

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY - SPRING 2015**



Wednesday, February 4th, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Lisa Maher

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology,
University of California, Berkeley

***Reconstructing House and Home in Prehistory: Hunter-Gatherer
Interactions at an Aggregation Site in Eastern Jordan***

In Southwest Asia only a handful of prehistoric sites attest to the aggregation of hunter-gatherer groups including evidence of individual dwellings, tents or hut structures. Palaeolithic huts are depicted as mere ephemeral shelters, rather than as places 'built' into a landscape with meaning beyond refuge from the elements. Dating from ca. 21,000-18,000 yrs cal BP, Kharaneh IV, in eastern Jordan, covers more than 21,000 m², making it an exceptionally large and dense Epi-Palaeolithic site. The site served as an aggregation center for hunter-gatherer groups from throughout the region, and dense, repeated occupation of the site over almost a thousand years led to the formation of a complicated, high-resolution stratigraphic record of site use. The Epipalaeolithic Foragers in Azraq Project (EFAP) examines the evidence for Epi-Palaeolithic structures in Southwest Asia, offering insights into the complex 'functions' of hut or tent-like structures and reconstructing the way hunter-gatherers built and used places and spaces. The well-preserved site contains hut structures, hearths, living surfaces, middens, and human burials. The incredible size of Kharaneh IV, as well as a richness of stone tools, fauna, worked bone objects, red ochre, marine shell beads, and charcoal remains, provide a rare opportunity to reconstruct evidence for long-term occupation, house construction and use, food surpluses (storage and feasting), long-distance interaction networks, treatment of the dead, and caching of utilitarian and symbolic objects by these hunter-gatherer groups. Since 2010 we have focused excavations at the site on several hut structures, using a variety of analytical methods to document the activities of prehistoric groups at the site. Well-preserved hut structures are incredibly rare at Palaeolithic sites in this region, yet are providing exciting data on how hunter-gatherers were settling into and modifying their landscape in Southwest Asia 20,000 years ago. We reconstruct these activities to explore the idea that hunter-gatherers had "homes" that included both hut structures and broader social landscapes.



THE NEMEA CENTER LECTURE

Monday, March 16th, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Effie Athanassopoulos

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Classics,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Landscape Archaeology and the Medieval Countryside: Nemea in Context

In the past three decades intensive archaeological landscape projects in Greece have produced a rich, diachronic record of rural settlement and land use. The diachronic scope of these projects has opened up new opportunities for the study of the 12th and 13th centuries, the transition from the Middle to Late Byzantine period. Many regional surveys have identified remnants of settlement and ceramics dating to this period; the regional patterns may differ but the emerging picture is clear, there is a proliferation of sites and off-site material which must reflect dense habitation as well as the intense level of agricultural activity during this time. In addition, the widespread distribution of diagnostic glazed wares in the rural landscape indicates increased availability, which may reflect changes in the organization of ceramic production, from centralized to dispersed. The archaeological evidence suggests that glazed pottery in the Middle-Late Byzantine period was produced in regional workshops located in urban as well as rural areas. These developments fit well with the centrifugal economic trends, the territorial shrinking of Byzantium and the growth of urban centers and rural settlement during this period. This presentation will conclude with an overview of the archaeological evidence from Nemea, advocating for an integrated approach that blends archaeological (surface survey, excavation) and historical perspectives.



THE KRESS LECTURE

Tuesday, April 14th, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Yannis Galanakis

Lecturer, Department of Classics,
University of Cambridge

Revisiting the Grave: Post-funeral Performances in Late Bronze Age Aegean Tombs

Mortuary data forms one of the primary sources for studying the Late Bronze Age in the Aegean. It is often, however, examined in isolation from the complex, multi-staged processes and performances that made up the funeral and everything that followed it, given that the most popular tomb types, the tholos and chamber tombs, were used for multiple burials. The depositional sequence of these actions is most frequently overlooked, not least because of practical difficulties in identifying and reconstructing these events and the ephemeral and often ambiguous nature of the evidence. Despite these limitations, however, there are many clues, both

direct – in the form of residual remains – and indirect – in the form of purposefully destroyed things – that hint at a whole range of funerary and post-funerary actions, involving the bodies and bones of those previously interred as well as the objects placed with them in the graves.

This lecture revisits the methodologies used in the identification of these actions and the interpretations that have been put forward to explain the post-funeral manipulation of bones and objects in Late Bronze Age tombs. ‘Essential’ as these actions may have been, because of the reuse of the tombs, scholarship may have actually conflated different sets of information to produce a rather homogeneous picture that is still extensively used in the reconstruction of ‘Mycenaean burial customs’. These post-funeral actions, however, may have actually entailed a number of different performances, which formed part of multi-staged episodes and of a more complex and nuanced web of social practice than previously thought.

OTHER EVENTS AND LECTURES OF INTEREST IN SPRING 2015

AHMA Noon Colloquium Series

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

Ancient Art Council Lectures

All lectures held at the Florence Gould Theater at the Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Saturday, February 21st, 2:00 p.m.

J. Theodore (Ted) Peña, Professor of Roman Archaeology, Department of Classics, University of California, Berkeley

“Tracing the Life History of Objects at Pompeii”

Saturday, March 21st, 2:00 p.m.

David Silverman, Eckley Brinton Coxe, Jr. Professor of Egyptology, and Curator, Egyptian Section, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania

“Ancient Egyptian Masterpieces: Sculpture in Wood”

Saturday, May 9th, 2:00 p.m.

Barry Powell, Halls-Bascom Professor of Classics Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Origins of Mythic Representation in Greek Art”

American Research Center in Egypt Lectures

Except for the September lecture, all lectures are held in Room 110 Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley

Sunday, February 15th, 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Nicholas Reeves, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Lecture to be Announced

Sunday, March 1st, 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Nigel Strudwick, University of Memphis

“Tomb Robbers of Thebes”

Sunday, April 19th, 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Aidan Dodson, University of Bristol

“Afterglow of Empire: The Third Intermediate Period”

Sunday, May 10th, 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Greg Marouard, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

“The Harbor of Khufu on the Red Sea Coast”

For more information on:

AHMA Noon Colloquium Series, email caroline.cheung@berkeley.edu or edris@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>.

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL:

The SF Society newsletter is available for download from:

<http://archaeological.org/societies/sanfrancisco>. This website also lists the AIA lectures.

2014-2015 AIA Officers:

Kim Shelton, President; Deborah Anderson, Vice President and Treasurer; Lissette Jimenez, Program Coordinator; Louise Chu, FAMSF Liaison; Maddisen Ravalin, Entertainment Chair; Isabelle Pafford, Publicity Chair

AIA Executive Advisory Committee:

James Barter, Elizabeth S. Peña

For information on Spring AIA events or your membership, contact Debbie Anderson (408-489-2054, dwanders@sonic.net) or Kim Shelton (sheltonk@berkeley.edu)