts

*Pontic Unity in Antiquity from a Maritime Perspective*

---

Scott McDonough, Assistant Professor, William Paterson University

*'We Pray for Our Glorious King': Power, Patronage and Piety in Sasanian Iran, 220-651 CE*

---

Maya Muratov, Assistant Professor, Adelphi University

*Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology*

---

Kevin van Bladel, Associate Professor, University of Southern California

*Late Antiquity, Ancient Iran, and Early Islam*

---

Wu Xin (see also 2009-10)

---

Alice Yao, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

*Early Chinese History and Culture*

---

Yuval Yekutieli, Head, Archaeology Division, Dept. of Bible, Ben-Gurion University Negev

*Ancient Near East*

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## 2007-08

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Roderick Campbell, Assistant Professor, ISAW

*Early Bronze Age China*

---

Sabine Huebner, Heisenberg Visiting Professor, Collège de France

*Greco-Roman East*

---

Jinyu Liu, Associate Professor, DePauw University

*Roman History*

---

Rachel Mairs, Postdoctoral Fellow, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology & the Ancient World, Brown University

*Hellenistic Egypt and Central Asia*

---

Anne Porter, Independent Researcher

*Near Eastern Archaeology*

---

Giovanni Ruffini, Associate Professor, Fairfield University

*Social Networks in Byzantine Egypt*

# Exhibitions

## Jennifer Chi

Exhibitions Director and Chief Curator

### Exhibitions at Year Five

Exhibitions have been an integral part of ISAW's mission from the beginning. ISAW founder Shelby White and her late husband, Leon Levy, understood that the display of ancient objects could be a powerful visual manifestation of ISAW's broad reach, enabling a diverse public to learn about the ancient world. In my very first discussions with Leon, when I was a recently minted Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, he asked me what I thought of an institute that looked over the broad horizons of antiquity, one that would focus on the interconnections between ancient cultures rather than viewing them in isolation from one another. I had never encountered such an approach, but it is the underlying philosophy of ISAW's exhibitions program.

Indeed, we began planning our first exhibition before ISAW officially opened its doors in the fall of 2007. We were very fortunate that the General Director of the Georgian National Museum, David Lordkipanidze, visited us when the building was still a construction site—and that he had enough faith in our nascent institution and its leadership to agree to lend us an extraordinary array of material from the Colchian site of Vani, some of which had only been excavated in the previous summer season. Because Colchis had strong and direct trade connections with the Greek world—it was the legendary setting for the myth of Jason and the Golden Fleece—many of the objects created for Vani's elite exhibited both stylistic and iconographic influence from the Greek world. The material thus provided ISAW with a perfect inaugural exhibition: *The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani*. The project received such critical acclaim that it subsequently toured



Fig. 1

to four international institutions, bringing ISAW's mission to a much broader audience than any of us had originally imagined.

That first exhibition established a pattern that ISAW has followed ever since. We seek out ancient cultures that are not well understood or even well known, but have relevance to our time. For our latest effort, *Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan*, ISAW was the first institution to be granted permission by the Kazakh Ministry of Culture to borrow ancient material from all four of its national art museums, enabling us to provide the public with an unprecedented view of Central Asian nomadism in the first millennium BCE. ISAW has frequently had to convince both museum directors and ministries of culture that they should lend



Fig. 2

their national treasures to a forward thinking—but new—cultural institution in New York. It has been a challenging but rewarding task.

Over the past five years, my travels have taken me, sometimes with Shelby White, Roger Bagnall, and other faculty, to many countries, encountering little known but sometimes spectacular ancient material. As a result, we have now organized exhibitions with loans from not only from the Republic of Georgia and Kazakhstan, but also Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. Future exhibitions include potential projects with Israel, Jordan, Armenia, and beyond. In the process, we have established many institutional partnerships and brought to New York material that might otherwise have never been seen outside of their source countries.

As we move ahead we will continue to organize international loan exhibitions with the idea of illuminating the underrepresented cultures that inhabited the many and varied landscapes of the ancient world. We will also continue to work with a variety of partners; curatorial expertise can be found within the Department of Exhibitions, with outside specialists in a given field, and within our scholarly community. Partnering with national



Fig. 3

museums enables us to display objects from their permanent collections in a way that promotes our mission.

As director of the exhibition program, I am enormously grateful to all those who have participated in the curation and organization of our exhibitions; they have worked as a team to bring ISAW's founding vision to light with successful, highly praised exhibition projects. The following pages contain short summaries of the six exhibitions projects that our department has curated in our first five years.

**Wine, Worship, and Sacrifice: The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani**

March 12 – June 1, 2008

**Curatorial Team:** Jennifer Chi and Roberta Casagrande Kim (ISAW), Darejan Kacharava and Guram Kverkvelia (Georgian National Museum)

**Tour Venues:** Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Fitzwilliam Museum, Benaki Museum, Getty Villa



Fig. 4

*Vani* was the inaugural exhibition of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University. The display of more than 130 objects presented the spectacular finds excavated from elite graves at Vani, an important administrative and religious capital of the ancient kingdom of Colchis. Highlighting treasures from Vani's richest graves (Fig. 1), which date from the fifth to the fourth centuries BC, the exhibition featured a superb array of locally produced gold and silver jewelry, as well as silver drinking vessels, bronze sculpture, ceramics, glassware, and ritual objects, many of them imported from the city's eastern and western neighbors

-Ken Johnson, "Art in Review: Wine, Worship, and Sacrifice: The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani," *The New York Times*, March 14, 2008, E37.

**The Lost World of Old Europe: The Danube Valley, 5000-3500 BC**

November 11, 2009 – April 25, 2010

**Curatorial Team:** Jennifer Chi and Roberta Casagrande Kim (ISAW), David Anthony (Hartwick College), Dragomir Popovici (National Museum of History, Romania)



Fig. 5

**Tour Venues:** Ashmolean Museum, Cycladic Museum

This extraordinary exhibition brought to the United States for the first time more than 250 objects recovered from the graves, towns, and villages of "Old Europe." These interconnected prehistoric cultures, predating Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome, were ahead of their time in art, technology, and long-distance trade (Fig. 2). Located in what is now southeastern Europe, they achieved a precocious peak of sophistication and creativity between 5000 and 4000 BC. *The Lost World* redefined the commonly held notion of the development of Western civilization by presenting the surprising and little-known artistic and technological achievements of these still enigmatic peoples. The objects on display, on loan from more than 20 museums in Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova, featured the exuberant art, enigmatic "goddess" figurines, elaborate metal ornaments and weapons, and exquisite pottery from Old Europe.

-John Noble Wilford, "A Lost European Culture, Pulled From Obscurity," *The New York Times*, December 1, 2009, D1+.

**Before Pythagoras: The Culture of Old Babylonian Mathematics**

November 12, 2010 – January 23, 2011

**Curatorial Team:** Alexander Jones and Jennifer Chi (ISAW)

*Before Pythagoras* was the first exhibition to explore the world of Old Babylonian mathematics through cuneiform tablets covering the full spectrum of mathematical activity. Since the nineteenth century, thousands of tablets from the Old Babylonian Period (ca. 1900-1700 BCE) have come to light at various sites in ancient Mesopotamia. A significant number record mathematical tables, problems, and calculations that demonstrate surprisingly complex measurements of time and space. (Fig. 3). The cuneiform tablets on view illustrated three major themes: arithmetic exploiting a notation of numbers based entirely on two basic symbols; the scribal schools of Nippur; and advanced training. Many of the latter problems depended on principles that, before the rediscovery of the Babylonian tablets, were attributed to the Greeks of the sixth century BCE and after.

Nicholas Wade, "An Exhibition That Gets to the (Square) Root of Sumerian Math," *The New York Times*, November 23, 2010, D4.

Edward Rothstein, "Masters of Math, From Old Babylon," *The New York Times*, November 27, 2010, C1+.

**Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa**

March 11 – June 12, 2011

**Curatorial Team:** Jennifer Chi and Roberta Casagrande Kim (ISAW), Geoff Emberling (Independent)

The rich cultures of ancient Nubia, located in present-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan, were the subject of this exhibition. *Nubia* evoked the rise, fall, and re-emergence of Nubian power over the course of some 2,500

years. More than 120 objects, ranging from statues portraying kings to military weapons, jewelry, and pottery, illuminated the culture of ancient Nubia—particularly its volatile, complex relationship with Egypt—and revealed its remarkable and distinctive aesthetic tradition (Fig. 4).

The objects on view offered insights into Nubian cultures and history, illustrating such practices as craft production, burial, worship, and warfare, and revealing the ways in which Nubia was affected by ongoing contact with Egypt and other societies.

Karen Rosenberg, "Partnerships and Power Shifts Between Two Mighty Lands," *The New York Times*, March 25, 2011, C30.

**Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos**

September 23, 2011 – January 8, 2012

**Curatorial Team:** Jennifer Chi, Peter DeStaeblér, and Sebastian Heath (ISAW), Lisa Brody (Yale University Art Gallery).

*Edge of Empires* explored the ancient city of Dura-Europos, which stood at the crossroads of the Hellenistic, Persian, and Roman worlds for five centuries. This remarkable exhibition told the story of daily life in the city from the mid-second to mid-third century CE, when it thrived as a Roman military garrison. Dura, located in present-day Syria, was home to an unusually multicultural population that lived, worked, and worshipped side-by-side, speaking and writing in an exceptional variety of languages, practicing myriad religions, and hailing from across Eurasia (Fig. 5). Using a thought-provoking grouping of objects, *Edge of Empires* presented Dura's religious, linguistic, and cultural diversity through the presentation of 77 significant objects from the city, in addition to a display devoted to the history of archaeological excavation at the site.



John Noble Wilford, "A Melting Pot at the Intersection of Empires for Five Centuries," *The New York Times*, December 20, 2011, D3.

**Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan**

March 7 – June 3, 2012

**Curatorial Team:** Jennifer Chi, Peter DeStaeblér, Karen Rubinson, Sören Stark (ISAW), Zainolla Samashev (Institute of Archaeology, Kazakhstan)

**Tour Venue:** Freer and Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution

The first U.S. exhibition to provide a comprehensive overview of the nomadic culture of ancient Kazakhstan, *Nomads and Networks* dispelled the notion that these societies were less developed than their sedentary counterparts. With 250 objects on display, the exhibition revealed the ancient nomads to have been highly sophisticated, with strategic migratory routes and active networks of communication and cultural exchange with

their neighbors. Focusing on the Altai and Tianshan Mountain regions from roughly the eighth to first centuries BCE, *Nomads and Networks* told a vivid and illuminating story of nomadic life, its distinct patterns of movement, and the ways in which the artifacts were part of social and ritual activities. The objects in *Nomads and Networks* were borrowed from Kazakhstan's four national museums, and many were on view in this country for the first time. They ranged from bronze openwork stands, superbly decorated with animal and human figures; to petroglyphs marking important places in the landscape; to dazzling gold adornments that signified social status.

John Noble Wilford, "A Method to Ancient Nomads' Movements," *The New York Times*, March 13, 2012, D1+.

*Photo credits for pgs. 31-33 may be found in "Credits," pg. 47.*

# Facility and Library

## Diane Bennett

Associate Director for Administration

## Charles Jones

Head Librarian

### Building History

The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University is housed in an historic six-story limestone townhouse at 15 East 84th Street. Built in 1899 by Adam Lanfear Norrie, the four-story brick residence ran one and a half city lots. Behind the house stood a two-story stable, as well as a large formal garden; a brick squash court was added later. The property changed hands in 1927 and Ogden Mills Reid, editor-in-chief of the New York Herald-Tribune, added another story and a penthouse while redesigning the façade in the neo-Italian Renaissance style.

Acquired in 2004 by the Leon Levy Foundation as the future home of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, the building was again renovated, this time for academic use, with the goal of providing space for scholarly research and a doctoral degree-granting center, as well as an extensive program of colloquia, lectures, and exhibitions available to the public. A modern library was built of steel and glass in a three-story atrium in the north part of the building. Today the library offers naturally lit study spaces for scholars and provides access to the Institute's extensive collection of books and archives. The wood paneled library on the second floor was restored and provides a home to daily coffee and tea for the community as well as receptions in conjunction with lectures and exhibitions.

### The ISAW Library

In many ways the library space constitutes the most

radical transformation of the building from its residential origins to the academic facility it is today. By removing large components of the back of the building on the third, fourth, and fifth floors, and inserting a freestanding steel structure joined by stairs and reading rooms, four levels of new space were joined to three levels of the original building, imagined by Selldorf Architects as "interstitial space, a moment to ponder the whole of history and to see all of the books at once."

The practical considerations of collection development, organization, and storage, as well as an ever-increasing suite of service functions deployed in support of ISAW's growing and changing community of scholars, comfortably fit with the architectural vision for the Library. The cusp between the old and new spaces not only permeates its aesthetic impact, but also allows for ebb and flow of users and library materials between the stacks, reading spaces and individual workspaces.

Even before librarians were hired at ISAW, the Institute's initial acquisitions strategy of acquiring the collections of scholars by purchase or gift was in place. In Fall 2007 a team of cataloguers was seconded from the NYU Libraries technical services unit to put in order the mountains of boxes already collected, and establish the processes needed to smooth the inflow of books. The logistics and administrative decisions necessary to provide efficient access to ISAW scholars and visitors were made by Dawn Gross and, later, Charles Jones. Working in parallel and in partnership with ISAW's



Digital Initiatives Program, the Libraries team began to develop processes for dealing with networked information resources -- promoting and improving discoverability and access to the widest possible range of research tools and resources necessary for our mission.

The ISAW Library has acquired several notable private libraries, with strengths in Greek and Roman material culture and history, Egyptology, Mesopotamian Archaeology and Assyriology, Central Asia and Iran, and Asian Art. We are particularly grateful for the generous donation of the collections of eminent scholars Cornelius and Emily Vermeule (former curator of the Museum of Fine Arts and a Classics professor at Harvard, respectively) and Emma Bunker (authority on personal adornment in China, the art of the horse-riding tribes of the Eurasian Steppes, and Khmer art). Together these collections form a solid core upon which we continue to build. As we enter the next phase of the library's development, we will focus on supporting the needs of our now nearly complete faculty as well as on filling lacunae in the collections of the NYU library system.

The ISAW Library formally opened to the public at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester, with the first class of graduate students matriculating in Fall 2009. The

library staff continues to process a steady inflow of books, journals and digital publications, increasingly in specific support of the requirements of the growing faculty roster as well as seeking to fill gaps in our collection. The progress of the library and the nature and size of the collections we have acquired has been chronicled in the ISAW newsletters.

We continue to focus on the development of services. Books from other NYU collections may now be paged directly to ISAW and circulated to users here through an interlibrary loan program, we have a new (and heavily used) reserve system supporting the graduate teaching program at ISAW and other units of the university, and we assist patrons in accessing the Manhattan Research Libraries Initiative (MaRLI) partner libraries at Columbia and the New York Public Library, as well as the libraries of other New York institutions. From our opening in 2008 through February 2012, the ISAW library has added close to 20,000 titles to its collection. Since January 2011, we have circulated over 2,600 volumes from other units of the NYU library system. We serve not only ISAW's growing community of resident students, scholars, and faculty, but also those from other units of NYU who are discovering the unique resources we have put at their disposal.

# Digital Programs

## Tom Elliott

Associate Director for Digital Programs

## Charles Jones

Head Librarian

Central to ISAW's founding vision is the importance of libraries -- the accumulating knowledge of the scholarly communities which document and study antiquity. We see the physical space devoted to the library within ISAW as a metaphor for ISAW's information strategy. Our library space constitutes the most radical transformation of the building from its origins as residence to the excellent research facility it has now become. The magnitude of this transformation mirrors the dramatic technological and social changes that are remaking knowledge access, exchange, and creation around the world, not least in the areas of scholarly communication, collaboration, and publishing. ISAW's information strategy is built on the assumption that increasingly ubiquitous ways to use, create, and share information are essential to our success. Scholars must be able to exploit and contribute to the knowledge base from anywhere at any time, and must have the means and opportunities to hone the skills required to engage in these interactions as well as to take leading roles within the broad community of technologist-scholars building the future of digital Humanities.

In early discussions of the "perfect" library for ISAW's needs, Roger Bagnall and Charles Jones estimated the corpus of published antiquities scholarship to be in the neighborhood of a half million volumes. If we could have conjured up this library, we could house only a fraction of it on the shelves of the 84th Street facility. Offsite storage is costly and cumbersome and requires duplication and delivery systems to serve even the local ISAW community's needs. Facing this reality led us to

recognize our clear need to reach far beyond paper and engage with digital materials; both the growing body of born-digital scholarship itself and its potential for increasingly rapid, accurate, and context-sensitive discovery and reuse of information. Dr. Bagnall and Mr. Jones, now in collaboration with Tom Elliott, each brought to ISAW experience in projects devoted to such alternative forms of scholarly materials as microfilm and microfiche, digital libraries of various sizes, image banks, and archaeological, textual, and curatorial databases, among others. Their experience therefore has been essential in marshaling for our colleagues and the scholarly community worldwide not only traditional paper-based resources and accurate enhanced descriptive metadata, but also digital facsimiles of scarce works, born-digital monographs and serials, scholarly databases of varying kinds, and the plethora of experimental networked information resources now emerging as the World Wide Web enters its third decade.

Consequently, it was clear from their earliest discussions that existing and emerging digital initiatives must be the shared responsibility of the Library and the Digital Programs team staffs, no matter whether they involved digitization of existing scholarship or born-digital enterprises, or projects developed and nurtured under ISAW's oversight, or in the constellations of related efforts elsewhere. Together, both departments would support ISAW's mission to promote and improve discoverability and access to the widest possible range of tools and resources to uncover, record, and understand antiquity.



## Pleiades

Pleiades is an online historical gazetteer and more. It provides structured information about names and locations in time and their quality and provenance. Both individual users and other web applications use Pleiades as a common point of reference for geographic identification. Around this essential function, shared services -- such as mapping -- are arrayed. Pleiades was created by Tom Elliott and Sean Gillies at the Ancient World Mapping Center at the University of North Carolina. It was conceived as a way to digitize, maintain, and diversify the information base that supported the compilation of the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*. Tom and Sean brought Pleiades to ISAW in 2008, now a joint project with UNC. It currently provides information on about 35,000 ancient places through the efforts of a growing community of contributors, including Irene Soto and Nicola Aravecchia. It is also the focus of an international collaboration that aims to connect Pleiades data with digital systems at museums, libraries, and research centers worldwide.

## Papyri.info

Papyri.info allows users to search and browse over 80,000 ancient documents -- originally written in Latin,

Greek, and other languages -- that have been preserved on papyrus, ceramics, and other materials. The site provides images, texts, translations, and descriptions of these documents, as well as bibliographic citations for the array of print and digital scholarly works in which they have been published and discussed. This information has been assembled in digital form based on scholarly efforts around the world. The website also makes it possible for anyone to login and contribute their knowledge to the collective by adding new records or emending existing ones, with all changes vetted by an editorial board. It currently attracts 400 visitors per day and relies on 500 content contributors, including Roger Bagnall as senior editor and Alexander Jones, Zoë Misiewicz and Sabine Huebner.

## Ancient World Image Bank

Born at ISAW, the Ancient World Image Bank collects and distributes digital imagery of ancient sites and aims to support research, teaching, and publication. Members of the academic community donate imagery, which we catalog and distribute via Flickr.com under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution license, allowing royalty-free copying, sharing, and modification with proper attribution. So far, we have distributed over 2,500



images that are being used in classrooms, conference presentations, articles, books, and websites at ISAW and beyond. In 2011, we collaborated with Flickr.com to connect AWIB and Pleiades so that Pleiades users have direct access to site imagery and AWIB users are provided with appropriate historical and geographic context.

#### **Ancient World Digital Library and Book Viewer**

The Ancient World Digital Library (AWDL) comprises an interrelated set of initiatives intended to accelerate and enhance access to the emerging global library of open access digital publications on the ancient world. As currently conceived it has four basic components: the means to serve, preserve and, deliver scholarship to users, a corpus of digitized scholarship, a corpus of born-digital scholarship, and a curated collection encompassing the corpus of open access scholarship produced worldwide.

In partnership with the NYU Digital Libraries Program, AWDL is developing mechanisms to host and preserve

existing and newly contributed content without respect to digital condition or state of enrichment of its contents; our overriding objective is to make as much of the scholarly heritage of the relevant fields available to researchers as possible. In its current state, the AWDL Book Viewer allows us to deliver, without cost to the end user, digital versions of scholarly works, permitting them to search and link to these texts and associated images, as well as to download and exploit them in local digital environments in whatever way they choose. The book reader is under on-going development, integrating new utilities as they become available. A module allowing users to mark and annotate documents in a variety of ways will be available in the near future.

#### **Digitized Scholarship**

To test the developments and usability of the AWDL Book Viewer, we assembled a corpus of digitized volumes of Egyptological scholarship from the collections of the Stephen Chan Library of Fine Art at the Institute of Fine Arts. This collection extends and complements the growing body of digital versions of out

of copyright scholarship made available over the last twenty years. Future phases will include digital facsimiles of in-copyright volumes contributed by publishers who see the advantages of distributing their content in an interactive, enhanceable, open access environment.

#### **ISAW Papers**

*ISAW Papers* is an open content scholarly journal that publishes article-length works on any topic within the scope of ISAW's scholarly research. All works are distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution license and will be archived in the NYU Faculty Digital Archive (FDA). ISAW is collaborating with the NYU Libraries' Digital Library Technology Services team to deliver innovative digital versions through a richly linked online reader in harmony with the AWDL Book Viewer. Book-length manuscripts are made available both digitally and in paper form through NYU Press. (See "Publications," pg. 44 for a list of current and forthcoming publications.)

#### **The Ancient World Online**

The Ancient World Online (AWOL) provides broad access to the full corpus of open access scholarship on antiquity. Using freely available technology, AWOL seeks to develop an understanding of the quantity, quality, and stability of open access scholarship on antiquity. AWOL improves on the experience gained from creating Abzu, the longest lasting comprehensive effort to gain a broad understanding of any open access corpus in any discipline, led by Charles Jones since the early 1990s. Among other things, AWOL provides access to a growing list of periodicals focused on the study of antiquity, now over 1,000 titles. Many of these are long runs of regional, local, and institutional periodicals, which frequently publish primary archaeological and textual documents but which are exceedingly difficult for libraries to acquire. Together they create the core of a shared global library providing universal access to scholarship. Over 4,000 individuals are subscribed to receive emails on new material.

#### **Outlook**

This portfolio of projects illustrates the range of information initiatives ISAW expects to expand and enhance in the coming years, spanning engagement with primary textual and visual materials, traditional and innovative forms of output from research and analysis, and reusable, structured reference data. We expect to continue the rapid pace we have set from the beginning in this area, for, in addition to the projects outlined above, others suggested by ISAW faculty are in varying stages of discussion, design, and planning.

The nature of these projects illustrate our commitment to broad and deep connections between information resources in our collection, whether produced in-house, extramurally, or as part of multi-institutional collaborations. This commitment depends not only on social and intellectual positions, but also on the selection and implementation of appropriate technologies. In this regard, our information strategy embraces Linked Open Data (LOD), a method for publishing structured data on the World Wide Web, first proposed in 2006 by Tim Berners-Lee, the Director of the World Wide Web Consortium. The LOD approach builds on two complementary ideas. First, we put our information online in such a way that a person can explore it all with a web browser by clicking on the links (in other words: users don't have to know what to search for!). Second, we structure our data using standard formats so that computer programs can retrieve and process it without human intervention. This allows third parties to reuse our data and build their own resources around it. We are working toward mature LOD publications that are released under open licenses, use stable, simple web addresses to uniquely identify each data record and referenced concept, and provide rich links to similar identifiers in other complementary or related resources. These provisions ensure free, universal access to all of ISAW's digital initiatives as well as the highest probability of reuse, interoperability, and longevity.

# Lectures and Events

## Academic Events

ISAW's academic event calendar has grown prodigiously each year, from four events our first year to over 40 in the current academic year. Our events include lectures by faculty and visiting scholars based both at ISAW and at around the world, as well as workshops, colloquia, panels, and conferences.

## Leon Levy Lecture

Just a few weeks after ISAW officially opened its doors in 2007, the inaugural Leon Levy Lecture launched ISAW into the public arena. The annual lecture is held in honor of Leon Levy, the late husband of ISAW's founder Shelby White, in memory of his passion for expanding knowledge, the power of ideas, and a just and equitable society. It takes place each fall with an accompanying reception. Distinguished speakers to date include Glen Bowersock (Institute for Advanced Study), Mario Liverani (University of Rome, La Sapienza), Nicola di Cosmo (Institute for Advanced Study), Francesca Rochberg (Berkeley), and Marianne Bergmann (emeritus University of Göttingen). The upcoming Fall 2012 Leon Levy Lecture will be given by Michael Puett (Harvard).

## M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

The Rostovtzeff series was named for the Russian ancient historian who emigrated to the U.S. after the Russian Revolution and taught many years at Yale University as Sterling Professor of Ancient History. Rostovtzeff's prodigious energies and sprawling interests led him to write on an almost unimaginable range of subjects. This series embodies ISAW's aspirations to foster work that crosses disciplinary, geographical, and chronological lines, and is being endowed by a gift from

Roger and Whitney Bagnall. The four-part lecture series takes place annually in the spring and has featured Martin Kern (Princeton), David Wengrow (University College, London), and Elizabeth S. Bolman (Temple). Each series will be edited for print and published by Princeton University Press.

## Conferences and Workshops

ISAW has hosted a variety of conferences, workshops, and colloquia over the past five years, organized by our faculty, visiting research scholars, senior fellows, and other distinguished scholars from around the world. Notable past programs include:

*The Sarcophagus: East and West*, organized by ISAW Advisory Board Member Wu Hung and his University of Chicago colleague Jas' Elsner in October 2009, featured sixteen scholars from both European and Asian studies with the goal of presenting comparative observations and interpretations of decorated stone sarcophagi from both regions around the second century BCE to the third century CE in order to encourage new ways of thinking about the development of art and visual culture across the ancient world.

In March 2011, ISAW Senior Fellow Norman Yoffee (emeritus University of Michigan) organized *A World of Cities* at which scholars presented research on the varied urban developments across the world, from Mesoamerica to Southeast Asia, from Andean civilization to Mesopotamia.

Visiting Research Scholars Jonathan Ben-Dov and Seth Sanders organized a conference on *Ancient Jewish*



*Sciences and the History of Knowledge* in April 2011 which sought to examine the influence of disciplines such as astronomy, astrology, cosmology, divination, and physiognomy, among others, on Judaism and to bridge the histories of ancient science with those of later, even early modern traditions.

Alexander Jones brought together a group of mathematicians and history of science scholars for his conference *A Mathematician's Journeys: Otto Neugebauer between History and Practice of the Exact Sciences*. The conference coincided with the exhibition at ISAW *Before Pythagoras: The Culture of Old Babylonian Mathematics*, which Professor Jones co-curated with Christine Proust, herself a visiting scholar alumna.

Numerous ISAW workshops include *The Materiality of Divine Agency in Cross-Cultural Perspective* organized by Beate Pongratz-Leisten, and *Sedentary Answers to Nomadic Policies between China and Iran, 1st Millennium AD*, organized by Sören Stark. Hosted in a seminar room setting, these events provide an arena for intense discussion and debate that is difficult to accomplish with scholars spread across the world or in more formal conference settings.

## Lectures

Participants in ISAW's visiting scholar program give public lectures on their topic of study during their ISAW tenure, offering the wider academic and New York City communities a sampling of the variety of chronological, geographic, and cultural areas under our umbrella. Guest lectures from schools and institutions across the globe are also frequently included in our semester programs; recent guest lectures have been given by Wu Hung (University of Chicago), Gonzalo Rubio (Penn State), and Deborah Klimburg-Salter (University of Vienna), among others.

ISAW is also pleased to host several lectures each year for the New York chapters of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), and the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). Additionally, ISAW co-sponsors two events per year with The American Turkish Society; the most recent featured a panel of speakers on current conservation issues in Turkey. We have also hosted various events for The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The general academic lecture calendar is supplemented by exhibition-related lectures and tours, and has also provided cultural context for our exhibitions through musical evenings and film screenings.

# Publications

## Publications

The ISAW website, [isaw.nyu.edu](http://isaw.nyu.edu), is the first stop for information on all of ISAW's people, events, exhibitions, current news, and further information on ISAW programs. The website also contains information on our doctoral and visiting scholar programs, and links to our various online and hardcopy publications.

## ISAW Newsletters

Published annually since 2008 and biannually since 2011, the ISAW Newsletters keep the public informed of happenings within our community. Features include new publications by ISAW community members, new academic appointments, event and exhibition previews, alumni updates, and more. In addition to the print version, electronic copies of each issue are available on the ISAW website.

## ISAW Papers

An open-content scholarly journal that publishes article-length works on any topic within the scope of ISAW's scholarly research. Sebastian Heath, Research Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies, serves as managing editor. Continually updated information is on our website.

Alexander Jones and John M. Steele. "A New Discovery of a Component of Greek Astrology in Babylonian Tablets: The 'Terms.'" *ISAW Papers 1* (2011). <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/1>.

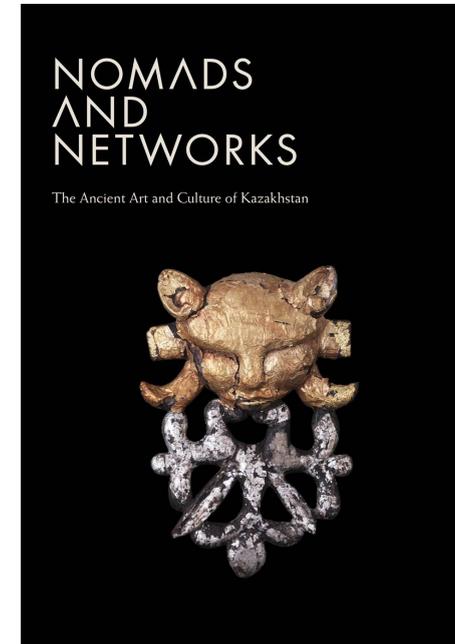
**Forthcoming** (titles subject to change):

Catharine Lorber and Andrew Meadows. "Review of Ptolemaic Numismatics, 1996 to 2007." *ISAW Papers 2*. To be available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/2>.

Gilles Bransbourg. "Rome and the Economic Integration of Empire." *ISAW Papers 3*. To be available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/3>.

Tony Freeth and Alexander Jones. "The Cosmos in the Antikythera Mechanism." *ISAW Papers 4*. To be available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/4>.

Adam C. McCollum. "A Syriac Fragment from The Cause of All Causes on the Pillars of Hercules." *ISAW Papers 5*. To be available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/5>.



## Additional Digital Publications

Roger S. Bagnall and Giovanni Ruffini. *Amheida I. Ostraka from Trimithis, Volume 1: Texts from the 2004-2007 Seasons*. New York: Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and New York University Press, 2011. Available as part of NYU's Ancient World Digital Library at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/amheida-i-otrim-1>. In print from NYU Press.

## M.I. Rostovtzeff Lectures

The lectures given as part of ISAW's annual M.I. Rostovtzeff lecture series, will be published in sets by Princeton University Press.

## Forthcoming titles include:

Martin Kern. *Authorship, Tradition, and Performance in Early China*. (Rostovtzeff Lectures 2010)

David Wengrow. *The Origin of Monsters: Image, Cognition, and State Formation in the Ancient World*. (Rostovtzeff Lectures 2011)

Elizabeth S. Bolman. *Shifting Narratives in Egyptian Christian Visual Culture*. (Rostovtzeff Lectures 2012)

## Exhibition Publications

ISAW's Exhibition Department supplements their exhibits with gallery pamphlets and exhibition catalogues. The titles below correspond with the related exhibition title unless otherwise noted.

## Catalogues:

*Wine, Worship, and Sacrifice: The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani*. By Darejan Kacharava and Guram Kvirkvelia. Jennifer Y. Chi, ed. With contributions by Anna Chqonia, Nino Lordkipanidze, and Michael Vickers. Published by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World with Princeton University Press, March 2008. Also published in Greek for the Benaki Museum, Athens.

*The Lost World of Old Europe: The Danube Valley, 5000-3500 BC*. David W. Anthony with Jennifer Y. Chi, eds. With contributions by Douglass W. Bailey, Catalin Bem, Veaceslav Bicbaev, John Chapman, Cornelia-Magda Lazarovici, Ioan Opris, Ernst Pernicka, Dragomir Nicolae Popovici, Michel Louis S  f  riad  s, and Vladimir Slavchev. Published by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World with University Press, November 2009.

*Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa*. By Geoff Emberling. Published by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University, March 2011. Distributed by Princeton University Press.

*Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos*. Jennifer Y. Chi and Sebastian Heath, eds. With contributions by G.W. Bowersock, Gaelle Coqueugnot, S  gol  ne de Pontbriard, Jean Gasco, Sebastian Heath, Pierre Leriche, and Thelma K. Thomas. Published by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University, September 2011. Distributed by Princeton University Press.

*Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan.* Sören Stark and Karen S. Rubinson with Zainolla S. Samashev and Jennifer Y. Chi, eds. With contributions by Nursan Alimbai, Nikolay A. Bokovenko, Claudia Chang, Bryan K. Hanks, Sagynbay Myrgabayev, Karen S. Rubinson, Zainolla S. Samashev, Sören Stark, and Abdesh T. Toleubaev. Published by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and Princeton University Press, March 2012.

**Gallery Pamphlets:**

*Wine, Worship, and Sacrifice: The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani.* March 2008.

*Guide to Ceramics.* November 2009. (produced for *The Lost World of Old Europe: The Danube Valley, 5000-3500 BC* )

*Numbers on Clay.* By Alexander Jones, November 2010. (produced for *Before Pythagoras: The Culture of Old Babylonian Mathematics*)



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**Exhibitions object photos:**

*Fig. 1* (pg. 31)- Gold Headdress Ornament with openwork decoration. Vani, second half of 4th century B.C. Photo: Georgian National Museum.

*Fig. 2* (pg. 32)- The 'Thinker' and Female Figurine from Cernavoda. Fired Clay. Hamangia, Cernavoda, 5000–4600 BC. National History Museum of Romania, Bucharest: 15906, 15907. Photo: Marius Amarie.

*Fig. 3* (pg. 32)- Yale Babylonian Collection YBC 7289, an Old Babylonian "hand tablet" illustrating Pythagoras' Theorem and an approximation of the square root of two. Clay, 19th-17th century BCE. Photo by West Semitic Research.

*Fig. 4* (pg. 33)- Hathor-headed Crystal Pendant. Gold and rock crystal, H. 5.4 cm, D. 3.3 cm, El-Kurru, 750–720 BC (Napatan Period, reign of Piye). Harvard University—Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition: 21.321. Photography © 2011 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

*Fig. 5* (pg. 33)- Ceiling Tile with Portrait of Heliodoros, an Actuarius (Roman Fiscal Official). Clay with a Layer of Painted Plaster, H. 30.5 cm, W. 44.0 cm, D. 6.7 cm; from the House of the Scribes, Dura-Europos, 200–256 CE. Yale University Art Gallery, Yale-French Excavations at Dura-Europos: 1933.292. Photography © 2011 Yale University Art Gallery.

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