

“THE NEW MONUMENTS MEN”: Penn Archaeologists Fight for the Past

Monday, April 25, 2016

Penn Club of New York

30 W 44th Street, New York, NY

Participant Bios

Salam Al Kuntar

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Penn Cultural Heritage Center

Archaeologist Salam Al Kuntar is currently a post-doctoral fellow in the Penn Cultural Heritage Center at the Penn Museum and co-director of the Safeguarding the Heritage of Syria and Iraq Initiative—a project run by the Penn Cultural Heritage Center, the Smithsonian Institute, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Previously she was a visiting assistant professor and assistant curator at the University of Pennsylvania from 2012 to 2014.

Dr. Al Kuntar worked with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria in a number of capacities from 1996 to 2012. She has excavated at numerous sites in Syria and is the Co-Director of the Tell Hamoukar Expedition from 2005 to the present.

Her research interests center upon the archaeology and heritage of the Near East exploring a wide variety of themes such as ancient economy and urbanism, human mobility and cultural boundaries, forced migration, and cultural heritage and identity in the Middle East.

Dr. Al Kuntar received her B.A. from Damascus University (1996), her M.A. from the University of Liverpool (2004), and her Ph.D. in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge (2009).



C. Brian Rose, Ph.D.

Curator-in-Charge, Mediterranean Section, Penn Museum

Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, Department of Classical Studies



C. Brian Rose is the James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania and Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section at the Penn Museum. In 2006 he inaugurated a lecture program on the archaeology of Iraq and Afghanistan delivered at U.S. military bases for troops who are to be deployed to those areas.

Dr. Rose has devoted much of his career to excavation and cultural preservation in Turkey, excavating at Troy from 1988 to 2012, where he was Head of Post-Bronze Age Excavations at the site for nearly two decades. Dr. Rose is director of the Gordion Excavation Project in central Turkey, where he oversees an extensive program of excavation, site conservation, heritage education, and visitor outreach. He excavated at Aphrodisias for five years, and his survey project in the Granicus River Valley focused on recording and mapping the Greco-Persian tombs that dominate the area. Dr. Rose is a past President of the Archaeological Institute of America and the 2015 recipient of the AIA's Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement. He is a Trustee of the American Academy in Rome.

Courses Dr. Rose has recently taught have included Roman Topography; the Archaeology of Troy; Augustan Rome; and Roman Republican sculpture, architecture, and coinage. He is the English language editor of *Studia Troica*, the annual journal of the Troy excavations, and has recently finished the final publication of the architecture and architectural decoration of the Roman houses at Troy.

As part of his long involvement in the educational outreach of the institutions he is associated with, Dr. Rose gives frequent lectures for the general public as well as visiting school groups at the Penn Museum, and has been lecturing on the AIA's National Lecture Circuit since 1992.

Agnes Hsu-Tang, G'98, GR'04 **Cultural Heritage Policy advisor and documentarian**

Trained as an art historian and archaeologist, Agnes Hsu-Tang is a cultural heritage policy advisor and documentarian. Since 2006, she has served on UNESCO World Heritage Centre's scientific committees, participated on missions to China, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, spoken at international conferences, and authored a white paper on the multi-national nominations of the Qhapag Ñan and the Continental Silk Road. In 2014, Dr. Tang advised the United States Cultural Property Advisory Committee on the renewal of the bilateral agreement with China to reduce the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Prior to that, she was Special Assistant to the former United States Ambassador to China and Korea, the late James R. Lilley.



Agnes Hsu-Tang received her Ph.D. in Chinese art and archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004. She was previously a Mellon Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellow at the Needham Research Institute at the University of Cambridge in 2003, and subsequently served on the faculty at Brown University from 2004 to 2007. Dr. Hsu-Tang was a post-doctoral scholar in Classics at Stanford University from 2007 to 2008. She studied Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, East Asian Studies, and English Literature at Bryn Mawr College and also holds an M.A. in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hsu-Tang's research and publications include a UNESCO white paper *The Exceptional Universal Value of the Road Systems in Ancient Empires: A Comparative Study of the Chinese Oasis Route of the Early Silk Road and the Qhapag Ñan* (Paris: UNESCO, 2006), "An Emic Perspective of the Ancient Mapmaker's Art" in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), "Structured Perceptions of Real and Imagined Landscapes in Early Imperial China" in *Geography, Ethnography, and Perceptions of the World from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), in addition to her dissertation "Pictorial Eulogies in Three Eastern Han Tombs" (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2004) and others. Her recent contributions include two large-scale exhibitions, "Chinese in America: Exclusion/Inclusion" at the New-York Historical Society (2014-15), "China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of Sanxingdui" at the Bowers Museum (2014-15), and the English-language libretto of the new opera *Paradise Interrupted* at the 2015 Spoleto USA and 2016 Lincoln Center Festivals. Dr. Hsu-Tang is working on a manuscript on the archaeology of Chinese music with a focus on transposition and instrumentation of early ensemble music. Trained in Classical and Chinese music, Dr. Hsu-Tang made her debut at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1989.

Since 2008, Dr. Hsu-Tang has worked with television networks to develop a diverse range of public programs on Chinese archaeology, history, and art. Agnes is the bi-lingual host and narrator of two award-winning documentary series, *Mysteries of China* on History Channel Asia (2013) and *Chineseness* on Discovery Channel Asia (2014-2015); the latter premiered during the 2014 Art Basel Hong Kong at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center. Her previous TV credits include "The Giant Buddha at Leshan" (2009) and "Xi'an: China's Forgotten City" (2010) on Discovery USA, "China's Terracotta Warriors" on PBS (2011), and *Mankind: The Story of All of Us* series on History Channel (2012).

Dr. Hsu-Tang is an advisor to the Institute of International Education and serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Opera, the New-York Historical Society, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.