

ELLEN F. MORRIS

Department of Classics and Ancient Studies
Barnard College, Columbia University
219b Milbank Hall, 3009 Broadway
New York City, New York 10027

emorris@barnard.edu
Phone: (212) 854-6023
Fax: (212) 854-7491

253 West 102nd Street, Apt. 4
New York, NY 10025

Phone: 347-301-7773

Current as of April 15, 2025

Degrees in Higher Education

- 1993-2001 Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; concentration in Egyptian Archaeology with a minor in Near Eastern Studies. Dissertation: "The architecture of imperialism: An investigation into the role of fortresses and administrative headquarters in New Kingdom foreign policy." Dissertation advisor: David Silverman.
- 1987-1991 B.A., Barnard College, Columbia University; major in Ancient Studies. Graduated *cum laude* and with departmental honors.

Professional Experience in Higher Education

- 2024-present Professor, Department of Classics and Ancient Studies. Barnard College, Columbia University.
- 2020-2024 Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Ancient Studies. Barnard College, Columbia University.
- 2012-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Ancient Studies. Barnard College, Columbia University.
- 2008-2012 Clinical Assistant Professor of Egyptology at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and Director of Academic Programs for Archaeology and History in Egypt, an NYU semester abroad program.
- 2008 Director of Academic Programs for the Columbia University Excavations at Amheida and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University (*Less than full-time. I taught for Columbia in Egypt from January to February*).
- 2007-2008 Jane and Morgan Whitney Art History Fellow in The Department of Egyptian Art, the Metropolitan Museum.
- 2006-2012 Visiting Associate Research Scholar in the Anthropology Department, Columbia University.

- 2005-2006 Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University. (*Less than full-time*)
- 2004-2005 Lecturer in the Department of Classics, Ancient History, and Egyptology, University of Wales Swansea. (Equivalent to U.S. Assistant Professor; resigned after a year and a half when my husband and I were offered teaching positions at Columbia University).
- 2002-2003 Visiting Assistant Professor in the Near Eastern Studies Department and Andrew J. Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.
- Mar-Jun 2002 Visiting Lecturer in Egyptian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Chicago.
- Jan-May 2000 Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.

Research Interests

Comparative imperialism; climate change; famine; social memory; state formation and the early state; performances of power and sexuality; political fragmentation and social unrest

Academic and Professional Honors

- 2020-2023 Awarded a Tow Professorship for Distinguished Scholars and Practitioners
- 2019, 2020 Selected as a speaker for the National Lecture Program of the Archaeological Lecture Program of the Archaeological Institute of America.
- 2019 Awarded a Gladys Brooks Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from Barnard College.
- 2019 Elected Faculty Marshal by the Barnard class of 2019 for commencement.
- 2018, 2019 Honorable mention for the Emily Gregory Teaching Award, Barnard College.
- 2007-2008 Jane and Morgan Whitney Art History Fellowship in The Department of Egyptian Art, the Metropolitan Museum.
- 2002-2003 Andrew J. Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.
- 1995-Present Fellow in the Louis J. Kolb Society of Fellows. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.
- 1994 Felix Korsyn Prize in Egyptology, Philadelphia Foundation.

Books

- 2023 *Famine and Feast in Ancient Egypt*. Elements – Ancient Egypt in Context. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2018 *Ancient Egyptian Imperialism*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell Press.
- 2005 *The Architecture of Imperialism: Military Bases and the Evolution of Foreign Policy in Egypt's New Kingdom*. Probleme der Ägyptologie 22. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2024 How to tell “moving” stories of female captivity in the ancient world.” In *Migration and Mobility in the Ancient Near East and Egypt—the Crossroads IV. Proceedings of an International Conference Held in Prague, September 19-22, 2022*, ed. J. Mynářová, L. Bertolini, F. Zangani. Columbus, GA: Lockwood Press, 125-151.
- 2023 On the fringe benefits of life in the shatter zones of Egypt's Empire. In *Power and Identity at the Margins of the Ancient Near East*, ed. S. Mohr, S. Thompson. Denver: University Press of Colorado, 159-180.
- 2023 Reassessing the value of autobiographical inscriptions from the First Intermediate Period and “pessimistic literature” for understanding Egypt's social history. In *Ancient Egyptian Society: Challenging Assumptions, Exploring Approaches*, ed. D. Candelora, N. Ben-Marzouk, and K. Cooney. New York: Routledge, 265-278.
- 2022 Daggers and axes for the queen: considering Ahhotep's weapons in their cultural context. In *The Treasure of the Egyptian Queen Ahhotep and International Relations at the Turn of the Middle Bronze Age (1550 B.C.)*, eds. G. Miniaci and P. Lacovara. Middle Kingdom Studies 11, London: Golden House Productions, 165-186.
- 2020 Machiavellian masculinities: historicizing and contextualizing the “civilizing process” in ancient Egypt. *Journal of Egyptian History* 13.1-2. Special Issue: “Egyptology and Global History,” 127-168.
- 2020 Writing trauma: Ipuwer and the curation of cultural memory. In “*An Excellent Fortress for His Armies, a Refuge for the People*”: *Egyptological, Archaeological, and Biblical Studies in Honor of James K. Hoffmeier*, eds. R. E. Averbeck and K. L. Younger, Jr. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press/Eisenbrauns, 231-252.
- 2019 Ancient Egyptian exceptionalism: fragility, flexibility and the art of not collapsing. In *The Evolution of Fragility: Setting the Terms*, ed. N. Yoffee. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 61-87.
- 2018 Théorie insulaire et affordances des oasis du désert égyptien, translated by Lise Garond. In *Mer et désert de l'Antiquité à nos jours: visions croisées*, ed. G. Tallet and T. Sauzeau. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 63-90.

- 2017 Middle Kingdom clappers, dancers, birth magic, and the reinvention of ritual. In *Company of Images: Modelling the Imaginary World of Middle Kingdom Egypt (2000-1500 BC)*, ed. Gianluca Miniaci, Marilina Betrò, Stephen Quirke. Leuven: Peeters Publishers, pp. 285-335.
- 2017 Prevention through deterrence along Egypt's northeastern border. Or the politics of a weaponized desert. *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 5.2: 133-147.
- 2015 Egypt, Ugarit, the god Ba'al, and the puzzle of a royal rebuff. In *The Crossroads II, Or There and Back Again. Proceedings of an International Conference on the Relations of Egypt and the Near East in the Bronze Age, Prague 15-18, 2014*, ed. J. Mynářová. Prague: Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Arts, pp. 315-351.
- 2015 Exchange, extraction, and the politics of ideological money laundering in Egypt's New Kingdom Empire. In *Policies of Exchange: Political Systems and Modes of Interaction in the Aegean and the Near East in the 2nd Millennium B.C.E., Proceedings of the International Symposium at the University of Freiburg Institute for Archaeological Studies, 30th May-2nd June 2012*, ed. B. Eder and R. Pruzsinszky. Oriental and European Archaeology, v. 2. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, pp. 167-190.
- 2014 Mitanni enslaved: prisoners of war, pride, and productivity in a new imperial regime. In *Creativity and Innovation in the Reign of Hatshepsut*, eds. J. Galán, B. M. Bryan, and P. F. Dorman. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 361-379.
- 2014 (Un)Dying loyalty: meditations on retainer sacrifice in Ancient Egypt and elsewhere. In *Violence and Civilization: Studies of Social Violence in History and Prehistory*, ed. Rod Campbell. Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp. 61-93.
- 2013 Propaganda and performance at the dawn of the state. In *Experiencing Power, Generating Authority: Cosmos, Politics, and the Ideology of Kingship in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia*, ed. J. A. Hill, et al. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum Press, pp. 33-64.
- 2011 Paddle dolls and performance in Ancient Egypt. *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 47: 71-103.
- 2010 Insularity and island identity in the oases bordering Egypt's Great Sand Sea. In *Thebes and Beyond: Studies in Honour of Kent R. Weeks*, ed. Zahi Hawass and Salima Ikram. Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, pp. 129-144.
- 2010 The pharaoh and pharaonic office. In *The Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt*, ed. A.B. Lloyd. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 201-217.

- 2010 Opportunism in contested lands, B.C. and A.D. Or how Abdi-Ashirta, Aziru, and Padsha Khan Zadrar got away with murder. *Millions of Jubilees: Studies in Honor of David Silverman, vol. I*, ed. Zahi Hawass and Jennifer Houser Wegner. Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, pp. 413-438.
- 2007 Sacred and obscene laughter in *The Contendings of Horus and Seth*, in Egyptian inversions of everyday life, and in the context of cultic competition. In *Egyptian Stories: A British Egyptological Tribute to Alan B. Lloyd*, ed. Thomas Schneider and Kasia Szpakowska. Alter Orient und Altes Testament Series. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, pp. 197-224.
- 2007 On the ownership of the Saqqara mastabas and the allotment of political and ideological power at the dawn of the state. In *The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of David B. O'Connor, vol. II*, ed. Zahi Hawass and Janet Richards. Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, pp. 171-190.
- 2007 Sacrifice for the state: royal funerals and the rites at Macramallah's Rectangle. In *Performing Death. Social Analyses of Ancient Funerary Traditions in the Mediterranean*, ed. Nicola Laneri. Chicago: Oriental Institute, pp. 15-37.
- 2006 Bowing and scraping in the Ancient Near East: an investigation into obsequiousness in the Amarna Letters. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65: 179-195.
- 2006 Lo, Nobles Lament, The Poor Rejoice. State Formation in the Wake of Social Flux. In *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies*, ed. Glenn Schwartz and John Nichols. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 58-71.

Exhibition Catalogue Entries and Book Reviews

- 2007 Review of M. H. Feldman, *Diplomacy by Design: Luxury Arts and an "International Style" in the Ancient Near East, 1400-1200 B.C.E. Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49.2: 488-490.
- 2003 Review of S. L. Cohen, *Canaanites, Chronologies, and Connections. The Relationship of Middle Bronze IIA Canaan to Middle Kingdom Egypt. Journal of the American Oriental Society* 122.4: 66-67.
- 2002 Review of C. R. Higginbotham, *Egyptianization and Elite Emulation in Ramesside Palestine. Religious Studies Review* 28.4: 365.
- 2001 Review of D. J. Brewer and E. Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians. Journal of African History* 42, no. 1: 117-118.
- 2000 "Seals." In *The Genesis of Flight: The Aeronautical History Collection of Colonel Richard Gimbel*. Published by The Friends of the United States Airforce in association with University of Washington Press. Produced by Perpetua Press, Los Angeles, pp. 312-325. (co-authored with Holly Pittman).

- 1997 Entries: “Ex-voto to Ptah and Sekhmet,” “Lintel with Winged Sun Disk,” “Swimming Girl and Lotus Box,” and “Vase in the Shape of a Lutenist.” Catalogue entries in *Searching for Ancient Egypt: Art, Architecture and Artifacts*, ed. D.P. Silverman. Dallas: Dallas Museum of Art.

Classes Taught

Major’s seminar on Punic and Roman Tunisia (+ an attached travel component), Barnard College, Fall 2025. ANCS/GREK/LATN UN3996. Classics and Ancient Studies. Major capstone seminar.

Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Nubia, Barnard College, Fall 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2025. CLCV UN3101. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate lecture.

Egypt in the Classical World. Barnard College, Spring 2018, 2019, 2025; Fall 2022. CLCV UN2441. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate lecture.

Classical Studies Research Seminar. Columbia University, Spring 2023, 2025. CLST 9000. Classical Studies. Graduate seminar.

Identity and Society in Ancient Egypt. Barnard College, Fall 2012, 2016, 2018, 2024. CLCV UN3535. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate lecture.

Reacting to the Past. Barnard College, Fall 2024. FYSB BC1601. First Year Foundation. First Year Seminar. Undergraduate seminar.

Mapping the Ancient Novel: Affordances, Precarities, and Predilections. Spring 2024. Barnard College, CLCV BC3001. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate seminar.

Ethnicity, Race, and Power in the Ancient Mediterranean. Spring 2024. Barnard College, CLCV BC3000. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate seminar.

The Archaeology of Crisis: The Collapse of the Late Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean World. Barnard College, CLCV UN3333, Fall 2020. Undergraduate seminar. Fall 2023 undergraduate lecture.

Classical Studies Research Seminar. Columbia University, Spring 2023. CLST 9000. Classical Studies. Graduate seminar.

Egypt in the Classical World. Barnard College, Spring 2018, 2019; Fall 2022. CLCV UN2441. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate lecture.

Ethnicity, Race, and Power in East Africa. Barnard College. Intensive format, Spring 2021. CLCV BC3000. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate seminar.

Society and Environment in the Ancient Mediterranean World. Barnard College, CLCV GU4440, Intensive format Fall 2020, Semester format Fall 2022. Classics and Ancient Studies. Graduate & undergraduate seminar.

Cities and Sanctuaries of Late Period and Greco-Roman Egypt. Columbia University, Summer 2019. CLST GR8001. Classical Studies. Graduate Traveling Seminar.

Scholars of Distinction 1st and 2nd Year Seminar. Barnard College, SODB X1111, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019; Spring 2018, 2019, 2020. Special College Program. Undergraduate seminar.

Egypt in the Classical World. Barnard College, Spring 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020. CLCV GU4411. Classics and Ancient Studies. Mixed graduate and undergraduate lecture.

On Dreams and Nightmares. Barnard College, Fall 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019; Spring 2014, 2018. FSYB BC1465. First Year Seminar.

Archaeology of the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Southern Levant. Barnard College, Spring 2016, 2017. CLCV UN3992. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate seminar.

Ancient Cities: Urbanism in the Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Worlds. Barnard College, Fall 2013. CLCV GU6066. Classics and Ancient Studies. Graduate seminar.

The Archaeology of Egypt's Nile Valley. New York University, Spring 2009, 2010. V27.9356. Classics, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, and History. Undergraduate. Taught as a traveling seminar in Egypt.

The Oases of Egypt. Columbia University, Spring 2008. History 4004y; New York University, Springs 2009, 2010, 2011. V27.9355. Classics, Middle Eastern Studies, and History. Undergraduate. Taught as a seminar in Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt.

Cultures and Contexts: Egypt of the Pharaohs. New York University, Fall 2010, 2011. MAP V55.0545. Classics. Undergraduate lecture.

A Cultural History of Ancient Egypt. New York University, Fall 2009. V77.0614. Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Undergraduate lecture.

Cities, Settlements, and Spiritual Centers in Ancient Egypt. New York University, Spring 2011. V27.0291.001. Classics. Undergraduate seminar.

Ancient Egyptian Studies: Methods and Practice. New York University, Spring 2011. V27.0291.002 Classics. Undergraduate seminar.

Literature, Love Poetry and Lamentations in Ancient Egypt. New York University, Fall 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. V50.0407. Freshman Honors Seminar.

The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt. Columbia University, Spring 2006. Anthropology V3060y. Undergraduate lecture.

Archaeology and the Archaic State. Columbia University, Fall 2005. Anthropology W4006x. Mixed graduate and undergraduate seminar.

Imperialism under the Pharaohs. University of Wales Swansea, Winter 2005. Classics and Egyptology 324. Undergraduate lecture.

Mortuary Culture in Ancient Egypt. University of Wales Swansea, Winter 2005. Classics and Egyptology M38. Graduate seminar.

Egyptian Town and Country. (Explored issues relating to Egyptian settlements and urbanism). University of Wales Swansea, Fall 2004. Classics and Egyptology 318. Undergraduate lecture.

Egyptian Art and Architecture. University of Wales Swansea, Winters 2004, 2005. Classics and Egyptology 220. Undergraduate lecture.

Egyptian History. University of Wales Swansea, Winter 2004; Fall 2004. Classics and Egyptology 114; Classics and Egyptology 104; Classics and Egyptology 110. Undergraduate lecture.

Problems and Practice in Egyptian Material Culture: Village Life in Deir el Medina. (Co-taught with Dr. Kasia Szpakowska). University of Wales Swansea, Winter 2004. Classics and Egyptology 312. Undergraduate seminar.

State and Empire in the Ancient Near East. (Compared and contrasted the structure of New Kingdom Egyptian, Hittite, Neo-Assyrian, and Persian political control). University of Michigan, Winter 2003. Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies 291. Mixed graduate and undergraduate lecture.

Divine Kingship in Ancient Egypt. University of Michigan, Fall 2003. Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies 491. Mixed graduate and undergraduate seminar.

Egypt and Canaan in Ancient Times. University of Michigan, Fall 2002. Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies 491. Mixed graduate and undergraduate lecture.

Art and Archaeology of the Near East – Egypt. University of Chicago, Spring 2002. Near Eastern Languages and Cultures 30201. Mixed graduate and undergraduate lecture.

Problems in Egyptian Archaeology: Ancient Egypt/ Modern Theory. (Explored the interface between Egyptian data sets and questions of broad theoretical interest). University of Chicago, Spring 2002. Near Eastern Languages and Cultures 30201. Graduate seminar.

Early Civilizations. (Compared and contrasted state formation and florescence in Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, the Mesoamerican Lowlands, the Mesoamerican Highlands, and the Andes). University of Michigan, Winter 2000. Anthropology 386. Undergraduate lecture.

Conference Presentations and Lectures

- 2025 “The good, the bad, and the ugly: cross-cultural comparison in Egyptology.” In *Whither Global Antiquity? Retrospection and Future Directions*. UCLA Global Antiquities Symposium. Los Angeles, April 10. Invited.
- 2025 “Culture contact, cultic conflations and the many afterlives of the Lady and Lord of Byblos.” Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies. Ithaca, March 20. Invited.
- 2025 “Some uses and abuses of cross-cultural comparison in Egyptology.” In *Ancient World(s): Multi-disciplinary Approaches to Comparison in Ancient Studies*. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. New York, February 28. Invited.
- 2024 “After Ozymandias: Why the Third Intermediate Period should not be considered a colossal failure.” In the session *What Happened after Collapse? A Panel Discussion on After 1177 BC*. ASOR Annual Meeting. Boston, November 21. Invited.
- 2024 “Was Akhenaten’s foreign policy heretical?” In *A One-Day Bragança Endowed Symposium: The Amarna Letters*. George Washington University. Washington, D.C., November 17. Invited.
- 2024 “Why burn your nursling? On the cultural logics of syncretism.” In the session *Syncretism/Antisyncretism*. Theoretical Archaeology Group. Santa Fe, May 22. Invited.
- 2023 “How to tell ‘moving’ tales of female captivity in the ancient world.” *Ancient Studies Workshop*, University of Chicago. Chicago, May 9. Invited.
- 2023 “Famine and feast in ancient Egypt.” *American Research Center in Egypt, Pennsylvania Chapter*. Philadelphia, April 15. Invited.
- 2022 “Reassessing the value of autobiographical inscriptions from the First Intermediate Period and “pessimistic literature” for understanding Egypt’s social history.” In *Investigating Ancient Societies: Challenging Assumptions, Exploring Approaches II*. ASOR Annual Meeting. Boston, November 19. Invited.
- 2022 Presentation and dialogue with artist Cheryl Edwards and LaNitra Berger as part of *African Dolls – A Scholarly Talk*. In conjunction with the *Cast/Recast* exhibit at George Mason University. Delivered virtually, November 10. Invited.

- 2022 “Telling ‘moving’ tales of women in contested lands: musings and methodologies.” Keynote Address. Crossroads IV – Migration and Mobility in the Ancient Near East and Egypt. Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Prague, September 19. Invited.
- 2022 “Of feasts and famines: strategies for preserving counterfactual memory in ancient Egypt.” Presentation for the themed seminar on catastrophes, Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. Delivered virtually, May 11. Invited.
- 2022 “Famine and festival in ancient Egypt.” American Research Center in Egypt, Washington D.C. Chapter. Delivered virtually, April 27. Invited.
- 2022 “Report on recent fieldwork at Deir el-Ballas 2022.” Columbia Center for Archaeology Mini-Conference. New York City, February 25. Invited.
- 2021 “Elite anxiety and the production of counterfactual memory in ancient Egypt.” Keynote Address. Rethinking the Crisis: Opportunities and Perceptions in Historical Transformations from Antiquity to Today, University of Pisa. Delivered virtually, November 29. Invited.
- 2021 “World upside down: revolution, famine, and social memory in pharaonic Egypt.” Helene J. Kantor Memorial Lecture in Near Eastern Archaeology. National lecture, Archaeological Institute of America, Montreal Society. Delivered virtually, January 26. Invited.
- 2020 “The *Civilizing Process* and the Machiavellian aims of the state in pharaonic Egypt.” Panel: Authoritarianism. ASOR Annual Meeting. Delivered virtually, November 22. Invited.
- 2020 Respondent for Ancient Propaganda: Claim, Truth, and Persuasion, ASOR Annual Meeting. Delivered virtually, November 13. Invited.
- 2019 “Climate refugees and armed emigration to Egypt in the Late Bronze Age.” Center for the Ancient Mediterranean Displaced Communities Workshop, Columbia University. New York City, November 8. Invited.
- 2019 “World upside down: revolution, famine, and social memory in Bronze Age Egypt.” Columbia Classics Colloquium, Columbia University. New York City, October 25. Invited.
- 2019 “Exploring the reverberations of social revolution in times of famine in Egypt’s material worlds and cultural memory.” New York University Institute of Fine Arts Ancient Art and Archaeology speakers series, NYU. New York City, October 24. Invited.

- 2019 “On the fringe benefits of life in the shatter zones of Egypt’s empire.” At the Margins. Interconnections of Power and Identity in the Ancient Near East, Brown University. Providence, October 4. Invited.
- 2019 “Militarism, Machiavelli, and the social history of daggers in Ancient Egypt.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Alexandria, VA, April 12.
- 2018 “Daggers, militarism, and the evolving culture of death on the Nile from the Predynastic Period until the birth of the New Kingdom.” Ways of Seeing, Ways of Reading, 2 : Aesthetics and Anthropology of Arms and Armor, Columbia University. New York City, October 19. Invited.
- 2018 “Surviving the (pharaonic) state at the edges of empire, c. 1350 BCE.” Archaeological Institute of America Baltimore Society. Baltimore, October 12. Invited.
- 2018 “Evading the Amarna pharaohs: subversion in the land of Canaan.” Archaeological Institute of America Westchester Society. Mamaroneck, NY, September 30. Invited.
- 2018 “Hungering for revolution: food crises, political instability, and the ousting of authority in Egypt and its empire.” Ancient Mediterranean Revolutions: A Conference to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology. Berkeley, September 7. Invited.
- 2018 “Outwitting the State, c. 1350 BCE.” Egyptological Society of New York. New York City, June 22. Invited. A slightly modified version of the same talk was presented as part of the Dixon Summer Archaeology Lecture Series. Dixon, NM, August 9. Invited.
- 2018 “Ancient Egyptian exceptionalism and the art of not collapsing.” American Research Center in Egypt Illinois Chapter. Chicago, May 5. Invited.
- 2018 “Base aspirations: an exploration into the purpose of Egypt’s military headquarters in Canaan.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Tucson, April 20.
- 2017 “Fragility and flexibility in early Egypt.” The Evolution of Fragility Conference. J. Paul Getty Museum and McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Los Angeles, December 3. Invited.
- 2017 “Prevention through deterrence BCE: structural violence on Egypt’s Eastern Border.” Panel: Concepts of Violence in Ancient Egypt. American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Kansas City, April 22. Invited.
- 2017 “Prevention through deterrence BCE: Pharaonic border control and the structural violence of a weaponized desert.” Annual ANSE Lecture for Near Eastern Studies Department at Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, April 6. Invited.

- 2017 “Merneptah and the temple of Ba’al at Ugarit.” American Research Center in Egypt Orange County Chapter. Santa Ana, February 11; Egypt Exploration Society of Southern California. Los Angeles, February 11; American Research Center in Egypt, North California Chapter. Berkeley, February 12. Invited.
- 2016 “Middle Kingdom clappers, dancers, birth magic, and the reinvention of ritual.” American Research Center in Egypt, Pennsylvania Chapter. Philadelphia, December 10. Invited.
- 2016 “Alligators in the moat: pharaonic and Ptolemaic border control policy and the politics of a weaponized desert.” Colloquium, Department of Classics, Columbia University. New York City, November 15. Invited.
- 2016 “Ancient Egyptian border control and the violence of a weaponized desert.” Penn State’s Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies Speakers’ Series. University Park, October 28. Invited.
- 2016 “Middle Kingdom clappers, dancers, birth magic, and the reinvention of ritual.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Atlanta, April 16.
- 2016 “Middle Kingdom clappers, dancers, birth magic, and the reinvention of ritual.” Lecture co-sponsored by the American Research Center in Egypt and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. New York City, February 16. Invited.
- 2015 “Island theory and desert ‘isles’ on the shores of Egypt’s Great Sand Sea.” Junior Faculty Talk, Barnard College. New York City, December 7. Invited.
- 2015 Keynote lecture: “Psychogeography and the ancient city” and respondent’s paper. Bright Lights — Big City: The Development and Influence of the Metropolis. Tenth Biennial Graduate Group Symposium, Bryn Mawr College. Bryn Mawr, November 13 and 14. Invited.
- 2015 “Retainer sacrifice in Ancient Egypt and elsewhere—three crucial questions.” Voices of the Dead: A Global Perspective on the Archaeology of Death. The Tenth Annual Kolb Senior Scholars Colloquium. The University of Pennsylvania Museum. Philadelphia, October 23. Invited.
- 2015 “Egypt, Ugarit, the god Ba’al, and the puzzle of a royal rebuff.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Houston, April 26.
- 2015 “Island theory and the affordances of Egypt’s desert oases.” The Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop. The University of Chicago. Chicago, April 9. Invited.
- 2014 “Temples and empire.” Crossroads II, Or There and Back Again. International Conference. Faculty of Arts, Charles University. Prague, September 15. Invited.

- 2014 “Clappers and the wielding of female ritual power in Egypt’s Middle Kingdom.” Company of Images: Modeling the Ancient Egyptian Imaginary World of the Middle Kingdom (2000-1600 BC). International Conference. Institute of Archaeology, University College London. London, September 19. Invited.
- 2014 “The role of the gods in imperial money laundering.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Portland, OR, April 4.
- 2014 “Prisoners of war and the eros of empire in Egypt’s New Kingdom.” University of Memphis. Memphis, February 7. Invited.
- 2013 “Island theory and the affordances of Egypt’s desert oases.” Sea and Desert from Antiquity to the Modern Era: Intersecting Perspectives. International Symposium, Université de Limoges. Limoges, November 7. Invited.
- 2013 “Sacrificial rites and rationales in Ancient Egypt.” Philadelphia chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt. Philadelphia, June 1. Invited.
- 2013 “Meditations on retainer sacrifice.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, April 19.
- 2013 “Oases as desert islands, as devil’s islands, and as isles of the blessed.” Society for American Archaeology Session: The Archaeology of Non-literal Islands. Honolulu, April 5. Invited.
- 2013 “Of human bondage in Ancient Egypt.” Barnard Center for Research on Women. New York City, March 28. Invited.
- 2013 “Prisoners of war and imperial pride in New Kingdom Thebes.” AIA-APA Colloquium: Empire and Cross-Cultural Interaction in Egypt: A Diachronic Perspective. Archaeological Institute of America Meetings. Seattle, January 4. Invited.
- 2012 “Imperialism and the sacralization of exchange and extraction: exploring Egypt’s employment of Levantine temples in the New Kingdom.” Policies of Exchange: Models of Political Systems and Modes of Interaction in the Aegean and the Near East in the 2nd Millennium BC. International Symposium, Institute for Archaeological Studies, University of Freiburg. Freiburg, May 31. Invited.
- 2012 “Dancers, flashers, and “fertility” figurines in Old and Middle Kingdom Egypt.” Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University. New York City, February 24. Invited.
- 2012 “New discoveries in an old town in Egypt’s Dakhleh Oasis.” An Evening of Archaeology, Archaeological Institute of America. New York City, February 7. Invited.

- 2011 “Priestesses, paddle dolls, and performance in Ancient Egypt.” Archaeological Institute of America, New York Society lecture. New York City, May 7. Invited.
- 2010 “Prisoners of war, pride, and productivity in a new imperial regime.” The Theban Symposium: Creativity and Innovation in the Reign of Hatshepsut. Grenada, Spain, May 6. Invited.
- 2010 “Occupation at Amheida in Dakhleh Oasis from Prehistory until the end of the First Intermediate Period.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Oakland, April 24.
- 2010 “Excavations at Amheida: The 2010 season: the sigma feature.” Co-presented with Roger Bagnall, et al. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. New York City, April 19. Invited.
- 2009 “Activities at Amheida from Prehistory until the First Intermediate Period.” Dakhleh Oasis Project’s Sixth International Conference “New Perspectives on the Western Desert of Egypt. Lecce, Italy, September 21.
- 2009 “The idol-smasher is doubly mad.” Society for American Archaeology Session: Iconoclasm and the Archaeology of Violence Toward Images. Atlanta, April 25. Expanded version given in a session of the same name at the Theoretical Archaeology Group. Stanford, May 2. Invited.
- 2009 “Paddle dolls and performance.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Dallas, April 26.
- 2008 “Imperial achievement embodied. The practical and political employment of prisoners of war in mid-Eighteenth Dynasty Egypt.” Harvard interdepartmental lecture series. Cambridge, December 1. Invited.
- 2008 “Ritual killing, metaphor, and the exchange of identities between humans and animals in Late Predynastic Egypt” and “Introduction” to the session Ritual Killing—Humans, Animals, Objects. Theoretical Archaeology Group. New York, May 25. Session organizer.
- 2008 “Islands of the blessed, devil’s isles, and other oasis identities in Egypt’s Great Sand Sea.” Egyptological Seminar of New York, April 11. Invited.
- 2008 “Insularity, connectivity, and island identity in the oases of Egypt’s Great Sand Sea.” Annual Korsyn Lecture in Egyptology for the American Research Center in Egypt’s Pennsylvania chapter. Philadelphia, March 13. Invited.
- 2008 “The archaeology of bodies — bejeweled, tattooed, and truncated.” Metropolitan Museum of Art 2008 Fellows Colloquia. New York City, March 11.

- 2008 "Collaborators, insurgents, warlords, and refugees in Canaan under the reign of the Sun." Merneptah: The Pharaoh who Mentioned Israel. Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education Symposium. New York City, March 2. Invited.
- 2007 "The archaic foundations of Egyptian kingship." Cosmos and Politics in the Ideology of Kingship in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. Penn Museum International Research Conference Program. Philadelphia, November 6. Invited.
- 2007 "(Un)Dying loyalty: meditations on retainer sacrifice." Society for American Archaeology Session: Violence and Civilization. Austin, April 26. Invited.
- 2007 "The performative value of Hathor's anasyrmenê and other flashes of insight." American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Toledo, April 21.
- 2007 "On plagues, pleas, and priorities in Akhenaten's empire." Amarna: New Research and Discoveries in the Age of Akhenaten and Tutankhamun. University of Pennsylvania Museum Symposium. Philadelphia, March 31. Invited.
- 2006, 2007 Four lectures delivered on the theme of politics and foreign relations as part of a seminar entitled "Egypt and the Ancient Near East in the Time of Tut." Biblical Archaeology Society Seminar. Ft. Lauderdale, February 3-4 (2006); Chicago, June 23-24 (2006); May 25-27 (2007). Invited.
- 2006 "A tale of two warlords: opportunism in contested lands, B.C. and A.D." Borders and Boundaries. First Annual Kolb Senior Conference. Philadelphia, November 3. Invited.
- 2006 "Conquest, colonialism, and conversion in the Second Millennium B.C." The Making of Memory: Space, Performance, Appropriation. Third Annual German-American Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, sponsored by the American Philosophical Society. Philadelphia, October 13. Invited.
- 2006 Respondent's paper for The Walls of the Ruler: Fortifications, Police Beats, and Military Checkpoints in Ancient Egypt. University of Wales Swansea International Conference. Swansea, May 25. Co-organized conference.
- 2006 "Power and sacrifice in First Dynasty Egypt." Society for American Archaeology Conference. San Juan - Puerto Rico, April 29.
- 2006 "Mitanni tamed: the entrance and acculturation of particularly prized prisoners of war during the mid-Eighteenth Dynasty." Columbia University Seminar on the Ancient Near East. New York City, April 24. Invited.
- 2006 "Human sacrifice, pageantry, and power at the dawn of the Egyptian state." Performing Death: Social Analyses of Funerary Traditions in the Ancient Mediterranean. Oriental Institute Symposium. Chicago, February 17. Invited.

- 2006 “Vassals and violence: the Levant under Egypt’s Amarna Period pharaohs.” Jewish Community Center Archaeology Lecture Series. New York City, January 30. Invited.
- 2005 “Sacrifice at Saqqara: First Dynasty tombs and the distribution of power in the immediate aftermath of state formation.” Friends of the Egypt Centre. Egypt Centre, University of Wales Swansea. Swansea, July 20. Invited.
- 2005 “Human sacrifice and state formation. Saqqara, Abydos, and questions of power in Egypt’s First Dynasty.” Oriental Institute seminar, Oxford University. Oxford, May 31. Invited.
- 2004 “Calculated cow-towing in vassal correspondence and the question of Egyptian treaty-making.” Foreign Relations and Diplomacy in the Ancient World. Rhodes, December 5.
- 2004 “Exotica tamed: the fate of one particular group of foreign captives in the reign of Thutmose III.” International Conference of Egyptologists. Grenoble, September 11.
- 2004 “Imperial footprints and domestic policy during Egypt’s New Kingdom.” University of Liverpool SAOC lecture. Liverpool, April 22. Invited.
- 2003 “‘Lo, nobles lament, the poor rejoice.’ Social order inverted in First Intermediate Period Egypt.” Society for American Archaeology Session: After Collapse – The Regeneration of Complex Societies. Milwaukee, April 12. Invited.
- 2003 “Sekhemkasedj and sixty sacrificed retainers? Archaic mastabas at the dawn of the Egyptian state.” Dallas chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt. Dallas, February 22. Invited.
- 2003 “Reformation politics and the practicalities of imperial visibility: New Kingdom Egypt c. 1300 B.C.” University of Michigan Department of Anthropology archaeology lecture series. Ann Arbor, January 23. Invited.
- 2002 “Sacrifice at Saqqara: First Dynasty tombs and the distribution of power in the immediate aftermath of state formation.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Baltimore, April 26.
- 2001 “Re-exploring the Ways of Horus.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Providence, April 27.
- 1999 “Gods, cats, and mummies: ancient Egyptian religion as seen through the lens of the Public Museum’s Egyptian collection.” Opening talk for the Public Museum of Grand Rapids “Mysteries of Egypt” exhibition. Grand Rapids, December 4. Invited.
- 1999 “Reformation politics and the transformation of the Syro-Palestinian frontier.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Chicago, April 24.

- 1998 “Bowling and scraping in the ancient Near East: an investigation into obsequiousness in the Amarna Letters.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, April 26.
- 1997 “Puzzling out prisoners of war in the reigns of Ramesses II and Thutmose III.” American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Ann Arbor, April 11.
- 1996 “The consequences of conquest: a foreign population's entrance and acculturation into ancient Egyptian society.” Society for Biblical Literature/American School of Oriental Research Meetings. New Orleans, November 26.

Excavation Experience

- Jan-Feb 2022 Excavator, Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund mission to Deir el-Ballas, Egypt. Director: Peter Lacovara.
- Dec 2021 Excavator, Penn Expedition to Abydos, Wahsut, Egypt. Director: Josef Wegner
- Jan-Feb 2010 Excavator. Excavations at Amheida, Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt. Directors: Paola Davoli and Roger Bagnall.
- Feb 2009 SubDirector. Survey to locate Pre-Roman material culture in the environs of the settlement of Amheida. Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt. Directors: Paola Davoli and Roger Bagnall.
- July 2003 Surveyor. Contracted survey for the New Mexico Forest Service. Carson National Forest, Ranchos de Taos, NM. Director: Severin Fowles.
- Sept-Feb 2001 Surveyor and lab assistant, Pot Creek Archaeological Project, Environs of Pot Creek Pueblo, Ranchos de Taos, NM. Director: Severin Fowles.
- July-Aug 1999 Excavator, Pot Creek Archaeological Project, Pot Creek Pueblo and the Archuleta Site, Ranchos de Taos, NM. Director: Severin Fowles.
- May-June 1997 Excavator, Penn-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Abydene temples of Thutmose III. Director: Mary Ann Pouls Wegner.
- July-Aug 1997 Excavator, Penn-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period town site. Director: Josef Wegner.
- June-Aug 1996 Excavator, Akhenaton Temple Project, Mendes. Director: Donald Redford.
- Mar-May 1996 Excavator, Penn-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Osiris temple precinct. Director: Mary Ann Pouls Wegner.

June-July 1995 Student, University of Arizona Archaeological Field School, Bailey Ruin, Pottery Hill, and Huff's Great Kiva, AZ. Director: Barbara Mills.

Dec 1992 Field Assistant, Berkeley Theban Mapping Project, King's Valley Tomb 5, Egypt. Director: Kent Weeks.

Museum Experience

1999-2000 Visiting Assistant Curator, Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Duties included research, dating, and panel copy composition for objects in the museum's collection as part of the "Mysteries of Egypt" exhibit, now on permanent display.

1999-2000 Visiting Assistant Curator, Kelsey Museum of Art and Archaeology. Duties included facilitating cooperation between the Kelsey Museum and the University of Michigan with the Public Museum of Grand Rapids.

1997-1998 Curatorial Assistant, Kelsey Museum of Art and Archaeology.

1993-1995 Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

1992-1993 Research Assistant, Egyptian Section, American University in Cairo, Egypt.

1991-1992 Intern, Egyptian Section of the Brooklyn Museum.