

GEOFF EMBERLING
CURRICULUM VITAE

Current Position

Associate Research Scientist
Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Research Interests

Ancient Middle East – Mesopotamia
Ancient North Africa – Nubia
Early states and cities
Ancient empires

Museums
Ethnicity and identity
Economy of craft production
Cultural heritage

Education

PhD combined degree in Anthropology and Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan (1995). Doctoral dissertation: “Ethnicity and the State in Early Third Millennium Mesopotamia,” advised by Henry Wright and Norman Yoffee

AB *magna cum laude* with highest honors in Anthropology, Harvard University (1987). Senior honors thesis: “Trade and Ideology in Third Millennium Mesopotamia: A Reconsideration of the Intercultural Style,” advised by C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky

Positions Held

2017-present Associate Research Scientist, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

2011-2017 Assistant Research Scientist, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

2013-2015 Consulting Curator, Detroit Institute of Arts

2004-2010 Museum Director and Chief Curator, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

1998-2004 Field Director, Archaeological Expedition to Tell Brak, Syria

1997-2000 Assistant Curator, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

1996-1997 Lecturer, Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen

Research Grants

2020 National Geographic Society, \$25,000 for excavation at Jebel Barkal

2020 University of Michigan Humanities Collaboratory Proposal Development grant, \$85,000 for “Nubian Lives, Nubian Heritage” (co-PI)

2019 Private donor, \$30,000 for excavation at Jebel Barkal

2018	Private donor, \$15,000 for geophysical survey at Jebel Barkal
2016	Private donor, \$325,000 for support of Nubian research over 5 years
2014	Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project, \$975,806 for excavation at El Kurru (4 years)
2013	National Geographic Society (EC656-13), \$41,710 for excavation at El Kurru
2012	Private donor, \$260,000 for support of Nubian research over 4 years
2012	National Geographic Society (9173-12), \$23,416 for excavation at El Kurru
2011	Shelby White-Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications, \$69,267 for publication of Tell Brak project
2007	Packard Humanities Institute (07-1423), \$158,923 for excavation in the 4 th Cataract, northern Sudan
2006	Packard Humanities Institute (07-1392), \$121,032 for excavation in the 4 th Cataract, northern Sudan
2006	National Geographic Society (8152-06), \$20,000 for excavation in the 4 th Cataract, northern Sudan
2003	National Geographic Society (7441-03), \$19,792 for excavation at Tell Brak
2002	National Geographic Society (7232-02), \$20,840 for excavation at Tell Brak
2001	National Geographic Society (6982-01), \$20,920 for excavation at Tell Brak
2000	National Science Foundation (BCS-0107251), \$119,334 for excavation at Tell Brak (2001-2002 seasons)
2000	National Geographic Society (6738-00), \$18,940 for excavation at Tell Brak
2000	Metropolitan Museum of Art, \$54,268 for excavation at Tell Brak
1998	University of Copenhagen, \$8,333 for excavation at Tell Brak
1998	Metropolitan Museum of Art, \$42,033 for excavation at Tell Brak (1998 season)
1996	University of Missouri Research Reactor Neutron Activation Grant

Fieldwork

2019-present	Director, Jebel Barkal Archaeological Project, northern Sudan
2012-present	Co-Director, International Kurru Archaeological Project, northern Sudan
2007-2008	Co-Director, Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition in the 4 th Cataract, Sudan
1998-2004	Field Director at Tell Brak, Syria
1992-1997	Site supervisor at Tell Brak, Syria directed by David and Joan Oates and Roger Matthews
1988	Site supervisor at Gordion, Turkey directed by Mary Voigt
1988	Site supervisor at Ras al-Hadd, Oman directed by Julian Reade

Publications

Books

in prep	<i>Excavations at Tell Brak, vol. 6: Institutions, Households, and Collapse in the Heart of Nagar, 2600-2000 BC.</i> Monograph co-edited with H. McDonald to be submitted 2020 to the McDonald Institute of Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.
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- in press *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Nubia* (co-edited with B. Williams). Oxford University Press (under contract, publication in 2020).
- 2019 *Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile and Beyond* (co-edited with S. Davis). Kelsey Museum Publication 16. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan.
- 2019 *Museums and the Middle East: Curatorial Practice and Audiences* (co-edited with L. Petit). Routledge.
- 2016 *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 7:793-904. Special section – Trade and Interaction in the Uruk Expansion: Recent Insights from Archaeometric Analyses (co-edited with Leah Minc).
- 2016 *Social Theory in Archaeology and Ancient History: The Present and Future of Counternarratives*. Edited volume. Cambridge University Press.
- 2011 *Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa*. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.
- 2010 *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920* (Editor). Oriental Institute Museum Publications 30.
- 2008 *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past* (co-edited with K. Hanson). Oriental Institute Museum Publications 28.

Articles

- in press Archaeological Practice in the Twenty-First Century: Reflecting on Archaeologist-Community Relationships in Sudan's Nile Valley. To appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Nubia*, ed. G. Emberling and B.B. Williams (with J. Humphris and R. Bradshaw).
- in press Trade in Ancient Nubia: Routes, Goods, and Structures. To appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Nubia*, ed. G. Emberling and B.B. Williams (with Mahmoud Suliman Bashir).
- in press Exhibiting Ancient Africa at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: "Ancient Nubia Now" and Its Audiences (Museum Review). *American Journal of Archaeology* 124(3).
- in press The Sudan National Museum and National Heritage in Sudan. To appear in *National Museums in Africa: Reflections on Memory, Identity and the Politics of Heritage*, ed. R. Silverman, P. Probst, and G. Obungu. Routledge (with Abdelrahman Ali Mohamed).
- in press Meroitic Graffiti as Devotional Practice at El Kurru, Sudan. To appear in *Stone Canvases: Towards a Better Integration of 'Rock Art' and 'Graffiti' Studies in Egypt and Sudan*, ed. P. Polkowski. Cairo: IFAO (with S. Davis).
- 2019 Defining a City in Napatan Kush: Geophysical Prospection at Sanam. *Sudan & Nubia* 23:85-94 (with G. Tucker and I. Vincentelli).
- 2019 Foreword. Graffiti in Ancient Kush and Medieval Nubia: An Introduction. In *Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile and Beyond*, ed. G. Emberling and S. Davis, pp.

- xv-xviii. Kelsey Museum Publication 16. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan. (with S. Davis).
- 2019 A Cultural History of Kush: Politics, Economy, and Ritual Practice. In *Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile and Beyond*, ed. G. Emberling and S. Davis, pp. 1-24. Kelsey Museum Publication 16. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan.
- 2019 Graffiti at El-Kurru: The Funerary Temple. In *Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile and Beyond*, ed. G. Emberling and S. Davis, pp. 25-38. Kelsey Museum Publication 16. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan. (with S. Davis).
- 2019 Catalog of Selected Graffiti from El-Kurru. In *Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile and Beyond*, ed. G. Emberling and S. Davis, pp. 141-93. Kelsey Museum Publication 16. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan. (with S. Davis and B.B. Williams).
- 2019 Curating the Ancient Middle East. In *Museums and the Middle East: Curatorial Practice and Audiences*, ed. G. Emberling and L. Petit, pp. 3-14. Routledge. (with L. Petit).
- 2019 Negotiations in Museum Practice: A Reinstalled Gallery of Ancient Middle Eastern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts. In *Museums and the Middle East: Curatorial Practice and Audiences*, ed. G. Emberling and L. Petit, pp. 123-37. Routledge. (with S. Anila).
- 2019 Cultural Heritage across the Middle East, Ancient and Modern. In *The Blackwell Companion to the Art of the Ancient Near East*, ed. A. Gunter, pp. 637-60. Wiley Blackwell (with K. Hanson).
- 2016 Ceramics and Long-Distance Trade in Early Mesopotamian States. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 7:793-904 (with L. Minc).
- 2016 Counternarratives: The Archaeology of the Long-Term and the Large-Scale. In *Social Theory in Archaeology and Ancient History: The Present and Future of Counternarratives*, ed. G. Emberling, pp. 3-16. Cambridge University Press.
- 2016 El Kurru 2015-16: Preliminary Report. *Sudan & Nubia* 20:35-49 (with R. Dann).
- 2016 Settlement in the Heartland of Napatan Kush: Preliminary Results of Magnetic Gradiometry at El-Kurru, Jebel Barkal and Sanam. *Sudan & Nubia* 20:50-56 (with G. Tucker).
- 2016 Structures of Authority: Feasting and Political Practice in the Earliest Mesopotamian States. In *Social Theory in Archaeology and Ancient History: The Present and Future of Counternarratives*, ed. G. Emberling, pp. 34-59. Cambridge University Press.
- 2016 Trade and Interaction during the Era of the Uruk Expansion: Recent Insights from Archaeometric Analyses. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 7:793-797 (with L. Minc).
- 2015 Heritage Under Threat: The World's Oldest Cities. *Planning* 81(9):52-53.

- 2015 In a Royal Cemetery of Kush: Archaeological Investigations at El-Kurru, Northern Sudan, 2014-2015. *Sudan & Nubia* 19:54-70 (with R. J. Dann and A. S. Mohamed-Ali).
- 2015 Mesopotamian Cities and Urban Process, 3500-1600 BC. In *Early Cities in Comparative Perspective, 4000 BCE-1200 CE*, ed. N. Yoffee, pp. 253-78. The Cambridge World History v. 3. Cambridge University Press.
- 2015 Urban Landscapes: Transforming Spaces and Reshaping Communities. In *Early Cities in Comparative Perspective, 4000 BCE-1200 CE*, ed. N. Yoffee, pp. 300-316. The Cambridge World History v. 3. Cambridge University Press (with S. Clayton and J. Janusek).
- 2014 Ethnicity in Empire: Assyrians and Others. In *A Companion to Ethnic Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean*, ed. J. McNerny, pp. 158-174. Blackwell.
- 2014 Pastoral States: Toward a Comparative Archaeology of Early Kush. *Origini* 36:125-156.
- 2014 Peripheral Vision: Identity at the Margins of the Early Kingdom of Kush. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference of Nubian Studies*, ed. J. Anderson and D. Welsby, pp. 329-336. Peeters (with T. James, M. Ingvoldstad, and B. Williams).
- 2013 Feasts in the Middle East: History of the Long Term. In *Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* (exhibit catalogue), ed. S. Smith, pp. 373-76, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago.
- 2013 New Excavations at El-Kurru: Beyond the Napatan Royal Cemetery. *Sudan & Nubia* 17:42-60 (co-edited with R. J. Dann).
- 2012 After Collapse: The Post-Akkadian Occupation in the Pisé Building, Tell Brak. In *Seven Generations since the Fall of Akkad*, ed. H. Weiss, pp. 65-87. Harrassowitz (with H. McDonald, J. Weber, and H. Wright).
- 2012 Archaeological Salvage in the Fourth Cataract, Northern Sudan (1991-2008). In *Ancient Nubia*, ed. P. Lacovara and M. Fisher, pp. 71-77. American University of Cairo Press.
- 2012 Entries in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. R. Bagnall et al. (Anshan, Balih, Fertile Crescent, Habur, Ziggurats).
- 2012 La exploración de Sumer (Exploring Sumer). In *Antes del Diluvio: Mesopotamia 3500-2100 a.C. (Before the Flood: Mesopotamia 3500-2100 B.C.)*. Exhibit catalogue, ed. P. Azara, pp. 108-113. Fondation "la Caixa," Barcelona and Madrid (in Spanish).
- 2012 On Archaeology and Politics across Eurasia. In *The Archaeology of Eurasia: Political Authority and Social Change, from Prehistory to the Present*, ed. C. Hartley, G.B. Yazıcıoğlu, and A.T. Smith, pp. 363-69. Cambridge University Press.
- 2010 The Kingdom of Kush in the 4th Cataract: Archaeological Salvage of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition 2007 Season. Part I. Preliminary Report

- on the Sites of Hosh el-Guruf and El-Widay. *Gdansk Archaeological Museum African Reports* 7:17-38 (with B. Williams).
- 2010 Archaeology in the Middle East before 1920: Political Contexts, Historical Results. In *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920*, ed. G. Emberling, pp. 15-20. Oriental Institute Museum Publication 30.
- 2010 The First Expedition of the Oriental Institute, 1919-1920. In *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920*, ed. G. Emberling, pp. 31-84. Oriental Institute Museum Publication 30 (with E. Teeter).
- 2010 Introduction. In *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920*, ed. G. Emberling, pp. 9-14. Oriental Institute Museum Publication 30.
- 2009 Views of a Museum: The Extraordinary Collection of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. *Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies Journal* 4:29-35.
- 2009 Letter from Sudan: The Gold of Kush. *Archaeology* 62(6):55-59.
- 2008 Archaeologists and the Military in Iraq 2003-2008: Compromise or Contribution? *Archaeologies* 4(3):445-459.
- 2008 Alle fonti dell'oro. *Pharaon* 4(1):32-39.
- 2007 "Models for Museums," in "Past Knowing/Future Knowledge: Archaeology and Museums in the 21st Century" Symposium at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Online publication:
<http://www4.uwm.edu/c21/pdfs/workingpapers/archaeology.pdf>.
- 2003 Excavations at Tell Brak 2001-2002: Preliminary Report. *Iraq* 65:1-75 (with H. McDonald).
- 2003 Urban Social Transformations and the Problem of the "First City": New Research from Mesopotamia. In *The Social Construction of Ancient Cities*, ed. M. Smith, pp. 254-268. Washington, DC: Smithsonian.
- 2002 Kunji Cave: Early Bronze Age Burials in Luristan. *Iranica Antiqua* 37:47-104 (with J. Robb, J. Speth, and H. Wright).
- 2002 Political Control in an Early State: The Eye Temple and the Uruk Expansion in Northern Mesopotamia. In *Of Pots and Plans: Papers on the Archaeology and History of Mesopotamia and Syria Presented to David Oates*, ed. L. al-Gailani Werr, J. Curtis, H. Martin, A. McMahon, J. Oates, and J. Reade, pp. 82-90. London: NABU Publications.
- 2002 Recent Finds from the Northern Mesopotamian City of Tell Brak. *Antiquity* 76:949-950 (with H. McDonald).
- 2001 Excavations at Tell Brak, 2000: Preliminary Report. *Iraq* 63: 21-54 (with H. McDonald).
- 1999 Entries for the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. A. C. Meyers and A. B. Beck. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans (Erech; Mesopotamia; Nineveh; Persepolis; Susa).

- 1999 Excavations at Tell Brak, 1998: Preliminary Report. *Iraq* 61:1-41. Multiple co-authors.
- 1999 Thinking about Ethnicity in Mesopotamian Archaeology and History. In *Fluchtpunkt Uruk. Archäologische Einheit aus Methodischer Vielfalt. Schriften für Hans Nissen*, ed. H. Kühne et al., pp. 272-281. Hildesheim: Georg Olms. Co-authored with N. Yoffee.
- 1999 The Value of Tradition: The Development of Social Identities in Early Mesopotamian States. In *Material Symbols: Culture and Economy in Prehistory*, ed. J. Robb, pp. 277-301. Carbondale, IL: Center for Archaeological Investigations.
- 1997 Ethnicity in Complex Societies: Archaeological Perspectives. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 5(4):295-344.

Book Reviews

- 2018 I. Milevski and T.E. Levy eds. (2016), *Framing Archaeology in the Near East: The Application of Social Theory to Fieldwork*, *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 6(1-2)
- 2018 Comment on G. Algaze, "Entropic Cities: The Paradox of Urbanism in Ancient Mesopotamia," *Current Anthropology* 59(1).
- 2014 Ö. Harmanşah (2013), *Cities and the Shaping of Memory in the Ancient Near East* (in *American Journal of Archaeology*).
- 2012 P. Matthiae et al. (2010), *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East* (in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*).
- 2011 G. Algaze (2008), *Ancient Mesopotamia at the Dawn of Civilization* (in H-Urban, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=23884>)
- 2008 D. Welsby and J. Anderson (2004), *Sudan: Ancient Treasures* (in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*)
- 2003 Y. Garfinkel (2003), *Dancing at the Dawn of Agriculture* (in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*)
- 2003 J. S. Cooper and G. Schwartz eds. (1996), *The Study of the Ancient Near East in the Twenty-First Century* (in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*)
- 2002 R. V. Gut (1995), *Das prähistorische Nineve* (in *American Journal of Archaeology*)
- 2000 G. Stein (1999), *Rethinking World-Systems* (in *Journal of Anthropological Research*)
- 1999 J. Hall (1997), *Ethnicity in Greek Antiquity* and S. Jones (1997), *The Archaeology of Ethnicity* (in *American Journal of Archaeology*).
- 1998 S. Jones (1997), *The Archaeology of Ethnicity* (in *American Anthropologist*).
- 1996 S. Campbell and A. Green eds. (1995), *The Archaeology of Death in the Ancient Near East* (in *American Journal of Archaeology*).

- 1996 T. J. Wilkinson and D. J. Tucker (1995), *Settlement Development in the North Jazira, Iraq* (in *American Antiquity*).

Museum Exhibits

Oriental Institute

- 2010 Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond (Chief Curator)
- 2010 Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920 (Curator)
- 2009 The Life of Meresamun, A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt (Museum Director)
- 2008 Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past (Museum Director)
- 2007 European Cartographers and the Ottoman World (Museum Director)
- 2007 Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy (Museum Director)
- 2006 Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing (Museum Director)
- 2006 Wonderful Things! The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, (Museum Director)
- 2006 Lost Nubia: A Centennial Exhibit of Photographs from the 1905-1907 Egyptian Expedition of the University of Chicago (Museum Director)
- 2006 Ancient Nubia, permanent exhibit (Museum Director)
- 2005 The East Wing Galleries, permanent exhibit (Museum Director)

Other Museums

- 2019 Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile: El-Kurru, Sudan, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (co-Curator with S. Davis)
- 2015 Ancient Middle Eastern galleries, Detroit Institute of Arts (Consulting Curator)
- 2011 Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University (Curator)
- 2009 It Is What It Is: Conversations about Iraq, Museum of Contemporary Art ("Expert")
- 1998 Early Mesopotamian Gallery, permanent exhibit in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum (Curator)

Media

Blog

- 2014-2015 "El Kurru: A Royal City of Ancient Kush?" (54,600 page views as of 10/2017)

Film

- 2020 New National Geographic film on excavation in Sudan (title tbd)

- 2019 Lost Pharaohs of the Nile, BBC/Arte/Science Channel
2014 Rise of the Black Pharaohs, National Geographic Society/PBS (originator and speaker)

Conferences and Conference Sessions Organized

- 2017 "Decolonizing Sites of Culture," University of Michigan African Studies Center
2017 "Altered States: Alternative Trajectories to Complexity in the Ancient Middle East," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research
2015 "Museums and the Ancient Middle East: Curatorial Practice and Audiences," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (co-organized with Lucas Petit)
2014 "Museums and the Ancient Middle East: Exhibit Practice and Audiences," Meeting of the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (co-organized with Lucas Petit)
2014 "Trade and Ceramics in the Uruk Expansion: Recent Insights from Archaeometric Analyses," Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (co-organized with Leah Minc)
2014 "Exhibiting Archaeology," workshop at University of Michigan (co-organized with Chris Ratté and Lisa Young)
2012 "Global Perspectives on the Evolution of Complex Societies: Papers in Honor of Henry T. Wright by his Students," Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (co-organized with Eric Rupley)

Papers Presented

- 2019 "From Archaeology to Community Heritage at El-Kurru, Sudan," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego (with S. Davis and R. Silverman)
2019 "Urbanism in the Empire of Kush: New Archaeological Research around Jebel Barkal, Northern Sudan," Fieldwork Archaeology on Thursday series, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
2019 "Nubian Archaeologies, Nubian Histories," Sudan and Nubia Colloquium, Yale University.
2019 "Community Engagement in Detroit and Sudan," in the session "From Their Mouths: (Not So Secret) Critical Approaches to Cultural Representation from Those Represented." Annual Meeting of the American Alliance of Museums (New Orleans).
2018 "Memories of the Kings of Kush: New Excavations around the Royal Cemetery at El Kurru," Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt

- 2018 "Settlement in the Region of Napata: New Geophysical Prospection at Jebel Barkal and Sanam," International Society for Nubian Studies meeting, Paris (with G. Tucker and I. Vincentelli)
- 2018 "Modeling the Rise and Fall of Early Kush," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting
- 2018 "Archaeology and Heritage of Ancient Kush: El Kurru, Sudan and Beyond," AIA Chapter, Penn State
- 2017 "Altered States: Alternative Trajectories to Complexity in the Ancient Middle East," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting
- 2017 "Mobility and Political Authority in the (Napatan) Kingdom of Kush," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting
- 2017 "Archaeology and Heritage of Ancient Kush: El Kurru, Sudan and Beyond," FAST lecture, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan (with S. Davis, R. Silverman, F. Nunoo-Quarcoo, and G. Tucker)
- 2017 "Memories of the Kings of Kush: New Excavations around the Royal Cemetery at El Kurru, Northern Sudan," American Research Center in Egypt Chicago Chapter
- 2017 "The Sudan National Museum and National Heritage in Sudan," Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Accra, Ghana (with Abdelrahman Ali)
- 2017 "Memories of the Kings of Kush: Royal Burial and Funerary Ritual at El Kurru, Sudan," Humboldt University, Berlin
- 2017 "Ceramics, Trade, and the Uruk Expansion in Mesopotamia," TOPOI Reseach Group A-6: Economic Space
- 2017 "Did Markets Make Cities? The Development of Market Economy in Ancient Mesopotamia," TOPOI Berlin Ringvorlesung
- 2016 "Ways to Work in Archaeology: Shifting Perspectives," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research
- 2016 "The International Trade in Middle Eastern Antiquities: Notes from the Trenches," International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, held at the Detroit Institute of Arts
- 2016 "Memories of the Kings of Kush: New Excavations around the Royal Cemetery at El Kurru, Northern Sudan," International Conference for Meroitic Studies, Prague
- 2016 "Transformation in Mesopotamian Urban Economies, 4000-2000 BC," International Symposium on Sanxingdui Culture and World Ancient Civilizations, Sanxingdui, China
- 2016 "Archaeology: Why Bother?" Berea College
- 2016 "Memories of the Kings of Kush: New Excavations around the Royal Cemetery at El Kurru, Northern Sudan," VCU-UCL Qatar, Doha
- 2015 "An Eruption of Memory: Commemoration as Politics in the Empire of Kush," FAST lecture, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

- 2015 "Negotiating Art and Technology: A Reinstalled Gallery of Ancient Middle Eastern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (with S. Anila)
- 2015 "The Ancient Middle East at the DIA," Detroit Institute of Arts
- 2015 "The 'Calculated Frightfulness' of ISIS: Threats to Middle Eastern Cultural Heritage in Historical Perspective," Museum Studies Program, University of Michigan
- 2015 "Cultural Heritage in the Middle East Today," Cultural Heritage Law Society, University of Michigan Law School
- 2015 "The Pyramid of the Unknown King: Excavations at El Kurru, a Royal Cemetery of Kush," Michigan Archaeological Society, Ann Arbor
- 2015 "Pastoral States: Toward a Comparative Archaeology of Kush," Dialogue of Civilizations conference, Peking University
- 2015 "Pyramids! Commemoration as Politics in the Empire of Kush," Department of Egyptology and Assyriology, Brown University
- 2015 "Commemoration as Politics in the Empire of Kush," Department of Anthropology, Purdue University
- 2015 "Temples, Households, and Collapse in the Heart of Nagar, 2600-2000 BC: Excavations at Tell Brak in Northeastern Syria," Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies, Toronto
- 2014 "New Perspectives on Napatan Kingship: The 2014 Excavation at El Kurru, Northern Sudan," American Schools of Oriental Research, San Diego.
- 2014 "New Perspectives on Napatan Kingship: The 2014 Excavation at El Kurru," International Society for Nubian Studies meeting, Neuchatel, Switzerland
- 2014 Session Introduction, Museums and the Ancient Middle East, International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, Basel, Switzerland
- 2014 "Commemoration as Politics in the Empire of Kush: New Insights from El Kurru, Northern Sudan," Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA
- 2014 "Ceramics and Trade within Mesopotamia during the Uruk Expansion," Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (co-authored with Leah Minc; session co-chair).
- 2013 "Pastoral States – The Nubian Kingdom of Kush in Comparative Perspective," Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University
- 2013 "From Excavation to Museum," Cornell University
- 2013 "Altered States: Settlement Networks in the Kingdom of Kush," Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting (coauthored with Gregory Tucker; session co-chair).
- 2013 "El Kurru 2013," Giza Plateau.
- 2013 "New Excavations in the Settlement at El Kurru, Sudan," Sudan Archaeological Society, Khartoum.

- 2012 "Introduction: Collecting and Displaying Ancient Near Eastern Materials in the Museum: Past, Present, Future," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Chicago (session chair).
- 2012 "The Rise and Fall of Kush, an African Kingdom on the Nile," Southwest Texas Archaeological Society, San Antonio, TX.
- 2012 "Pigs in the Ancient Middle East," Camp Bacon, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2012 "Discovering Ancient Cultures: Archaeology and Museums," Royal Ontario Museum.
- 2012 "Cities in Empire: Assyrian Cities in their Mesopotamian Context," in the panel "Urbanism in the Ancient Mediterranean World," Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2011 "The Supernatural in the First Mesopotamian Cities," Art Institute of Chicago
- 2011 "The Supernatural in the First Mesopotamian Cities," National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden
- 2011 "Reframing the Mesopotamian City," Faculty of Archaeology, University of Leiden
- 2011 "African Kingdoms of Ancient Nubia," Huron Valley Chapter, Archaeological Society of Michigan, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
- 2011 "The Ancient Middle East in the Detroit Institute of Arts," Detroit Institute of Arts
- 2011 "Mesopotamian Cities and Urban Process 3500-1600 BC," Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
- 2011 "Peripheral Vision: Identity at the Margins of the Early Kingdom of Kush," University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology
- 2011 "In the Margins: The Latest Salvage Excavations in Nubia at the 4th Cataract of the Nile," Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
- 2010 "How to Eat with Your Elders: On the Persistence of Culture," American Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- 2010 "Ancient Cultures Today: Curatorial Practice at the New Oriental Institute," Arts Club of Chicago
- 2010 "Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920," Elderhostel, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
- 2010 "Heritage Communities and Curatorial Practice," Association of Art Museum Curators Annual Meeting, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
- 2010 "Peripheral Vision: Identity at the Margins of the Early Kingdom of Kush," International Society of Nubian Studies Meeting, London
- 2009 "War and Peace in Mesopotamia," Casino Club, Chicago IL
- 2009 "The World's First Cities: Babylon and Beyond," Burnham Plan Centennial, Oriental Institute
- 2009 "The 4th Cataract in the Kerma (Old Kush) Period: Perspectives from Oriental Institute Excavations at Hosh el-Guruf and Al-Widay," The Fourth Cataract Archaeological Salvage Project, 1996-2009 Conference, Gdansk, Poland

- 2009 "Archaeological Rescue Excavations in Northern Sudan: New Light on Old Kush," South Suburban Archaeological Society
- 2009 "Between Subjects and Rulers: Political Practice in an Early Mesopotamian City," Invited Session in Honor of Henry Wright, Archaeological Institute of America
- 2008 "Between Subjects and Rulers: The Political Structure of the Earliest Mesopotamian Cities," Department of Near and Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
- 2008 "Structures of Authority: Political Practice in an Early Mesopotamian City," Ancient Societies Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2008 "Recent Discoveries in Ancient Kush," Breasted Society of the Oriental Institute
- 2007 "The Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition 2007," Oriental Institute Volunteer Day
- 2007 "Geographical Knowledge in the Ancient Near East," in "Mapping the World: From Ancient Babylon to the Ottoman Empire," symposium at the Oriental Institute
- 2007 "Between Subjects and Rulers: The Political Structure of the Earliest Mesopotamian Cities," Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
- 2007 "Views of a Museum: The Extraordinary Collection of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago," Society for Mesopotamian Studies, Toronto
- 2007 "Models for Museums," in "Past Knowing/Future Knowledge: Archaeology and Museums in the 21st Century" Symposium at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2007 "New Light on the Kingdom of Kush," American Research Center in Egypt, Chicago chapter
- 2007 "Archaeologists and the Military in Iraq: Collaboration, Compromise, or Contribution?," Society for American Archaeology conference, Austin, TX
- 2007 "The Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum," Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum
- 2007 "Political Economy in the Kingdom of Kush: Archaeological Salvage in the 4th Cataract, Northern Sudan," Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
- 2007 "On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria," American Institute of Archaeology lecture, Vancouver
- 2006 "The Brak Oval: A Sumerian Temple in Semite Lands?," Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2006 "On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria," American Institute of Archaeology lecture, Dallas; Detroit Institute of Arts

- 2006 "After the Empire? Domestic Economy and Craft Production in the Late 3rd Millennium BC at Tell Brak," ICAANE conference, Madrid (with Helen McDonald, Jill Weber, and Henry Wright)
- 2004 "On the Origin of Mesopotamian Cities: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria," Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
- 2003 "Structures of Authority: The "Niched Building" at Tell Brak and Political Ritual in an Early Syrian City," Department of Anthropology, Harvard University; Department of Anthropology, SUNY Binghamton
- 2002 "Structures of Authority: The "Niched Building" at Tell Brak and Political Ritual in an Early Syrian City," American Schools of Oriental Research conference, Toronto
- 2001 "On the Origin of a Mesopotamian City: Tell Brak in the 4th Millennium BC," Interdepartmental Archaeology Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2001 "Tell Brak: Recent Excavations," Chowder and Marching Society Meetings, Johns Hopkins University
- 2001 "Tell Brak and the Origin of Cities in Northern Mesopotamia," Seminar für vorderasiatisches Altertumskunde, Freie Universität zu Berlin
- 2001 "Ceramic Provinces in Third Millennium Syria," Department of Near Eastern Archaeology, University of Frankfurt
- 2000 "City and Temple in Northern Mesopotamia: Recent Excavation at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria," Colloquium in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
- 2000 "On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak in Northeastern Syria," 92nd Street Y, New York City
- 1999 "The Archaeology of Ethnicity in Early Mesopotamia," Department of Anthropology, Columbia University
- 1999 "Tell Brak in the Akkadian Period," Department of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania
- 1999 "When There's a There, There: On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia," Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 1998 "Excavations at Tell Brak, 1998," Columbia Seminar on Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Columbia University
- 1998 Discussant in the Symposium "Lost Cities," organized by Rita Wright, New York University
- 1998 "Art of the Akkadian Empire: The Akkadian Period at Tell Brak," Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
- 1998 "Ethnicity in Third Millennium Mesopotamia," Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
- 1997 "Khabur Ware Revisited: On the Limits of Archaeological Knowledge," Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen
- 1997 "The Prehistory of Ethnicity? The Halaf Period in Mesopotamia," Institute of Prehistory, University of Copenhagen

- 1997 "Politics in the Past: Ethnicity and Nationalism in Archaic Egypt," Middle East Seminar, Theological Faculty, University of Copenhagen
- 1996 "A Tomb with a View: Collective Burial, Social Identity and Pastoralism in the Early Bronze Age Zagros Mountains," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco. Co-authored with J. Robb
- 1996 "The Value of Tradition: The Development of Social Identities in Early Mesopotamian States," Visiting Scholar Conference "Material Symbols," Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 1995 "News of a Difference: Stylistic Redundancy and Social Identity in Early Mesopotamia," in the session "The Archaeology of Ethnicity," organized by G. Emberling, at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 "Producing Ethnicity in Third Millennium Mesopotamia," Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Minneapolis
- 1995 "Ethnicity and the State in Early Third Millennium Mesopotamia," Faculty of Archaeology and Oriental Studies, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England

Teaching

- 2019 University of Michigan, "Archaeology of Mesopotamia"
- 2017-18 University of Michigan, "Food and Drink of the Middle East"
- 2015-16 University of Michigan, "Middle Eastern Heritages: Local and Global Politics of Culture" (co-taught with Gottfried Hagen)
- 2014 University of Michigan, "Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt"
- 2014 University of Michigan, "Crusade and Jihad in the Medieval Middle East" (co-taught with Karla Mallette)
- 2012-2013 University of Michigan, "The Archaeology of Nubia"
- 2009 University of Chicago, "The Archaeology of Political Life" (co-taught with Adam Smith)
- 2006-2010 University of Chicago, "Ancient Empires: The Assyrian Empire"
- 2005-2010 Oriental Institute Museum Adult Education Courses:
 "Ancient Nubia"
 "The World's First Cities"
 "Khorsabad"
 "The Ancient Assyrian Empire"
- 2004-2010 Public lectures and gallery talks in the Oriental Institute Museum
- 2002 Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan:
 "The Archaeology of Ancient Mesopotamia"
 "Race and Ethnicity in Ancient Mesopotamia: Sumerians and Akkadians"

- 1996-1997 Lecturer in the Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen:
 "Introduction to Archaeological Theory and Method"
 "Egypt and its Peripheries in the Historical Periods"
 "Near Eastern Prehistory"
 "Mesopotamian Historical Archaeology"
 "Seminar on Ethnicity in Archaeology"
 "Seminar on the Archaeology of Ritual"
 "Seminar on Archaeological Theory"
- 1995 Lecturer in Anthropology 296-202, "Early States in Egypt and Mesopotamia," University of Michigan (Summer term)

Honors and Awards

- 2019 Membership Service Award, American Schools of Oriental Research
- 2006 Kershaw Lectures in Near East Archaeology, Archaeological Institute of America
- 2002 Fulbright Research Fellowship to Syria
- 2001 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Richard Carley Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 1994-1995 Rackham School of Graduate Studies Predoctoral Fellowship
- 1991-1993 University of Michigan Regents' Fellowship
- 1988-1991 NSF Graduate Fellowship

Military Briefings on the History and Culture of Iraq

- 2011 Ft. Bliss, TX
- 2009 Ft. Riley, KS
- 2008 Ft. Jackson, SC
- 2008 Ft. Sill, SC
- 2007 Ft. Bragg, NC
- 2006 Ft. Hood, TX
- 2005 Sarajevo, Bosnia
- 2005 Heidelberg, Germany (V Corps)
- 2005 Indianapolis, IN (80th Division)
- 2005 Ft. Carson, CO
- 2004 Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
- 2004 Ft. Drum, NY (42nd Infantry Division)
- 2004 Ft. Lewis, WA (81st Enhanced Armored Brigade)
- 2004 Ft. Hood, TX (39th Infantry Brigade)
- 2003 Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA

Professional Service

- Co-Chair, Program Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research 2014-19

Reviewer, Archaeological Institute of America, Cotsen Excavation Grants 2014-17
Reviewer, American Anthropologist
Reviewer, Cambridge University Press
Reviewer, Current Anthropology
Reviewer, Institute for Museum and Library Services
Reviewer, Israel Science Foundation
Reviewer, Journal of Archaeological Research
Reviewer, Journal of Archaeological Science
Reviewer, Journal of Near Eastern Studies
Reviewer, National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration
Reviewer, National Science Center, Poland
Reviewer, National Science Foundation
Reviewer, Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
American Alliance of Museums
American Schools of Oriental Research
Archaeological Institute of America
British School of Archaeology in Iraq
Society for American Archaeology
Sudan Archaeological Research Society