

ELLEN F. MORRIS

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

emorris@barnard.edu
Phone: (212) 854-2597
Fax: (212) 854-7491

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.
- 1987-1991 B.A., Barnard College, Columbia University; major in Ancient Studies. Graduated *cum laude* and with departmental honors.
- 1989-1990 Year abroad, The American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Research Interests:

Ancient Egyptian imperialism; state formation and the early state; performances of power and sexuality; interplay of Egyptian data and anthropological theory; political fragmentation

Academic Appointments:

- 2012-Present 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.
- 2007-2008 Jane and Morgan Whitney Art History Fellow in The Department of Egyptian Art, the Metropolitan Museum.
- Director of Academic Programs for the Columbia University Excavations at Amheida and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University.
- 2006-2012 Visiting Associate Research Scholar in the Anthropology Department, Columbia University.
- 2005-2006 Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University.
- 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.

Books:

- 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.
- Under contract *Ancient Egyptian Imperialism*. Oxford: Blackwell.
(This is an explicitly anthropological investigation of pharaonic imperialism).

Articles and Book Chapters:

- In press Exchange, extraction, and the politics of ideological money laundering in Egypt's New Kingdom Empire. *Policies of Exchange: Models of Political Systems and Modes of Interaction in the Aegean and the Near East in the 2nd Millennium BC*, ed. B. Eder and R. Pruzsinszky. Austrian Academy of Sciences.
- In press (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. Providence: Joukowski Institute Publications.
- In press Mitanni enslaved: prisoners of war, pride, and productivity in a new imperial regime. In *Creativity and Innovation in the Reign of Hatshepsut*, eds. J. Galan, P. F. Dorman, and B. M. Bryan. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 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.
- 2010a 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.
- 2010b The pharaoh and pharaonic office. In *The Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt*, ed. A.B. Lloyd. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 201-217.

- 2010c Opportunism in contested lands, B.C. and A.D. Or how Abdi-Ashirta, Aziru, and Padsha Khan Zadran 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.
- 2007a 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.
- 2007b 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.
- 2007c 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.
- 2006a Lo, nobles lament, the poor rejoice. Social order inverted in First Intermediate Period Egypt. In *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies*, ed. Glenn Schwartz and John Nichols. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 58-71.
- 2006b Bowing and scraping in the Ancient Near East: an investigation into obsequiousness in the Amarna Letters. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65: 179-195.

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.
- 2003a Review of L. Meskell, *Private Life in New Kingdom Egypt and Archaeologies of Social Life. Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 88: 264-265.
- 2003b 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*. Pp. 312-325. Published by The Friends of the United States Airforce in association with University of Washington Press. Produced by Perpetua Press, Los Angeles. (Ellen Morris and Holly Pittman, co-authors).
- 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.

Invited Presentations:

- 2013 "Sacrificial Rites and Rationales in Ancient Egypt." Philadelphia chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt. Philadelphia, June 1.
- 2013 "Oases as desert islands, as devil's islands, and as isles of the blessed." Society for American Archaeology Session: The Archaeology of Literal Islands. Honolulu, April 5.
- 2013 "Of Human Bondage in Ancient Egypt." Barnard Center for Research on Women. New York City, March 28
- 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.
- 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.
- 2012 "Dancers, flashers, and "fertility" figurines in Old and Middle Kingdom Egypt." Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University. New York City, February 24.
- 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.
- 2011 "Priestesses, paddle dolls, and performance in ancient Egypt." Archaeological Institute of America, New York Society lecture. New York City, May 7.
- 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.
- 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, April 19.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2007 “(Un)Dying loyalty: meditations on retainer sacrifice.” Society for American Archaeology Session: Violence and Civilization. Austin, April 26.
- 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.
- 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).

- 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.
- 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.
- 2006 Respondent's paper for The Walls of the Ruler: Fortifications, Police Beats, and Military Checkpoints in Ancient Egypt. (co-organizer of conference as well). University of Wales Swansea International Conference. Swansea, May 25.
- 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.
- 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, February 17.
- 2006 "Vassals and violence: the Levant under Egypt's Amarna Period pharaohs." Jewish Community Center Archaeology Lecture Series. New York City, January 30.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2004 "Imperial footprints and domestic policy during Egypt's New Kingdom." University of Liverpool SAOC lecture. Liverpool, April 22.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

Presentations:

- 2013 "Meditations on Retainer Sacrifice." American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, April 19.
- 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.
- 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 "Paddle dolls and performance." American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Dallas, April 26.
- 2007 "The performative value of Hathor's anasyrmenê and other flashes of insight." American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Toledo, April 21.
- 2006 "Power and sacrifice in First Dynasty Egypt." Society for American Archaeology Conference. San Juan - Puerto Rico, April 29.
- 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.
- 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 "Reformation politics and the transformation of the Syro-Palestinian frontier." American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting. Chicago, April 24.
- 1998 "Bowing 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 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. Duties included research, display case design, composition of panel copy, composition of an archival photo book of excavations at Karanis and Selucia for the “Egypt and the Ancient Near East” exhibit, now on permanent display.
- 1993-1995 Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Duties included research and collection work.
- 1992-1993 Research Assistant, Egyptian Section, American University in Cairo, Egypt. Duties included research and grant writing.
- 1991-1992 Intern, Egyptian Section of the Brooklyn Museum. Duties included the organization of the Egyptian Section’s archival photographs.

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors:

- 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.

Classes Taught:

Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Nubia, Fall 2013. CLCV V3101. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate.

Ancient Cities: Urbanism in the Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Worlds. Fall 2013. Classics and Ancient Studies. Graduate seminar.

Egypt in the Classical World. Barnard College, Spring 2013. CLCV 4411. Classics and Ancient Studies. Graduate and Undergraduate.

Identity and Society in Ancient Egypt. Barnard College, Fall 2012. CLCV 3535. Classics and Ancient Studies. Undergraduate.

On Dreams and Nightmares. Barnard College, Fall 2012. FSYB BC 1465x. First Year Seminar.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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.