

SUZANNE L. DAVIS

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology | 434 South State Street | Ann Arbor, MI 48109

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EDUCATION

- 1998 M.A. History of Art, Advanced Certificate in Conservation, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
- Graduate level conservation internships held as part of this degree:
 - the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
 - the Cloisters Museum, New York
- 1994 B.A., *magna cum laude*, History of Art, Chemistry minor, National Merit Scholar, Florida State University, Tallahassee

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current

- 2001 – present Senior Associate Curator and Head of Conservation, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
- Responsibilities:
- Direct the conservation and preservation programs for the Museum's 100,000+ artifacts and historic building
 - Manage the conservation laboratory and budget
 - Direct conservation for archaeological field projects, exhibitions, and loans
 - Conduct scholarly research and technical studies
 - Supervise full-time staff, contract conservators, student interns, and volunteers
 - Fundraise, write and direct grants
 - Serve as affiliated faculty for the University of Michigan Museum Studies Program

Previous

- 1998 – 2001 Conservator, Naval Museum and Underwater Archaeology Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 – 1998 Conservation fellow, Smithsonian Institution Freer and Sackler Galleries (now the National Museum of Asian Art), Washington, D.C.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION FIELDWORK

Current

- 2019 – present [Jebel Barkal Archaeological Project](#), Sudan
- 2016 – present [Notion Archaeological Survey](#), Turkey
- 2013 – present International Kurru Archaeological Project, Sudan
- 2001 – present Abydos Middle Cemetery Project, Egypt

Previous

- 2001 – 2012 Tel Kedesh, Israel
- 1997 Mugello Valley Archaeological Project, Poggio Colla, Italy
- 1996 Homol'ovi State Park, Winslow, AZ
- 1995 Sanctuary of the Great Gods, Samothrace, Greece

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2022 Davis, Suzanne L., Hamada Sadek, Claudia G. Chemello, Gregory Dale Smith, Pamela Hatchfield, Robert A. Blanchette, Ahmed Abdel-Azeem, and Janet Richards, "Conservation of severely deteriorated painted wood: A case study from Abydos, Egypt," *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation (JAIC)* 61 (4): 254-274.

- 2021 Davis, Suzanne L., Caroline Roberts, and Andrea Poli. "Paraloid B-72/B-48N 1:1 as an Adhesive for Use in Hot Climates: Literature Review, Laboratory Testing, and Observational Field Study," *Studies in Conservation* 67 (6): 357–65.
- 2020 Davis, Suzanne L., and Janet E. Richards. "Weni Rediscovered." *Scribe* Fall 2020 (6): 8–15.
- 2019 Davis, Suzanne L. "Understanding and Improving Gender Equity in Conservation," *JAIC* 58 (4): 202-216.
- 2019 Ahmed M. Abdel-Azeem, Benjamin W. Held, Janet E. Richards, **Suzanne L. Davis**, and Robert A. Blanchette. "[Assessment of Biodegradation in Ancient Archaeological Wood from the Middle Cemetery at Abydos, Egypt](#)," *PLOS One*.
- 2018 Roberts, Caroline, **Suzanne L. Davis**, LeeAnn Barnes Gordon, and Cathy Selvius DeRoo. 2018. "Investigating Approaches to the Treatment and Preservation of a Collection of Egyptian Limestone Funerary Stelae." *JAIC* 57 (1–2): 19–34.
- 2018 Davis, Suzanne L., Caroline Roberts, and Janelle Batkin-Hall. 2018. "A Comprehensive Approach to Conservation of Ancient Graffiti at El Kurru, Sudan." *JAIC* 57 (1–2): 1–18.
- 2015 Davis, Suzanne. "Objects of Potential: Commentary on Objects Conservation," *AIC News*, 40:2. American Institute for Conservation.
- 2014 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "CSI Abydos: Conservation and Scientific Investigation of Wood Funerary Artifacts at the Abydos Middle Cemetery," *Bulletin of the American Research in Egypt*, no. 204 – Summer 2014.
- 2013 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology," *AIC News*, 38:1. American Institute for Conservation.

Edited Volumes

- 2019 Emberling, Geoff and **Suzanne Davis**, eds. [Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond](#). Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
- 2015 Davis, Suzanne, ed. [Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation \(21\) Objects Specialty Group Sessions](#). May 29-June 1, 2014. San Francisco, CA. The American Institute for Conservation.

Book Chapters

- In press Emberling, Geoff and **Suzanne L. Davis**. "Community heritage and archaeology at El-Kurru, Sudan: Amplifying local voices and histories," in *Companion to Publicly Engaged Humanities Scholarship*, ed. Daniel Fisher-Livne and Michelle May-Curry, Routledge.
- In press Davis, Suzanne L. and Hamada Sadek, "Archaeological Conservation," in *Methods and Aims in Egyptian Archaeology: A Sourcebook*, eds. S. D'Auria and P. Lacovara, Lockwood Press.
- In press Davis, Suzanne L. and Caroline Roberts, "Planning for Architectural Conservation at Notion," chapter for the Notion Archaeological Survey volume, eds. C. Ratté, F. Rojas, and A. Commito, University of Michigan Press.
- 2023 Davis, Suzanne L. and Geoff Emberling, "Meroitic Graffiti as Devotional Practice at El-Kurru, Sudan," in *Stone Canvases: Towards a better integration of 'rock-art' and 'graffiti' studies in Egypt and Sudan*, ed. Paweł Polkowski. IFAO, Cairo.
- 2021 Davis, Suzanne L., "[Grief and the Importance of Real Things during COVID-19](#)," in *Being Human during COVID*, ed. Kristin Hass, University of Michigan Press.
- 2019 Davis, Suzanne. "Conservation and Documentation of Graffiti at El-Kurru," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
- 2019 Davis, Suzanne and Geoff Emberling. "Graffiti at El-Kurru: The Funerary Temple," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
- 2019 Davis, Suzanne. "Meroitic Graffiti in the Great Enclosure at Musawwarat es-Sufra," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
- 2014 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "The Conservation and Preservation of Glass," in C. Smith, Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer.
- 2014 Chemello, Claudia and **Suzanne Davis**. "Preservation and Conservation in Dry Desert

- Conditions,” in C. Smith, Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer.
- 2013 Davis, Suzanne. “Connecting to Conservation at the Kelsey Museum,” in E. Williams, Editor, *The Public Face of Conservation*. Archetype.
- 2013 Williams, Emily and **Suzanne Davis**. “Discussion from Exhibiting Ourselves: Presenting Conservation,” in E. Williams, Editor, *The Public Face of Conservation*. Archetype.
- 2012 Davis, Suzanne. “Achieving Preservation and Access in an Academic Museum,” in S. Jandl and M. Gold, Editors, *A Handbook for Academic Museums: Exhibitions and Education*. Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc.
- 2012 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. “So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology,” in post-prints of the Objects Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation.
- 2011 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. “Get Your Field Work for Nothin’ and Your Sherds for Free: Compensation for Archaeological Field Conservators,” in post-prints of the Objects Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation.
- 2010 Jamison, Jamye, **Suzanne Davis**, Claudia Chemello, and Wendy Partridge. “A Dionysian Dilemma: The Conservation and Display of Oversized Pompeian Watercolors at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology,” in *The Book and Paper Group Annual (29)*. The American Institute of Conservation.
- 2005 Davis, Kathleen and **Suzanne Davis**. “Appendix on Materials Analysis,” in M.C. Root, Editor, *This Fertile Land: Signs + Symbols in the Early Arts of Iran and Iraq*. Pp. 137-138. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.

Book Reviews

- 2017 Davis, Suzanne. “Review of Alice Boccia Paterakis. Volatile Organic Compounds and the Conservation of Inorganic Materials,” *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 56(2).

GRANTS AWARDED

- 2021 J.M. Kaplan Fund (\$19.5K) for site preservation and community engagement at El-Kurru, Sudan, with Geoff Emberling
- 2020 U.S. Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation, Large Grant (\$500K, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State), for conservation and community engagement at the site of Jebel Barkal, Sudan, with Geoff Emberling
- 2020 Antiquities Endowment Fund (United States Agency for International Development) administered by the American Research Center in Egypt (AEF-ARCE, \$90K), for conservation and exhibition of reliefs from the chapel of Weni the Elder, with Janet Richards
- 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Research and Development Grant (\$46K), for augmenting scientific research capacity at the Kelsey, with Caroline Roberts
- 2017 African Heritage Initiative (University of Michigan, \$6.5K)
- 2016 AEF-ARCE (\$50K), for conservation at the Abydos Middle Cemetery (AMC), Egypt
- 2014 Samuel H. Kress Conservation Fellowship (\$32K)
- 2012 AEF-ARCE (\$42K), for conservation and research related to archaeological wood at the AMC, Egypt, with Claudia Chemello
- 2011 Samuel H. Kress Conservation Fellowship (\$32K)
- 2008 Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Project Support Grant (\$150K)
- 2007 National Endowment for the Humanities Conservation and Stabilization Grant, with Sharon C. Herbert (\$300K)
- 2004 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, with Sharon C. Herbert (\$685K)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED LECTURES

- Accepted “Color Me Beautiful: Dyes and Dyeing in Roman Egyptian Textiles from Karanis, Egypt,” at the annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR), with Caroline Roberts

- 2023 "Gender Equity in Conservation: Understanding the Data and Exploring Ways to Improve," plenary presentation for the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), Jacksonville, FL
- 2023 "Accessible, Adaptable Imaging for Ancient Color Research: An Online, Open-Access Toolkit," annual meeting of AIC, Jacksonville, FL with Caroline Roberts
- 2022 "Gender Inequity in Museums: Evidence, Origins, Effects, and Solutions," ASOR annual meeting
- 2021 "Recapturing Ancient Identities: Challenges and Discoveries from the Multispectral Imaging of Roman Egyptian Stelae at the Kelsey Museum," annual meeting of AIC, virtual, with Caroline Roberts
- 2021 "Graffiti as Social Devotion in Ancient Sudan," for the U-M International Institute's Collaborative Conference, *Arts of Devotion*
- 2020 "The Ethics of Authorship: Acknowledgements & Credit, Responsibilities, and Professional Recourses," annual meeting of AIC, virtual, with Corina Rogge
- 2019 "Collaborative Field Work at El-Kurru and Jebel Barkal, Sudan," invited presentation for the Getty Conservation Institute's Conservation Bootcamp at the annual meeting of ASOR, San Diego, CA, with Geoff Emberling
- 2019 "From Archaeology to Community Heritage at El-Kurru, Sudan," at the ASOR annual meeting, San Diego, CA, with Geoff Emberling and Ray Silverman
- 2019 "Community Engagement and Field Archaeology: Ideology, Methodology, and Three Case Studies," annual meeting of AIC, Uncasville, CT
- 2019 "Conservation of Severely Deteriorated, Archaeological Painted Wood at Abydos, Egypt," annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Alexandria, VA, with Hamada Sadek
- 2018 "Loves Me like a Rock: Care and Preservation of Ancient Graffiti in a Rock-cut Kushite Temple," annual meeting of AIC, Houston, TX, with Carrie Roberts and Janelle Batkin-Hall
- 2017 "Conservation and Documentation Strategies for Preserving Ancient Graffiti on a Sandstone Funerary Temple at El Kurru, Sudan," American Institute of Archaeology (AIA) Annual Meeting, with Carrie Roberts and Janelle Batkin-Hall, Toronto, ON
- 2016 "Archaeological Conservation Today: Two Case Studies in North Africa," Randolph College, VA; invited lecturer for Archaeological Institute of America 2016/17
- 2016 "Emergency Preparedness for Academic Museums." Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the AIC, Montreal, Canada, with Mike Kennedy
- 2015 "Making Conservation Work Onsite: Practical Problem Solving at El Kurru, Sudan and Abydos, Egypt." Presentation for the General (plenary) Session at the AIC annual meeting, Miami, FL
- 2014 "Conservation Research and Technical Study of Funerary Artifacts at Abydos, Egypt," American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2013 "Beyond the Portfolio." Invited presentation at the annual meeting of the AIC, Indianapolis, IN
- 2012 "Getting what you came for: Conservation and Research at Tel Kedesh, Israel." Presentation at the ASOR annual meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2012 "Balancing Preservation and Access at the Kelsey Museum." Presentation at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Regional Conservation Guild (MRCG), Bloomington, IN
- 2012 "So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology." Presentation at the AIC annual meeting, Albuquerque, NM, with Claudia Chemello
- 2012 "Learning in Museums: Conservation." Invited lecture at the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Center, Giza, Egypt
- 2011 "Connecting to Conservation at the Kelsey Museum." Presentation at *Playing to the Galleries and Engaging New Audiences: The Public Face of Conservation*, Williamsburg, VA
- 2011 "Get Your Field Work for Nothin' and Your Sherds for Free: Compensation for Archaeological Field Conservators." Presentation at the annual meeting of the AIC, Philadelphia, PA, with Claudia Chemello
- 2010 "Beyond the Artifact: Redefining Archaeological Field Conservation at Tel Kedesh, Israel." Presentation at the MRCG annual meeting, Detroit, MI

PUBLIC INTEREST EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, and LECTURES

Exhibitions Curated

- 2019-2020 [“Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile,”](#) with Geoff Emberling. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
2012-2013 [“Conserving Antiquity,”](#) with Claudia Chemello. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.

Kelsey Museum Newsletter articles

- 2019 [Curator Interview for “Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile,”](#) Fall
2013 “Symposium on Abydos Conservation,” Spring
2012 “*Conserving Antiquity* Offers Insider’s View,” Fall
2009 “Conserving Maria Barosso’s Watercolors,” Spring
2008 “Tel Kedesh 2008: Conservation Update,” Fall
2008 “Conservators Prepare for Moving (but not Shaking),” Spring
2005 “To Abydos and Back: A Conservator’s Travelogue,” Spring
2003 “Behind the Scenes at the Kelsey: Exhibition Conservation,” Spring

Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter articles

- 2014 Davis, Suzanne. “Notes from the Field: El Kurru, Sudan,” in *The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter*, XXXIII:1, MRCG.
2013 Davis, Suzanne. “Foreign Correspondence: Conservation in the Field,” in *The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter*, XXXII:1, MRCG.

Events, Lectures, and Public Education Activities

- 2021 “Be of Good Cheer: the Colorful Grave Markers of Ancient Terenouthis,” for the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (KMA), with Caroline Roberts
2018 “Conservation and Archaeology in Ann Arbor, Egypt, and Sudan,” for Oberlin University
2017 “The Museum Further Afield: Conservation, Art, and Archaeology,” University of Michigan Museum Studies brown-bag lecture series
2016 “Archaeological conservation today: two cases studies in North Africa,” for the Archaeological Institute of America lecture program
2014 “Kelsey Museum Conservation in the Field: Recent Work at El Kurru, Sudan, and Abydos, Egypt” as part of the lecture series *FAST: Field Archaeology Series on Thursday*, sponsored by the KMA and the University of Michigan’s Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology
2013 Organizer and moderator of, “Discovery! Conservation and Science in Action at Abydos, Egypt,” lightning round presentation and discussion with 6 speakers, KMA, September
2012 Co-curator of, “Conserving Antiquity,” special exhibition on conservation, KMA, and primary author for the associated website
2012 “Conserving Antiquity: the remarkable story of conservation and stewardship at the Kelsey Museum,” opening lecture for the special exhibition *Conserving Antiquity*, KMA, November
2012 Associates Exhibition Preview: *Conserving Antiquity*, KMA, November
2012 Behind the Scenes Champagne Tour: Conservation, November
2008 - 2012 Creator and primary author for, “Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Dig Diaries,” a website and notes-from-the-field style blog highlighting conservation and preservation activities at KMA excavations
2011 “Conservation in the Museum and in the Field,” for *An Evening of Magic: experts speak on the conservation and preservation of art and artifacts*, University of Michigan Museum of Art, March
2010 “A Day at the Museum: Conservation,” panel discussant for the 2009-2010 University of Michigan academic theme year, *Meaningful Objects: Museums in the Academy*, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, May

- 2010 “Conservation Challenges in the Field: Tel Kedesh,” as part of the lecture series *FAST: Field Archaeology Series on Thursday*, sponsored by the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and the University of Michigan’s Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, March
- 2010 “Kelsey Museum Conservation: Ann Arbor, Israel, Egypt,” University Commons, Ann Arbor, MI, January, with Claudia Chemello

CONFERENCE SESSIONS CHAIRED

- 2018 - 2021 Plenary sessions of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) annual meeting
- 2016 - 2022 “Cultural Heritage Management: Methods, Practices, and Case Studies,” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR), with Glenn Corbett
- 2013 - 2015 “Conservation and Site Preservation in the Near East,” ASOR, with LeeAnn Barnes Gordon
- 2014 Objects Specialty Group Sessions (3), Annual Meeting of the AIC, San Francisco
- 2013 “Engaging with Allied Fields: Teaching Conservation in Allied Academic Departments and Degree Programs,” Annual Meeting of the AIC, Indianapolis, with Emily Williams
- 2012 “Archaeological Conservation Strategies in the Near East,” Annual Meeting of ASOR, Chicago, IL, with LeeAnn Barnes Gordon
- 2012 “Exhibiting Ourselves: Presenting Conservation,” Annual Meeting of AIC, Albuquerque, NM, with Emily Williams

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021 – 2025 President, American Institute for Conservation (AIC)
- 2022 – 2025 Board of Directors, United States Committee of the Blue Shield
- 2017 – 2025 Board of Directors, Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)
- 2021 – 2022 Member of the Engagement, Communication, and Storytelling Working Group for *Held in Trust*, a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and FAIC project to evaluate the state of conservation in the United States
- 2017 – 2021 Vice President and Annual Meeting Program Chair, AIC
- 2019 – 2025 Site Preservation Committee, Archaeological Institute of America
- 2016 – 2017 Program Committee, Annual Meeting of the AIC
- 2016 – 2018 Outreach Committee Chair, Objects Specialty Group, AIC
- 2015 – 2016 Chair Emerita, AIC Objects Specialty Group
- 2014 – 2015 Consultant, U.S. Department of State and American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) Collaborative Syrian Heritage Initiative
- 2014 – 2015 Chair, AIC Objects Specialty Group (1,000+ members)
- 2013 – 2014 Vice Chair & Program Chair, AIC Objects Specialty Group
- 2012 – 2016 Education and Training Committee, AIC
- 2012 – 2015 Secretary, Midwest Regional Conservation Guild (MRCG)
- 2012 – 2015 Chair, MRCG Membership Committee
- 2007 – 2017 Mentor, Emerging Conservation Professionals Network, AIC
- 2005 – present Archaeological Heritage Network, AIC
- Ongoing Peer reviewer for the following presses / publications: *Journal of African Archaeology*, *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Routledge, Smithsonian Institution, *Studies in Conservation*, *Time and Mind*

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Education & Teaching

- 2003 – present Affiliated faculty for University of Michigan Museum Studies Program (UMMSP)
- Lecture and provide directed reading for undergraduate and graduate classes

- Advise UMMSP students
 - Supervise UMMSP interns
- 2001 – present Kelsey Museum Collections Team (for facilitating teaching and learning with Museum collections)
- 2001 – present Invited lecturer for classes in the following departments: Classical Studies, History, History of Art, Middle East Studies
- 2006 – present Creator and instructor for a series of workshops on field conservation for graduate students in Classical Studies and Anthropology departments

Committee Service

- 2023 Search committee, Associate Director
- 2013/2014 Search Committee Chair, Conservator
- 2001 – present Exhibitions Committee
- 2001 – present Building Committee (environmental control; building hygiene, preservation, and renovation; security; emergency response)
- 2012 Search Committee, Associate Director
- 2012 Search Committee, Office Manager
- 2006 Search Committee Chair, Conservator
- 2006 Search Committee, Registrar
- 2005 Search Committee, Registrar

Other

- 2018 – 2019 Lead researcher and author of the Kelsey Museum’s Humans Remains Stewardship Policy
- 2001 – present Emergency Operations lead and primary author of the Emergency Response and Collections Salvage plans
- 2001 – present HVAC systems lead and primary museum contact for U-M facilities

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

- Arabic Elementary level reading, writing, and speaking (modern standard Arabic, Egyptian and Levantine dialects)
- French Intermediate reading and writing, elementary speaking
- Turkish Elementary reading, writing, and speaking
- German Intermediate reading

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014 Conservation Advocacy Award, American Institute for Conservation
- 1994-1998 Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow
- 1997 Etruscan Foundation Fellow in Archaeological Conservation
- 1997 Leon Levy and Shelby White Fellow
- 1996-1997 Women’s International Leadership Council Fellow
- 1995 Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow in Classical Studies
- 1990-1994 National Merit Scholar

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow (senior peer-reviewed member) of the American Institute for Conservation
- American Alliance of Museums
- American Society of Overseas Research
- American Research Center in Egypt
- Archaeological Institute of America
- Midwest Regional Conservation Guild