Dr. Stephen Mandal co-directs the excavations being conducted by the Blackfriary Community Archaeology Project (BCAP) at Blackfriary, a late Medieval, Dominican friary in the town of Trim, County Meath. Founded by Geoffrey de Generville, Lord of Trim, in 1263, the historical significance of the Blackfriary is evidenced in its choice as the location for a meeting of Irish bishops in 1291.

Today the site, located in a field within a residential neighborhood, is covered in grass and scrub. Despite centuries of neglect, the ruins of the friary remain largely intact as a series of hummocks, or low mounds, below the surface.

Since 2010 BCAP has been working to expose and rejuvenate the Blackfriary and its historical significance.

In his lecture, Dr. Mandal will discuss BCAP’s efforts, including the results of recent excavations that are providing important and fascinating insights into medieval life in Trim. He will also discuss the innovative approaches to public archaeology and heritage interpretation that are being undertaken at the site.

**EXCAVATIONS AT THE MEDIEVAL SITE OF BLACKFRIARY, IRELAND**

Dr. Stephen Mandal is an expert on Irish landscape, archaeology, and history. After receiving his Ph.D. in Geoarchaeology from Trinity College in Dublin, Mandal spent two years as a post-doctoral research fellow and lecturer in the Archaeology Department at University College Dublin. Mandal is Vice Chairperson of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Archaeology, a professional member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, and the European Federation of Professional Geologists. In 2013 he was appointed to an European committee to review cultural heritage tourism across the European Union. Mandal has undertaken research at numerous sites, including the Hills of Tara and Slane, Newgrange, Loughcrew, and Trim. He regularly lectures on a wide range of archaeological, geoarchaeological and heritage topics in University College Dublin and Portobello College.

In 2011, the Archaeological Institute of America’s Site Preservation Program gave an award to Dr. Mandal and his colleagues to support their innovative work at Blackfriary.