

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY – FALL 2020**



***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Fall 2020 program will be held remotely. We hope you can join us for these virtual events featuring speakers from California, the UK, and Greece! Specific information for registering for and accessing the Webinars will be sent via email about a week in advance of the lecture date.



JOUKOWSKY LECTURE

Sunday, September 13th, 2020
11:00 a.m. PDT

Dr. Rebecca Flemming

Senior Lecturer in Classics (Ancient History), Cambridge University

Having Babies in Antiquity: Promotion, Planning, and Intervention

Though modern studies of reproduction in the ancient Mediterranean world have tended to focus on possibilities of prevention or limitation, the main aim of individuals and families in antiquity was to have healthy children and keep them healthy in circumstances of very high infant mortality. Family continuity – the transmission of name and cult, identity and property – mattered to everyone, not just those with substantial patrimonies. This lecture explores the archaeological evidence for these generative endeavors in ancient Greece and Rome, from funerary inscriptions for midwives to votive wombs, infertility remedies to birthing amulets, fetal skeletal remains to feeding bottles. All stages in the procreative process – conception, pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and infant care – made their impact on the material record, and that record reveals certain patterns in contemporary understanding and action, puts the emphasis on specific issues and interventions. Drawing all the material together demonstrates the high level of social and personal investment in producing and maintaining offspring and raises interesting questions about agency and control.



Monday, October 19th, 2020
6:00 p.m. PDT

REPORTS FROM THE (VIRTUAL) FIELD

Jordan Brown

(Graduate Student, UC Berkeley, Anthropology)

Trent Trombley

(Graduate Student, UC Berkeley, Anthropology)

Rebekah McKay

(Graduate Student, UC Berkeley, Classical Archaeology)

In celebration of International Archaeology Day (Saturday, October 17th, 2020) join us to hear how three graduate students in Classics and Anthropology adapted their summer research in the face of the international COVID-19 crisis. Scattered across the plains that stretch from the Tigris to the Zagros Mountains, great earthen mounds mark the sites of ancient cities. These man-made hillocks are not the only sort of anthropogenic topography in the heart of ancient Assyria. Three millennia of hydraulic engineering have littered the plains with the traces of canals and other waterworks, with profound hydrological effects. Jordan Brown will discuss how remote sensing and quantitative geomorphology offer insight into the aims and long-term effects of these water resource management strategies. Trent Trombley will present preliminary results of a bioarchaeological research project on municipally excavated human remains conducted in response to urban development projects in Santarém, Portugal, to better understand the role of religion and funerary rites in the Portuguese middle ages. Preliminary results showcase the vibrancy with which differing religious communities approached death and burial, and how such practices affected the social, urban, and religious dimension of the city during the middle ages. Finally, Rebekah McKay will discuss the Nemea Virtual Field Season's efforts to organize and interpret excavation data from a decade ago. In analyzing the forms, catalogs, and notebooks from the 2010-2012 field seasons centered around the Hero Shrine of Opheltes at the Sanctuary of Zeus in Nemea, the team was able to interpret the evidence of centuries of labor dedicated to the construction and maintenance of the shrine including the formation, and re-formation, of a large "tumulus" mound and feats of engineering aimed at mitigating the destructive effects of the nearby Nemea River.



Sunday, November 15th, 2020
10:00 a.m. PST

Dr. Vassiliki Pliatsika

Curator of Antiquities, National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece

Mycenaeans at Play: A Unique Assemblage from Mycenae and Some Thoughts on Mycenaean Board Gaming

Although play is included among the basic human needs, this aspect of the Mycenaean culture has never been systematically studied. This lecture will present an extraordinary assemblage, found inside the citadel of Mycenae, featuring the largest collection of cone shells known from the Late Bronze Age Aegean world. Through an analysis of the context and an evaluation of the comparative evidence from the Eastern Mediterranean, the Mycenae find is interpreted in association with board gaming activities, providing unique insight into the Mycenaean play.



We are excited to announce that our society received an AIA Outreach Grant to host an event titled “Putting the Past in the Hands of the Future: 3D Objects, Archaeology, and Education.”

We will partner with local elementary and middle school students to explore how 3D printed objects can help teach about cultural heritage. Stay tuned for more information in Spring 2021.

OTHER EVENTS AND LECTURES OF INTEREST IN FALL 2020

AHMA Noon Colloquium Series

<http://ahma.berkeley.edu/ahma-noon-colloquium>

Ancient Art Council Lectures

All lectures will be virtual until further notice. Zoom links to follow at:

<https://www.ancientartcouncil.org/>.

September 19th, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Kim Shelton, UC Berkeley

“If you build it, they will come” The construction and care of Nemean hero worship

October 3rd, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Jessica Blum-Sorensen and Dr. Nathan Dennis, USF

Round Table: Ancient Democracy, the Present Moment, and the Future of a Political Ideal

November 7th, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Carol Redmount, UC Berkeley

Plagues, Pestilence, and Pandemics: Disease in El Hibe

December 5th, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Carey Perloff, American Conservatory Theater

Rehearsed Reading of *Euripides’ Bacchae*

For more information on:

UC Berkeley Archaeological Research Facility virtual Brown Bags, Presentations, and Workshops see: <https://arf.berkeley.edu/>.

AHMA Noon Colloquium Series, email emackil@berkeley.edu

Ancient Arts Council events, information and/or membership, see <http://www.ancientartscouncil.org> or email ancientart@famsf.org.

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Northern California Chapter events, see <http://www.arce.org/chapters/northerncalifornia/home>.



If you have not already registered with the AIA online membership system that was launched in October 2019, you can do so at <https://archaeological.site-ym.com/login.aspx>. You are now able to change or renew your membership, maintain your profile, update your contact information, check your membership expiration date, and more all online through this platform!



NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL:

The SF Society newsletter is available for download from: <http://archaeological.org/societies/sanfrancisco>. This website also lists the AIA lectures.

2020-2021 AIA Officers:

Kim Shelton, President; Deborah Anderson, Vice President and Treasurer; Sophie Cushman, Program Coordinator; Louise Chu, FAMSF Liaison; Rebekah McKay, Entertainment Chair; Elizabeth Keyser, Publicity

AIA Executive Advisory Committee:

James Barter, Elizabeth S. Peña

For information on Fall AIA events or your membership, contact Debbie Anderson (408.489.2054, dwanders@sonic.net) or Kim Shelton (sheltonk@berkeley.edu)