

## BRYAN K. MILLER

### Department of History of Art & Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

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My research incorporates textual analyses and material culture studies to investigate the dynamics of empires in early East Asia. In particular, my work on pastoral nomadic regimes challenges normative constructs of cultural politics, economic systems and sociopolitical institutions. I have conducted examinations of ancient Chinese documents, as well as led archaeological survey and excavation projects in various regions of Mongolia. This interdisciplinary approach lies at the core of my book on the Xiongnu to construct a multi-faceted narrative of the world's first nomadic empire and demonstrate its lasting impact on the history of pre-modern Asia. I apply these interdisciplinary approaches as well to research and seminars on Central Asia during the era of the Silk Roads, and carry these historical-archaeological endeavors into my current fieldwork on local palaces and frontier constituents of the Mongol Empire.

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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- 2009**                    **Ph.D. in East Asian Languages & Civilizations**, University of Pennsylvania  
*Dissertation Title: Power Politics in the Xiongnu Empire*
- 2000**                    **M.A. in Archaeology**, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Thesis Title: The Han Iron Industry: Historical Archaeology of Ancient Production Systems*
- 2002-2004**            **Ex.**, Russian Language Department, National Chengchi University, Taiwan
- 1997**                    **B.A. in Archaeology and East Asian Studies**, Washington University in St. Louis

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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- 2022 to present**      **Assistant Professor** of Central Asian Art and Archaeology, University of Michigan, History of Art Department  
**Assistant Curator** of Chinese Archaeology, University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology
- 2020 – 2022**            **Lecturer**, University of Michigan, History of Art Department
- 2015 - 2019**            **Research Associate**, University of Oxford, Faculty of History
- 2014 – 2015**            **Research Fellow**, Gerda Henkel Foundation (at University of Kiel, Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology)
- 2011 – 2014**            **Research Fellow**, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (at University of Bonn, Pre- and Early Historical Archaeology)
- 2010 – 2011**            **Research Fellow**, Henry Luce Foundation & American Center for Mongolian Studies (at National Museum of Mongolia)
- 2009 – 2010**            **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Rowan University, History Department
- 2009**                    **Visiting Assistant Professor**, State University of New York - FIT, History of Art Department
- 1998 – 1999**            **Research Assistant**, J. Paul Getty Museum, Antiquities Department

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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**University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology**  
**Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan**  
**Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan**  
**Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena**  
**German Archaeological Institute (DAI) Cluster 6**  
**Gerda Henkel Foundation**  
**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**  
**Louis J. Kolb Society of Fellows, University of Pennsylvania Museum**  
**American Center for Mongolian Studies**

#### **GRANTS AND AWARDS (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)**

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- 2014**                    **Waite Fieldwork Grant from the National Geographic Society.** *The Emergence of Urbanism in Inner Asia: Investigations of Social and Economic Activities at Xiongnu Walled Sites in Mongolia.* [**\$10,480**]
- 2014**                    **Writing Fellowship from Gerda Henkel Foundation.** *Cohesion and Centrality in the Xiongnu Empire.* [**€24,000**]
- 2011**                    **Research Fellowship from Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.** *Modelling Inner Asian Empires: A Spatial and Networks Approach to Complex Political Systems.* [**€72,300**]
- 2010**                    **Research Fellowship from Henry Luce Foundation.** Conducted through American Center for Mongolian Studies. [**\$20,000**]
- 2007**                    **Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant from Henry Luce Foundation.** Conducted Through American Council of Learned Societies. [**\$20,000**]
- 2006**                    **US-Mongolia Summer Field Research Fellowship from American Center for Mongolian Studies.** *Cemeteries of the Xiongnu Frontier, Khovd* [**\$4,000**]

#### **GRANTS AND AWARDS (INVESTIGATOR OR COLLABORATOR)**

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- 2021**                    **Humanities Collaboratory Grant** for *Centering the Northern Realms: Integrating Histories and Archaeologies of the Mongol Empire (1200-1500 CE)* from the Humanities Collaboratory at the University of Michigan. P.I.s: A. Ventresca Miller & J. Ahn; with M. Brown, P. Cassel, S. Ujeed. [**\$571,491**]  
<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/collaboratory/funded-projects/centering-the-northern-realms/>
- 2021**                    **Proposal Development Grant** to fund for *Centering the Northern Frontier: Integrating Histories and Archaeologies of the Mongol Empire* from the Humanities Collaboratory at the University of Michigan. P.I.: A. Ventresca Miller; with C. de Pee, M. Brown, P. Cassel, S. Ujeed. [**\$84,020**]
- 2021**                    **5x5 Incubator Grant** for *Northern Frontiers of the Mongol Empire* from the Humanities Collaboratory at the University of Michigan. P.I.: A. Ventresca Miller. [**\$3000**]
- 2019**                    **Conference Organization Grant** from Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for *The Art and Archaeology of Ritual and Economy in East Asia: Symposium in Honor of Lothar von Falkenhausen*. P.I.: R. Flad; with A. Hein. [**\$24,150**]

B.K. Miller

## BOOKS

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- 2024 (Jan) **Miller, B.** *Xiongnu: The World's First Nomadic Empire*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2023 A. Hein, R. Flad, and **B. Miller** (Eds). *The Archaeology of Art, Ritual, and Economy in East Asia: Festschrift in Honor of Lothar von Falkenhausen's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press.
- 2011 Brosseder, U. and **B. Miller** (Eds). *Xiongnu Archaeology: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the First Steppe Empire in Central Asia*. Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology, vol.5. Bonn: VFG-Arch Press.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- 2023 Lee, J. and **B. Miller**\*, J. Bayarsaikhan, E. Johannesson, A. Ventresca Miller, C. Warinner\*, Jeong, Ch.\*. Genetic population structure of the Xiongnu Empire at imperial and local scales. *Science Advances* 9(15). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adf3904>.
- 2023 Ventresca Miller, A.\*, S. Wilkin, J. Bayarsaikhan, A. Ramsøe, J. Clark, B. Byambadorj, S. Vanderwarf, N. Vanwezer, A. Haruda, R. Fernandes, **B. Miller**, N. Boivin. Permafrost preservation reveals proteomic evidence for yak milk consumption in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. *Nature: Communications Biology*. 6:351. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-023-04723-3>.
- 2022 Ventresca Miller, A.\*, S. Wilkin, J. Hendy, Ts. Turbat, D. Batsukh, N. Bayarkhuu, P.-H. Giscard, J. Bemmann, J. Bayarsaikhan, **B. Miller**, J. Clark, P. Nanni, P. Roberts, N. Boivin. The spread of herds and horses into the Altai: How livestock and dairying drove social complexity in Mongolia. *PLOS ONE* 17(5): e0265775. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0265775>.
- 2021 Taylor, W.\*, Wang Juan, Cao Jinping, Li Yue, Zhang Chengrui, H. Miton, I. Chechushkov, J. Bayarsaikhan, R. Cook, E. Jones, M. Enkhbayar, Ts. Odbaatar, Ch. Bayandelger, B. Morrison, **B. Miller**. Understanding early horse transport in eastern Eurasia through damage to the equine dentition. *Antiquity* 95 (384): 1478-1494.
- 2021 Spengler, R.N.\*, A. R. Ventresca Miller, T. Schmaus, G. Motuzaitė-Matuzevičaitė, **B. Miller**, S. Wilkin, W. Taylor, P. Roberts, N. Boivin. An Imagined History? Circular Arguments of Nomadism in Central Eurasian Archaeology. *Current Anthropology* 62.3: 251-286
- 2020 Jeong, C.\*, K. Wang, S. Wilkin, W. Taylor, **B. Miller**, S. Ölziibayar, R. Stahl, C. Chiovelli, J. Bemmann, F. Knolle, N. Krادين, B. Bazarov, D. Miyagashev, P.B. Kononov, E. Zhambaltarova, A. Ventresca Miller, W. Haak, S. Schiffels, J. Krause, N. Boivin, E. Myagmar, J. Hendy, C. Warinner\*. A 6,000 year genetic history of Eurasia's Eastern Steppe. *Cell* 183, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2020.10.015>.
- 2020 Ventresca Miller, A., R.N. Spengler, A. Haruda, **B. Miller**, S. Wilkin, S. Robinson, P. Roberts, N. Boivin. Ecosystem Engineering Among Ancient Pastoralists in Northern Central Asia. *Frontiers in Earth Science* 2020.8: 168.
- 2020 Wilkin, S.\*, A. Ventresca Miller, W. Taylor, **B. Miller**, R. Hagan, M. Bleasdale, A. Scott, S. Gankhuyag, A. Ramsøe, S. Ulziibayar, C. Trachsel, P. Nanni, J. Grossmann, L. Orlando, M. Horton, P. Stockhammer, E. Myagmar, N. Boivin, C. Warinner, J. Hendy. Dairy pastoralism sustained eastern Eurasian steppe populations for 5,000 years. *Nature: Ecology & Evolution* 4 (March 2020): 346-355. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-020-1120-y>. [Mongolian translation: <https://naturecoevocommunity.nature.com/posts/59870-mongolian-translation-of-dairy-pastoralism-sustained-eastern-steppe-populations-for-5000-years>]
- 2020 Wilkin, S.\*, A. Ventresca Miller, **B. Miller**, R. Spengler, W. Taylor, R. Fernandes, R. Hagan, M. Bleasdale, J. Zech, S. Ulziibayar, E. Myagmar, N. Boivin, P. Roberts.

Economic Diversification Supported the Growth of Mongolia's Nomadic Empires. *Nature: Scientific Reports*. 10: 3916. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-60194-0>.

- 2020 Taylor, W. \*, J. Clark, J. Bayarsaikhan, T. Tuvshinjargal, J. Thompson Jobe, W. Fitzhugh, R. Kortum , R. Spengler, S. Shnaider, F. Seersholm, I. Hart, N. Case, S. Wilkin, J. Hendy, U. Thuering, **B. Miller**, A. Ventresca Miller, A. Picin, N. Vanwezer, F. Irmer, S. Brown, A. Abdykanova, D. Shultz, V. Pham, K. Douka, E. Jones, N. Boivin. Early Pastoral Economies and Herding Transitions in Eastern Eurasia. *Nature: Scientific Reports* 10: 1001. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-57735-y>.
- 2019 Fages, A., K. Hanghøj, N.,...**B. Miller**...A. Outram, P. Librado, L. Orlando\*. Tracking Five Millennia of Horse Management with Extensive Ancient Genome Time Series. *Cell* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2019.03.049>.
- 2019 **Miller, B.\***, M. Furholt, J. Bayarsaikhan, L. Brandtstätter, T. Tüvshinjargal, J. Wright, T. Wunderlich, Ts. Ayush. Proto-Urban Establishments in Inner Asia: Surveys of an Iron Age Walled Site in Eastern Mongolia. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 44.4: 267-286. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00934690.2019.1598170>.
- 2018 **Miller, B.\***, C. Makarewicz, J. Bayarsaikhan, T. Tüvshinjargal. Stone Lines and Burnt Bones: Ritual Elaborations in the Xiongnu Steppe Empire. *Antiquity* 92(365): 1310-1328.
- 2018 **Miller, B.** Review of *Eurasian Empires in Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages* (Kim et al. 2017) *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2018.09.58. <http://www.bmcreview.org/2018/09/20180958.html>.
- 2016 **Miller, B.** Review of *The Hunter, The Stag, and the Mother of Animals: Image, Monument, and Landscape in Ancient Northern Asia* (Jacobson-Tepfer 2015). *The Silk Road* 14: 237-240.
- 2014 **Miller, B.** Xiongnu “Kings” and the Political Order of the Steppe Empire. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 57.1:1-43.
- 2013 **Miller, B.**, and U. Brosseder. Beasts of the North: Global and Local Dynamics as Seen in Horse Ornaments of the Steppe Elite. *Asian Archaeology* 1: 95-113.
- 2012 **Miller, B.** Vehicles of the Steppe Elite: Chariots and Carts in Xiongnu Tombs. *The Silk Road* 10: 29-38
- 2011 Bayarsaikhan, J., **B. Miller**, Ts. Egiimaa, P.B. Konovalov, E. Johannesson, M. Machicek, J. Logan, C. Neily. Xiongnu Monuments of Shombuuzyn Belchir. *Nüüdelchdiin öv sudlal* 11: 156-183. [in Mongolian]
- 2011 Brosseder, U., **B. Miller**, J. Bayarsaikhan, Ts. Odbaatar. Seven Radiocarbon Dates for Xiongnu Burials in Western and Central Mongolia. *Nüüdelchdiin öv sudlal* 11: 234-240
- 2009 **Miller, B.**, J. Bayarsaihan, P.B. Konovalov, Ts. Egiimaa, J. Logan, M. Machicek. Xiongnu Constituents in the High Mountains – Results of the Mongol-American Khovd Archaeology Project, 2008. *The Silk Road* 7: 8-20
- 2008 Bayarsaikhan, J. and **B. Miller**. Some questions on ritual structures and systems of Xiongnu graves. *Nüüdelchdiin öv sudlal* 8: 115-125. [in Mongolian]
- 2008 **Miller, B.**, F. Allard, D. Erdenebaatar, C. Lee. A Xiongnu Tomb Complex: Excavations at Gol Mod 2 Cemetery (Mongolia, 2002-05). *Arkheologicheskie Vesti* 15: 55-70. [in Russian]
- 2002 Allard, F. \*, D. Erdenebaatar, **B. Miller**, N. Batbold. A Xiongnu cemetery found in Mongolia. *Antiquity* 76: 637-8.

- 2002 **Miller, B.** The First Emperor of Qin: Between Legend, Science and Nationalism *Stanford Journal of Archaeology* vol.1.  
<https://web.stanford.edu/dept/archaeology/journal/newdraft/miller/abstract.html>.

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

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- Accepted** **B. Miller.** Foreign matters in imperial assemblages of Xiongnu Inner Asia. in T. Bray and L. Katchadourian eds. *Materiality, Metaphysics, and Imperial Politics*. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research.
- 2023 Brosseder, U. and **B. Miller.** The Eastern Eurasian Steppe: Local Agents and their participation in global networks. In: S. von Reden ed., *Handbook of Ancient Afro-Eurasian Economies. Volume 3: Frontier Processes and Afro-Eurasian Exchange*. Oldenbourg: De Gruyter, 271-292.
- 2023 **Miller, B.** Consuming the Herds: Animal Sacrifice and Offering of the Xiongnu. In: A. Hein, R. Flad, and B. Miller (Eds). *The Archaeology of Art, Ritual, and Economy in East Asia: Festschrift in Honor of Lothar von Falkenhausen's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, 181-195.
- 2019 **Miller, B.** Sociopolitical Systems of the Xiongnu. In: N.N. Kradin (Ed.), *Kochevye impirii evraziiskikh stepei: osobennosti sotsial'noi dinamiki*. Moscow: URRS, 76-94. [in Russian].
- 2018 Brosseder, U. and **B. Miller.** Global Networks and Local Agents in the Iron Age Eurasian Steppe. In: N. Boivin and M. Frachetti (Eds.), *Globalization in Prehistory: Contact, Exchange and 'People Without History'*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 162-183.
- 2017 **Miller, B.** and U. Brosseder. Global Dynamics in Local Processes of Iron Age Inner Asia. In: T. Hodos (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. New York: Routledge, 470-487.
- 2016 **Miller, B.** The Xianbei Empire. In: J.M. MacKenzie (Ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Empire*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2016 **Miller, B.** The Donghu Tribal Confederation. In: J.M. MacKenzie (Ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Empire*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2015 **Miller, B.** The Southern Xiongnu in Northern China: Navigating and Negotiating the Middle Ground. In: J. Bemmman, M. Schmauder (Eds.), *Complexity of Interaction Along the Eurasian Steppe Zone in the First Millennium CE*. Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology vol.6. Bonn: VFG-Arch Press, 127-198.
- 2012 Brosseder, U. and **B. Miller.** Mounted Warriors of the Xiongnu. In: J. Bemmman (Ed.), *Steppenkrieger. Reiternomaden des 7.–14. Jahrhunderts aus der Mongolei. Begleitband zur Ausstellung „Steppenkrieger. Reiternomaden des 7.–14. Jahrhunderts aus der Mongolei“*. Darmstadt: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, 115-125. [in German]
- 2011 Brosseder, U. and **B. Miller.** State of Research and Future Directions of Xiongnu Studies. In: U. Brosseder, B. Miller (Eds.), *Xiongnu Archaeology – Multidisciplinary Perspectives of the First Steppe Empire in Central Asia*. Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology, vol.5. Bonn: VFG-Arch Press, 19-34.
- 2011 **Miller, B.** Permutations of Peripheries in the Xiongnu Empire. In: U. Brosseder, B. Miller (Eds.), *Xiongnu Archaeology – Multidisciplinary Perspectives of the First Steppe Empire in Central Asia*. Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology, vol.5. Bonn: VFG-Arch Press, 559-578.
- 2009 **Miller, B.,** Zh. Baiarsaikhan, Ts. Egiimaa, P.B. Konovalov, J. Logan. Elite Xiongnu Burials at the Periphery: Tomb Complexes at Takhiltyn-khotgor, Mongolian Altai. In: J.

Bemmann, H. Parzinger, E. Pohl, D. Tseveendorj (Eds.), *Current Archaeological Research in Mongolia: Papers from the First International Conference on "Archaeological Research in Mongolia"*. Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology, vol.4. Bonn: VFG-Arch Press, 301-314.

## MEDIA

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- 2023 **Politically savvy princesses wove together a vast ancient empire.** *Science* 14 April 2023.  
<https://www.science.org/content/article/politically-savvy-princesses-wove-together-vast-ancient-empire>
- Burials reveal women's high status in ancient Mongolia.** *Nature* 616, 632: 14 April 2023. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-01283-8>
- Ancient DNA reveals secrets of empire that pushed China to build its Great Wall.** *CNN: Space & Science* 17 April 2023.  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/04/17/asia/xiongnu-ancient-dna-study-scn/index.html>
- Ancient Princesses Played Vital Political Role in Massive 'Xiongnu' Empire.** *Science Times* 20 April 2023.  
<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/43376/20230420/ancient-princesses-played-vital-political-role-massive-xiongnu-empire-earliest.htm>
- Who were the ancient Xiongnu? Study uncovers genetically diverse empire and nomadic princesses.** *South China Morning Post* 22 April 2023.  
<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3217833/who-were-ancient-xiongnu-study-uncovers-genetically-diverse-empire-and-nomadic-princesses>
- Great Wall of China 'built to keep out warrior princesses' – Riddle of the Xiongnu Empire dominated by women.** *The Times (London)* 25 April 2023.  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/great-wall-china-xiongnu-empire-tribe-women-wm7h5frqk>
- 2022 **Mystery warriors made the fastest migration in ancient history.** *Science* 1 April 2022.  
<https://www.science.org/content/article/mystery-warriors-made-fastest-migration-ancient-history>
- 2021 **The Xiongnu: History's First Nomadic Empire?** *The Ancients* podcast.  
<https://podfollow.com/the-ancients/episode/4dbbb2d9ee79d38cce461de78c941e07b1fb3c9c/view>
- 2021 **Marie Favereau, *The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World*, in conversation with Bryan Miller** Harvard Book Store virtual event series.  
[https://www.harvard.com/events/hbs\\_channel/marie\\_favereau/](https://www.harvard.com/events/hbs_channel/marie_favereau/)
- 2021 **Bryan Miller: "Ancient Mongolians cannot be compared to hungry bandits, but rather had a sophisticated subsistence and food culture."** *History.mn*. [in Mongolian]  
[https://www.tolgoilogch.mn/f+5batnhid?fbclid=IwAR0Q\\_5ItlWJ-wpS2KLC7xKg0qEA1iEUwRL8isZOdHBlkUYsfC06K4Zu4F4w](https://www.tolgoilogch.mn/f+5batnhid?fbclid=IwAR0Q_5ItlWJ-wpS2KLC7xKg0qEA1iEUwRL8isZOdHBlkUYsfC06K4Zu4F4w)
- 2020 **Horse mastery helped mysterious Mongolian warriors build a multiethnic empire.** *Science* 5 November 2020. <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/horse-mastery-helped-mysterious-mongolian-warriors-build-multiethnic-empire>
- 2020 **How Millets sustained Mongolia's empires.** *Popular Archaeology* 3 March 2020.  
<https://popular-archaeology.com/article/how-millets-sustained-mongolias-empires/>
- 2020 **Ancient Mongolians sustained with millet.** *Cosmos* 3 March 2020.  
<https://cosmosmagazine.com/archaeology/ancient-mongolian-empires-sustained-themselves-with-millet/>

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

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- 2022 **The Matter of Imperial Politics: Archaeological Contributions to Understanding the Role of Things in Productions of Power**, School for Advanced Research advanced seminar, Santa Fe NM. Seminar participant. Organizers: T. Bray & L. Katchadourian. <https://sarweb.org/seminars/advanced-2022/the-matter-of-imperial-politics/>
- 2019 **The Art & Archaeology of Ritual and Economy in East Asia: Symposium in Honor of Lothar von Falkenhausen**. Organizer with R. Flad and A. Hein. University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2014 **Redefining Configurations of Urban Settings: Centers of Social and Economic Activity in the Steppe**. Organizer for session at Society for East Asian Archaeology Conference, Ulaanbaatar; Organizer with J. Johnson for session at European Association of Archaeologists Conference, Istanbul.
- 2009 **Uyghur Archaeology**. Organizer with N. Steinhardt. University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia.
- 2008 **International Conference on Xiongnu Archaeology**. Organizer with U. Brosseder. In collaboration with National Museum of Mongolia & Institute of Archaeology MAS, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

#### INVITED TALKS & KEYNOTE LECTURES

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- 2022 **Objects of Action and Assemblages of Politics in Xiongnu Inner Asia**. as part of the School for Advanced Research advanced seminar *The Matter of Imperial Politics: Archaeological Contributions to Understanding the Role of Things in Productions of Power*, Santa Fe NM.
- 2022 **Regimes of Mobilities: Culture, Economy, and the Early Central Asian Powers**. Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum (San Francisco).
- 2020 **Cultural Mediations in the Great Wall Frontier: The Southern Xiongnu in Northern China**. Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2020 **The Great Game on the Silk Road: Contested Nodes & Competing Networks in the Western Regions during the Xiongnu-Han era**.  
For seminar workshop *The Ecology of Mobility in the Eurasian Steppes*, Tang Center for Silk Road Studies, University of California Berkeley.  
For seminar workshop *Chinese Frontiers and Central Eurasia: Art, Archaeology and History at the Turn of the Common Era*, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York.  
<https://isaw.nyu.edu/events/archive/2020/conference-chinese-frontiers>
- 2019 **Shedding Light on the ‘Dark Ages’ of Early Medieval Period Mongolia, ca. 100-500 CE**. For conference *Middle-Period Mongolian Archaeology*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- 2019 **Consuming the Herds: The Functions of Animal Offerings in Mortuary Realms of the Xiongnu**.  
For symposium workshop *The Art & Archaeology of Ritual and Economy of East Asia*, University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2018 **In Search of ‘Commoners’ in the Xiongnu Empire**. Plenary lecture for International Conference on Ancient Cultures of Mongolia, Baikal Siberia and Northern China, Russian Academy of Sciences, Ulan-Ude.
- 2018 **In Search of ‘Commoners’ in the Xiongnu Empire**. American Center for Mongolian Studies Speaker Series, Ulaanbaatar.
- 2018 **The Cup is Mightier than the Sword: Conflict Mediation and Consensus Making in the Xiongnu Nomadic Empire**.

For workshop *Premodern Rulers between Conflict and Consensus: the Potential for (In)Stability*, University of Bonn, *Macht und Herrschaft* SFB Group

- 2018 **The Valley as the City: Extended Pastoral Urbanism in the Xiongnu Steppe Empire.** Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2017 **The Valley as the City: Extended Pastoral Urbanism in the Xiongnu Steppe Empire.** University of Bristol, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology.
- 2017 **Globalized Consumption: Redressing Chinese Materials in Steppe Societies.** Universiteit Leiden, Faculty of Archaeology
- 2017 **All are Xiongnu: The Performance of Empire in Inner Asia.** Franz Boas Lecture Series, Columbia University, Anthropology Department.
- 2016 **Adaptive Political Culture in the ‘Hunnic’ Regimes.**  
For workshop *The Huns: Central Asia, The Near East & Europe*, German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Berlin.
- 2016 **A Small Steppe World: The Centrality of Barbarian Elites in Eurasian Networks of Exchange.** University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium.
- 2016 **Noble Nomads: The Role of Peripheral Pastoral Polities in Making the Xiongnu Empire.** Oxford University Centre for Asian Archaeology, Art and Culture, UK.
- 2015 **Configurations of Steppe Urbanism: Permanent Centers of Pastoral Polities in Mongolia.** Inner Asia Studies Unit, Cambridge University, UK.
- 2014 **Navigating and Negotiating the Middle Ground: Cultural Politics in the Frontier Between the Xiongnu and Han empires.** German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Berlin.
- 2014 **Between the Steppe and the Silk Road: The Western Frontier of the Xiongnu Empire [草原与丝路之间: 匈奴帝国西部边疆遗存].** Center for Frontier Archaeology, Jilin University, Changchun [lecture in Chinese].
- 2013 **Globalization and Socialization in Local Processes of the Xiongnu Empire.** German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Berlin
- 2013 **Peripheral Elites and Prestige Goods of the Xiongnu Empire [匈奴帝国边疆贵族与声望品].** Institute of Historical Metallurgy and Materials, University of Science and Technology in Beijing [lecture in Chinese].
- 2013 **Globalization and Socialization at the Periphery of the Xiongnu Empire.** For symposium *Between Nomad and Sedentary Cultures: New Perspectives in Inner Asian Archaeology*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2012 **Peoples Between Narratives: Social Orders and Cultural Politics in Early Imperial East Asia.** Louis J. Kolb Society Colloquium. University Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia.
- 2011 **Mobile Communities and Archaeological Analyses of Ancient Steppe Polities.** American Center for Mongolian Studies Speaker Series, Ulaanbaatar.
- 2008 **Exotic Materials and Power Politics in the Xiongnu Empire.** East Asian Archaeology Forum lecture series, Boston University.

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

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- 2022 to Present **Northern Realms Project (Darkhad, Mongolia); Researcher.** In collaboration with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences Institute of Archaeology, the Chinggis Khan Museum,

B.K. Miller



and NOMAD Science. This cemetery is under threat from looting and needs to be excavated in order to preserve one of only two Mongol period elite cemeteries identified in Mongolia. Co-PIs: J. Bayarsaikhan, J. Clark, A.R. Ventresca Miller.

- 2015 - 2018**                    **Kherlen Archaeology Project on Steppe Urbanism. *Principal Investigator.*** In collaboration with the National Museum of Mongolia. Co-PI: Dr. J. Bayarsaikhan.
- 2007-2010**                    **Khovd Archaeology Project on Imperial Frontiers. *Principal Investigator.*** In collaboration with the National Museum of Mongolia. Co-PI: Dr. J. Bayarsaikhan.
- 2006**                            **Khovd Archaeology Survey. *Principal Investigator.*** In collaboration with the Ulaanbaatar University. Co-PI: Prof. D. Erdenebaatar.
- 2001 - 2005**                    **Khanuy Valley Project. *Field Director for Gol Mod 2 Cemetery survey and excavations.*** In Collaboration of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Ulaanbaatar University. PIs: Dr. F. Allard and Prof. D. Erdenebaatar.

## **REVIEWER FOR**

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Antiquity, Archaeological Research in Asia, Asian Perspectives, Bryn Mawr Classical Review, Heritage Science, Journal of Field Archaeology, Nature: Scientific Reports, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), The Silk Road Journal  
Austrian Science Fund (FWF), National Geographic Society (NGS), National Science Foundation (NSF)

## **TEACHING & COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

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- 2024 Winter**                    **Arts & Cultures of Star Wars (HISTART 265 lecture; *Race & Ethnicity course*); Nomadic Civilizations (HISTART 497/689 seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.
- 2022 Fall**                        **Art on the Silk Roads (HISTART 393 seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.
- 2022 Winter**                    **Art and Empire in Antiquity (HISTART 286 lecture); Nomadic Civilizations (HISTART 497/689 seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.
- 2021 Fall**                        **Arts of War (HISTART 294 lecture); Medieval Compasses: Perspectives on Nomadic Histories in Africa and Eurasia (HISTART/HIST/MEMS 698 pro-seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.  
**Introduction to Chinese Civilization (ASIAN 260 / HIST 252)** University of Michigan, Asian Languages and Cultures Department.
- 2021 Winter**                    **Archaeology of Empires (HISTART 394 lecture); Arts and Cultures of Steppe Nomads (HISTART 497/689 seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.
- 2020 Fall**                        **Arts of War (HISTART 294 lecture); Arts of the Silk Roads (HISTART 393 seminar).** University of Michigan, History of Art Department.
- 2010 Spring**                    **Historical Methods (seminar, 2 sections); Western Civilizations I: Ancient World to 1600 (lecture).** Rowan University, History Department.
- 2009 Fall**                        **Historical Methods (seminar, 1 section); Chinese Cultural History (lecture); Empires of East Asia (lecture).** Rowan University, History Department.
- 2009 Spring**                    **East Asian Art History; Indian Art History.** State University of New York - FIT, History of Art Department.

## SERVICE AND MENTORING

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<b>F'2022-W'2023</b>	<b>Mya Welch, Yongha Cho, Stephen Jones.</b> <i>Undergrad Research Opportunity Program (UROP)</i> . Project: GIS Applications for Steppe Landscapes.
<b>F'2022-W'2023</b>	<b>Graduate Committee.</b> History of Art Department. <b>Freer Committee.</b> History of Art Department.
<b>F'2022</b>	<b>Executive Committee.</b> University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.
<b>W'2022</b>	<b>Christopher DeCou.</b> <i>Independent Study (for dissertation research)</i> . Fish Without Scales and the Mongol Exchange. History Department, University of Michigan.
<b>W'2022</b>	<b>Zhao Yuchao.</b> <i>Dissertation Reader</i> . Taming the Plateau: From Hunting to Herding in the Second Millennium BCE at Meilong Cave, Western Tibet. Anthropology Department, University of Michigan.
<b>W'2021</b>	<b>Wang Fanghan.</b> <i>Dissertation Review Committee</i> . Art, Agriculture, and Frontier: Representing Granaries in Han China. Institute of the Study of the Ancient World, New York.
<b>S'2010</b>	<b>Colleen O'Shea.</b> <i>Field Advisor</i> . On-Site Materials Excavation in the Mongolian Altai. Summer in Mongolia Graduate Fellowship funded through American Center for Mongolian Studies.

## LANGUAGES

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**English:** Native

**Chinese (Mandarin):** Fluent

**Chinese (Classical):** Advanced

**Mongolian:** Intermediate

**Russian:** Intermediate Reading

**German:** Intermediate [B1]

**French:** Intermediate Reading

**Japanese:** Intermediate Reading