



Portrait bust of a woman, Hagar
Palmyra, Syria
circa 150 AD
Australian War Memorial ART00484

Syria

Ancient History - Modern Conflict Symposium

FORUM THEATRE, ARTS WEST
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST TO
SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

General Overview

The symposium for Syria: Ancient History – Modern Conflict expands on the eponymous exhibition, exploring Australian archaeological work in Syria across three decades. These excavations, and the materials they uncovered, will be presented within the framework of Syria's current heritage crisis. The symposium will cover the various aspects of site analysis and management, touching on key issues like the politics of mapping archaeological landscapes and excavating sustainably. By bringing in experts from across the discipline we aim to show the wealth of knowledge that excavations in Syria have procured about the history of the region, as well as shedding some light on the process of archaeology and how it can aid in the current conflict.

Join us for an illuminating symposium looking at the University's past research projects in Syria and the contribution they have made to our understanding of the archaeology of this historically important area, while suggesting new methods of object based research and preservation.

Program at A Glance

Friday 11 August 2017 - Forum Theatre, Arts West

Keynote Lecture

6:00-7:00	Aleppo and Palmyra – How monuments were 'Weaponised' in the Syrian Conflict	A/Prof Ross Burns (Macquarie)
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Saturday 12 August 2017 - Forum Theatre, Arts West

Session 1: Cultural Diversity – Jebel Khalid (chair: Dr Andrew Jamieson)

9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-10:15	Putting it all together? Thirty years of work at Jebel-Khalid-on-the-Euphrates	Dr Heather Jackson (Unimelb)
10:15-10:45	A View from the Summit: Excavations on the Acropolis at Jebel Khalid	Dr John Tidmarsh (USyd)
10:45-11:15	Morning Tea (provided)	
11:15-11:45	Peopling the landscape: Archaeological Surveys in the Euphrates Hinterland	Dr Mandy Mottram (ANU)
11:45-12:15	Piecing together and stabilising the Hellenistic past: Archaeological field conservation in Syria	Holly Jones-Amin (Unimelb)
12:15-1:30	Lunch Break	

Session 2: Conquest and Colonisation – Tell Ahmar (chair: Dr Leah McKenzie)

1:30-2:15	Tell Ahmar: an important site on the Euphrates	Dr Guy Bunnens (Liege) (to be read by Michelle Glynn)
2:15-2:45	Sherds of an Empire: Neo-Assyrian Ceramics from Tell Ahmar	Dr Andrew Jamieson (Unimelb)
2:45-3:15	Ivories, tablets, mosaics and more: Neo-Assyrian discoveries in Area C	Jeremy Smith (HV)
3:15-3:30	Afternoon Tea (provided)	

Session 3: Cities on the Frontier – El-Qitar and Tell Nebi Mend (chair: Dr Marilyn Truscott)

3:30-4:00	El-Qitar: Bronze Age fortress on the Euphrates	Dr Thomas McClellan (to be read by Mandy Mottram)
4:00-4:30	Mapping the landscape: from El Qitar to Jebel Khalid	Cliff Ogleby (Unimelb)
4:30-5:00	Excavation of Tell Nebi Mend, Syria	Dr Christopher Davey (AIA)

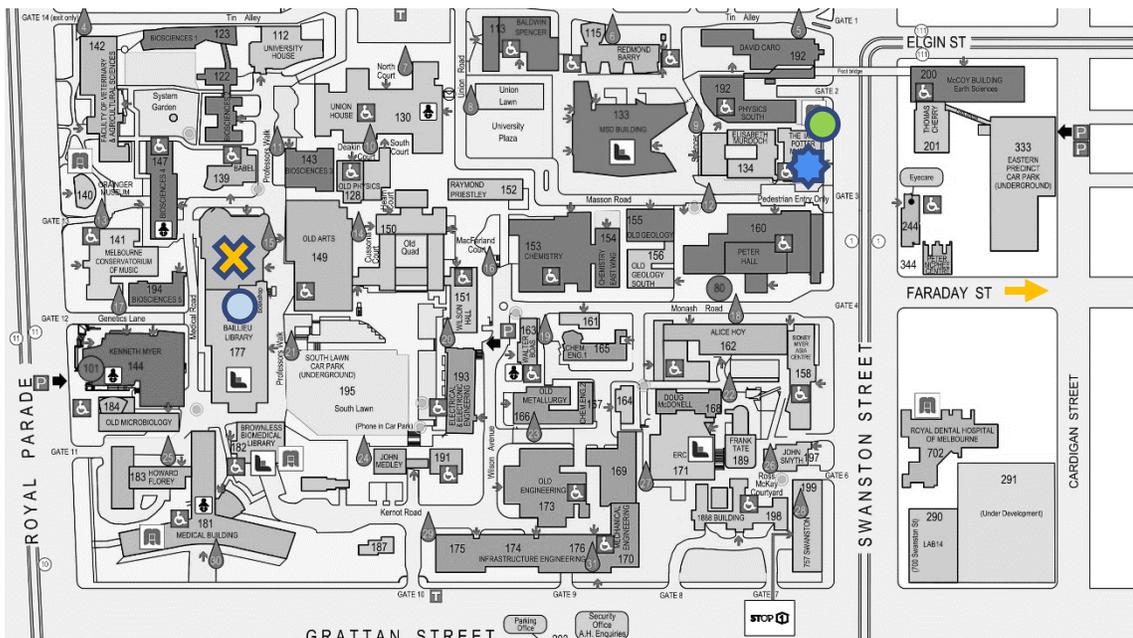
Sunday 13 August 2017 - Forum Theatre, Arts West

Session 4: Community Engagement and Cultural Heritage (chair: Dr Leah McKenzie)

9:30-9:50	Community Connections to Cultural Heritage: Continuity, Reconnection, and Recovery	Dr Marilyn Truscott (ICOMOS)
9:50-10:10	Engaging Community and Near Eastern Archaeological Collections: The Syrian Australian Research Collaboration Project	Dr Andrew Jamieson (Unimelb)
10:10-10:30	Syria Re-imagined	Dr Fiona Hill (Almanar)
10:30-11:00	<i>Morning Tea (provided)</i>	

Session 5: War, Destruction, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity (chair: Dr Fiona Hill)

11:00-11:20	After the War: Effects on Syria's Cultural Diversity	Dr Nicholas al Jeloo (Unimelb)
11:20-11:40	Archaeology, Heritage and Destruction: Decolonising Syria's Cultural Heritage	Dr Mandy Mottram (ANU)
11:40-12:00	Digitally Mediated Iconoclasm: The Islamic State and the War on Cultural Heritage	Dr Antonio Gonzalez (Deakin)
12:00-12:30	Q&A	



- Symposium Venue:**
- Forum Theatre, Arts West
- Lunch Options:**
- Professor's Walk Café
Open Sat
11am-4pm
- The Potter Espresso Bar
Open Sat & Sun
8am-5:30pm
Ask the organisers about your participant discount voucher
- Various venues on Lygon Street
- Ian Potter Museum of Art Exhibition:**
- Syria Ancient History – Modern Conflict
Open Sat & Sun
12-5pm

Abstracts

A Prof Ross Burns, Macquarie University

Aleppo and Palmyra – How monuments were 'Weaponised' in the Syrian Conflict

Ross Burns, author of a recent history of Aleppo and of Monuments of Syria, presents an analysis of why the country's incomparable store of historical buildings and sites has been so deliberately targeted. In many cases such damage represents not collateral casualties but the deliberate 'weaponising' of symbols of the past—turning historical treasures from many civilisations into weapons in a propaganda war. While such deliberate targeting represents only a small proportion of the carnage afflicted on the country—compared to the results of deliberate assaults on civilian housing, medical facilities and schools—such cultural assets can play an important role in the restoration of Syrian national identity after the end of the conflict.

Dr Heather Jackson, University of Melbourne

Putting it all together? Thirty years of work at Jebel-Khalid-on-the-Euphrates

What have we found? A Hellenistic settlement at a strategic point on the Euphrates, dating c. 300–70 BC. This paper will summarise the importance of the location of Jebel Khalid and the nature of the settlement – phourion, katoikia or polis?. Some of the public buildings suggest the latter and provide a contrast with the relatively impoverished Hellenistic settlement of Dura-Europus down-river. The issue that has always dominated our analysis and research is "Where are the Syrians?" How much involvement did they have in this Greek settlement? The answer involves examining architectural choices in public buildings and private houses, burial practices, artefacts such as pottery, figurines, inscriptions, sculpture and even the faunal evidence.

Dr John Tidmarsh – University of Sydney

A View from the Summit: Excavations on the Acropolis at Jebel Khalid

Over three seasons (2006, 2008, 2010) excavations were conducted on the southern extremity of the Acropolis (to the south of the Acropolis palace) to investigate one of a series of long narrow structures, visible on the surface, that ran north–south and appeared to abut the southern fortification wall of the Acropolis. In 2010 three plots were also opened to the east, in the broad area between the Acropolis fortification wall (also investigated in 2006) and the palace. While incomplete, the excavations have revealed a complex to the south of the palace, constructed during the late third or early second century BC, with relatively spacious rooms and well-built walls, that would have served to accommodate the personnel and supplies necessary for the functioning of the palace. During the late second or early first century BC extensive modifications were carried out to this complex, along with the construction of new dwellings on the eastern Acropolis. The newly-constructed walls, along with the remodelling of existing structures, were of lesser quality than that seen in the original complex and are consistent with the influx of a new population, civilian and military, suggested by evidence from elsewhere on the jebel.

Dr Mandy Mottram, Australian National University

Peopling the landscape: Archaeological Surveys in the Euphrates Hinterland

The traditional focus of Syrian archaeology on excavation of tells and monumental sites has sustained perceptions that they existed as isolated entities, often more closely linked with the territorial empires they represented than with their local regions. Moreover, the emphasis on rescue archaeology along the Syrian Euphrates has painted a picture of regional settlement akin to modern strip development, with the hinterland at best vaguely recognised in a supportive role. The reality, of course, was that people's lives were not confined to settlements, but interacted constantly with surrounding landscapes. As archaeologists have framed their research questions around larger, longer-term issues such as sustainability and systems collapse, attention has shifted from studying sites and monuments in isolation, to understanding regional diachronic developments by combining excavation, extensive surveys and landscape studies. This paper provides an overview of two seasons of archaeological survey within the Euphrates hinterland, conducted alongside the excavations at Jebel Khalid. This work contextualised data already available from the excavations within a regional diachronic framework and explored the interaction between the riverine sites and their hinterland. Archaeological features were identified by combining remote sensing using CORONA spy satellite imagery and traditional field techniques. These revealed a rich archaeological history extending over some 300,000 years, from the Lower Palaeolithic to Ottoman times. Shifting the investigative focus away from the river valley produced some surprise results, especially regarding pastoral/agricultural interactions. The survey was thus successful in establishing a broad sense of long-term changes to settlement patterns and land-use throughout the region.

Holly Jones-Amin, University of Melbourne

Piecing together and stabilising the Hellenistic past: Archaeological field conservation in Syria

Archaeological conservation was undertaken by the author for five seasons from 1996-2001. Archaeological conservation is a discipline of materials conservation that concerns the conservation of archaeological objects. The aim of archaeological conservation is a greater understanding of the past through scientific investigation of excavated artefacts often using analytical techniques, along with the application of methods to prevent excavated objects from further deterioration. The selection of treatment steps and methods takes into account the condition of an object or group of objects (assemblage), research objectives, significance, future use, and advantages and disadvantages of various treatments. For a conservator Jebel Khalid is a very rich site with an abundance of material types to conserve including ceramics, glass, bronze, iron, lead, fresco, mosaic, bone and wood. Conservation was undertaken in rudimentary facilities typical of remote archaeological locations, with limited resources such as water and limited access to conservation materials. All aspects of conservation were planned prior to fieldwork commencing and supplies were brought from Australia with the conservator and other members of the team. The conservation workload was largely unpredictable. No two seasons were the same in terms of the demands on the conservator. In practice, conservation in a field situation relies heavily on applying extrapolated information and using available resources. I was often required to make rapid decisions about an appropriate conservation method, with only a theoretical knowledge of a particular problem. This paper details conservation undertaken for the Jebel Khalid excavation, reflects on changes in conservation practice and presents some of the objects conserved. The lifting of an 8000-year-old fresco at Tell Halula is also discussed.

Dr Guy Bunnens, University of Liege*Tell Ahmar on the Euphrates*

From 1988 to 1999, the University of Melbourne conducted rescue excavations at the site of Tell Ahmar on the east bank of the Euphrates, some twenty kilometres to the south of the modern Syrian-Turkish border. The site was threatened by the building of a dam and the project was undertaken as a response to a request by the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums. The talk will highlight three of the main results obtained by the Melbourne University excavations. 1) Tell Ahmar, which was called either by its Aramaean name Til Barsib or by its Assyrian name Kâr-Shalmaneser, was a provincial capital of the Assyrian empire. Residential buildings, obviously belonging to an economic elite involved in the administration of the empire, were excavated, which display a mixture of Assyrian features and local tradition, for instance chequerboard pebble mosaics. 2) Besides objects of everyday life, such as pottery and basalt implements, the exploration of the Assyrian residences yielded luxury items such as carved ivories, seals and cuneiform tablets. 3) A few weeks before water started rising in July 1999, the Melbourne University expedition managed to drag a three-metre high Luwian, or Neo-Hittite, stele out of the Euphrates, which depicted the Storm-God. The stele, dating from the early 9th century BCE, is also carved with a Luwian inscription of one Hamiyata who was the ruler of Tell Ahmar, then called Masuwari.

Dr Andrew Jamieson, University of Melbourne*Sherds of an Empire: Neo-Assyrian Ceramics from Tell Ahmar*

Known from the Neo-Assyrian inscriptions of Shalmaneser III, Tell Ahmar, ancient Til Barsib, was one of the main cities of the Aramaean tribal state of Bît Adini. In 856 BC the site was conquered by Shalmaneser III, converted into an Assyrian provincial capital and renamed Kâr-Shalmaneser. From 1988 to 1999 the University of Melbourne undertook salvage excavations at the site. This paper discusses the Iron Age findings, with a particular focus on the ceramics from the Australian excavations in the Middle and Lower City areas. These ceramic assemblages show remarkably strong affinities with the main centres of the Assyrian homeland. In fact, it is with the ceramics from Nimrud that the Tell Ahmar material finds its closest parallels. The Neo-Assyrian pottery demonstrates the degree to which Assyrian culture influenced the peripheral regions of the Empire during the Neo-Assyrian period.

Jeremy Smith, Heritage Victoria*Ivories, tablets, mosaics and more: Neo-Assyrian discoveries in Area C*

Archaeological investigations were conducted by the University of Melbourne at the site of Tell Ahmar (ancient Til Barsib) from 1988-1999. As is often the case on an excavation project, there was one season that is remembered by the team members as a landmark year, when remarkable and highly significant discoveries were made. In 1993, the archaeological investigations focused on Area C, in the middle city of the Neo-Assyrian (Iron Age) township. The excavations uncovered the remains of a well-appointed, almost palatial residence that had been destroyed by fire, with a rich deposit of carved ivory pieces, baked clay tablets and other artefacts. An adjoining trench contained a life-sized basalt statue of an Assyrian dignitary, and a structurally intact tomb with vaulted ceiling and a clay sarcophagus, reminiscent of the royal tombs from Nimrud. Jeremy will discuss the successes of the 1993 season, and also reflect on how the University of Melbourne

expedition to Tell Ahmar provided unique and invaluable training for a cohort of students, in the early years of their archaeology careers.

Dr Thomas McClellan

El-Qitar: A Bronze Age Fortress on the Euphrates

El-Qitar was excavated three seasons by the University of Melbourne from 1982-1985 co-directed by William Culican and Thomas McClellan, and two seasons by the Oriental Institute, Chicago, that included Melbourne team members, in 1986 and 1987. Probably to be identified as Dur Samsi-Addu in the Middle Bronze Age/Old Babylonian Period, the mountain was fortified with curtain walls, nine towers, and two city gates. Like other Hollow Cities in Middle Bronze Age Syria, there was an absence of occupation inside the fortifications, except for a large administrative structure, the Orthostat Building. All was destroyed in that same period, and the site lay abandoned for several hundred years. Around the time Suppiluliuma Ist conquered the area in the fourteenth century BC, el Qitar was reoccupied. Known as Til Abnu at that time, the Upper and Lower Settlements comprised a network of streets and blocks of buildings inside the renovated fortifications. Interestingly the three sites excavated by Melbourne, dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Hellenistic period, were all military in nature. For el-Qitar, the questions are, was it built and later colonized from outside the area, and do the settlements reflect a military culture? The only building still in use at the end of the Late Bronze Age, around 1200 BC, was the temple.

Cliff Ogleby, University of Melbourne

Mapping the Landscape: from El Qitar to Jebel Khalid

This presentation will cover the evolution of mapping archaeological sites and excavations, with a particular emphasis on the Syrian sites of el Qitar and Jebel Khalid. From plane tables, theodolites, electronic distance measurement through to kites, balloons, bipods and more recently GPS and UAV. The initial mapping of el Qitar was undertaken using a laborious field survey process known as 3-hair-stadia along with considerable manual calculation. The next phase used an electromagnetic distance meter attached to the top of an optical theodolite, again involving considerable manual calculation. These days, electronic theodolites that also measure distance and store the data, or increasingly, differential GPS, would be the instrument of choice. The presentation will also illustrate the contribution of digital imaging, modern photogrammetry and remotely piloted aerial systems has to offer the cartographer.

Dr Christopher Davey, Australian Institute of Archaeology

Excavation of Tell Nebi Mend: an important ancient tell of the Orontes River Valley in Syria

From 1975 Tell Nebi Mend, ancient Kadesh, was excavated by a team from University College London, which later included staff and students from the University of Melbourne. Dr Christopher Davey was a member of the original team. His presentation will describe the circumstances of the first season, provide an over-view of the subsequent seasons and briefly discuss the topography of the area with reference to the Egyptian reliefs of Rameses II depicting ancient Kadesh and the other major Bronze Age Syrian cities. During the recent turmoil the village of Nebi Mend was shelled and is now deserted.

Dr Marilyn Truscott, ICOMOS Australia*Community Connections to Cultural Heritage: Continuity, Reconnection, and Recovery*

This paper explores the ethics and processes of involving the local communities in decisions about heritage reconstruction or restoration in Syria. The inclusion of the relevant community/ies can foster the recovery of heritage in its widest sense, whether archaeological sites, historic architecture, or urban spaces with their traditional uses. Such a community role can also advance not only a physical recovery of place, but a community's sense of place and with that their cultural identity. Various processes of engaging the local community are explored, whether on site or refugees elsewhere. Cultural mapping is increasingly applied in heritage studies to identify community connection with place as well as the meaning of the physical environment, buildings, sites, spaces to that group. Particularly 'memory mapping', including with those who have fled from home, is known to provide essential information for any proposed reconstruction of places and sites that have been destroyed. The examples given include Syrians in refugee camps in the Middle East, such as building of miniature heritage sites—Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers etc, at Za'atari in Jordan, and storytelling of place with Syrian children in Lebanon. Another is UNESCO's recent recognition of the need to involve civil society in response to devastation in the old city area of Damascus. The paper draws on community experiences elsewhere—displaced peoples such as Greeks from Turkey after World War I, or the Palestinians, to those after natural disasters, to demonstrate the relevance of including local people in post-war destruction processes for recovery.

Dr Andrew Jamieson, University of Melbourne*Engaging Community and Near Eastern Archaeological Collections: The Syrian Australian Research Collaboration Project*

The current crisis in the Near East is a catastrophe on many different levels. Whilst the full extent to which the conflict will influence the future of Near Eastern Studies is yet to be determined, it will more than likely be profound and lasting. Regardless of the outcome, the situation highlights the critical need to engage and involve local communities in cultural heritage conservation, interpretation and protection efforts. Some critics of traditional academic archaeological research note that it has the potential to alienate local communities driving a significant 'wedge' between archaeologists and the communities in which they work. This paper discusses the Syrian-Australian Archaeological Research Collaboration Project developed to conserve, store, study, interpret and exhibit archaeological collections extant in Syria's northern Euphrates River valley, which was advanced in planning when the Syrian conflict began in 2011.

Dr Fiona Hill, Almanar Consultancy*Syrians Re-imagined*

For six years now the moral and logistical support given by several Governments to every stripe of fighter in Syria has created a well-funded industry of commentary on the fighting and destruction inside the country, and on the robust wrestle of political wills outside. Meanwhile investigation into non-militant Syrians' acts of survival is somewhat overlooked and gravely under-valued. Just as Archaeology reveals and re-imagines the lives of past peoples, Social Sciences can reveal and re-imagine the futures of present peoples - offering a literally vital thread in the dominant

narrative of shifting empires. Syrians at home – fighting and passive - and in Diaspora all struggle to tell their truths above the noise of competing internal and external political narratives. Syrians of means who fled their homeland due to kidnapping, death, and extortion threats, or destruction of their homes and livelihoods, rarely express support for the Syrian government or the militant opposition groups. Many continue to return home to support Syria's economic, civic, and philanthropic re-growth, while the less well connected who've fled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, or Greece - or to safe havens within Syria – continue to duck and weave and often capitulate to one fighting group or another in order to survive. The telling of Syrians' own stories alongside the findings of commentators effectively and practically adds to the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage. This paper explores the journey Syrians have taken since 2011 by focusing on the situation of 6 individuals from very different walks of life.

Dr Nicholas al Jeloo, University of Melbourne

After the War: Effects on Syria's Cultural Diversity

Lying, as it does, at a crossroads of civilisations and cultures, Syria is much more than the homogenous Arab, Muslim state imagined by much of the western world and portrayed by much of its media. Prior to 2011, this is a country that presented a multi-coloured mosaic of ethnicities, languages, religions and sects. Each of these lived in relative harmony with one another, and had co-existed in this manner for centuries. With the emergence of civil strife, however, and sectarian conflict as a distinct characteristic of the war on Syria, we have therefore come to observe the emboldening of certain key ethnic or religious groups and their oppression of those smaller ones living amid or adjacent to them. Among the most vulnerable of these smaller groups are those which are at the same time ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities – most notable among these are the Assyrians, Arameans and Armenians. It is these ultra-minorities which, in other contexts, are perceived as a barometer of pluralism in a future, diverse Middle East. This paper will deal with issues pertaining to the human rights of Syria's minorities, and the effect their self-determination would have on the country's stability and territorial integrity. Moreover, the endangerment of cultural and religious diversity in these countries by political Islam and banned terrorist groups will be discussed. Finally, the paper will conclude with contemplations concerning the consequences of a government victory or defeat for Syria's minorities, as well as cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious and sectarian diversity in the country.

Dr Mandy Mottram, Australian National University

Archaeology, Heritage and Destruction: Decolonising Syria's Cultural Heritage

Subjects of archaeological inquiry are shaped by repeated cycles of development, destruction and decay; indeed, the archaeological process itself is inherently destructive. Yet, archaeologists have mostly been slow to locate the present destruction of Syria's cultural sites within their field's explanatory frameworks and to inject these concepts into wider discussion. Western public and even academic discussion has instead been dominated by the discourse of global 'world' heritage, enshrined in institutions such as UNESCO, which, in privileging Western secularist viewpoints, reinforces the colonialist enterprise. This paper considers both present and past destructions of Syria's cultural sites and why responses to each might vary. It examines how contemporary events can be conceptualised within archaeological and historical processes, to establish an 'archaeology of the present'. It challenges the moral-normative rhetoric of 'universalist' heritage approaches which decontextualise culture, reducing it to a resource for politics and commodification. Rather than support

calls for the reconstruction of monuments because of their capacity for enhancing a future Syrian national identity or tourist economy, it holds that a more considered response would be to retain these in their ruined state, thus minimising the potential for marginalising memory of the destructive acts and for the 'sacralisation' of collective memory that attaches to state-sponsored memorials. Most importantly, voice must be given to those who live with these places. Only in this way will it be possible to avoid reasserting the outdated objectives of archaeology and cultural 'heritagisation' as they have been practiced in Syria to date.

Dr Antonio Gonzalez, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation

Digitally Mediated Iconoclasm: The Islamic State and the War on Cultural Heritage

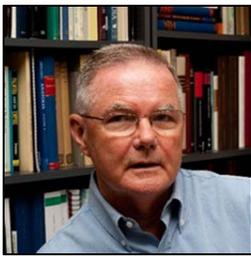
This paper puts forward a new concept to understand digitally distributed terrorist propaganda, in particular, the videos and photographs depicting images of heritage destruction by the Islamic State (IS). By 'digitally mediated iconoclasm' (DMI), we mean iconoclasm that is mainly experienced through the digital material (videos, photographs, and other propaganda artefacts) that the political actor perpetrating the violence (in this case IS) makes available in global informational networks for its consumption, duplication and distribution. In DMI harmful actions are staged in a way that emphasises three stages of the destruction: before, during and after the event. The manner in which these are disseminated through digital networks as archive and evidence are what differentiates DMI from previous acts of iconoclasm. By focusing on the DMI material that circulated the destruction of Palmyra, we offer a framework of DMI in the hope that it can advance some important analytical work in the intersection of heritage and terrorism studies and media theory, by looking into the consequences produced as a result of this meditation. By understanding how different types of media come together in the mediation of iconoclastic events we can better elucidate better ways of protecting heritage and effectively countering terrorist propaganda.

Speaker Bios (Listed alphabetically by speaker surname)



Dr Nicholas Al-Jeloo is an adjunct lecturer at the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, specialising in Syriac Studies. He is a socio-cultural historian with expertise in indigenous Middle Eastern minorities, Eastern Christianity, the history of the Middle East, as well as interfaith and intercultural relations. In addition to teaching the Classical Syriac language, his research focuses on epigraphy and manuscripts, as well as substantiating the place of the modern Assyrian heritage within the contexts of Middle Eastern cultural, ethnic and religious history. He is the author of a chapter on Iraq's ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in: *The Legacy of Iraq: Intervention, Occupation and Withdrawal*, Benjamin Iskahan (ed.)

Edinburgh University Press, 2015.



Prof Ross Burns is Adjunct Professor at Macquarie University, Sydney. He graduated in History and Archaeology from Sydney University, 1966 and spent 37 years in the Australian Foreign Service including posts as Ambassador in the Middle East, South Africa and Greece. Since 2003, he has completed a PhD at Macquarie University in Sydney (2009) and authored several books on the history of Syria - *Monuments of Syria* (1992, 1999, 2009), *Damascus, A History* (2005), *Aleppo, A History* (2016). Ross' study of Roman colonnaded axes and their origins is being published by Oxford University Press in June 2017.



Dr Guy Bunnens received his Ph.D. from the University of Brussels (Belgium) in 1974 with a thesis on the Phoenician expansion in the Mediterranean. After having held a few research positions in Belgium, Rome and Los Angeles, he started lecturing on the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East at Melbourne University in 1986. In 1988 he started excavating Tell Ahmar in Syria. At the end of 1999, he took early retirement from Melbourne and continued his research as Associate of the University of Liège (Belgium).



Dr Christopher Davey became the honorary director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology in 2002 after retiring from National Australia Bank where he was a project finance executive. He has been responsible for the Institute's re-establishment at La Trobe University after it ceased to operate in 1999. Chris began his archaeology at St John's College, Cambridge, where he also studied ancient languages, and then studied at the Institute of Archaeology, London. He has dug in the Middle East, Australia and the United Kingdom; he now digs regularly in Cyprus. He has published papers on the history of mining and metallurgy, ancient architecture and archaeology. He edits the Institute's annual journal *Buried History*. Employment as an underground miner,

surveyor, engineer, mines inspector, contract design engineer, tertiary lecturer (mining and systems engineering) and international bank executive has given Chris broad perspectives; the interconnections with archaeology and history are many. While in banking such interfaces led to an involvement with environmental issues.



Dr Antonio Gonzalez is an Associate Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute working on a project that seeks to measure the destruction of heritage in Iraq and Syria, led by Associate Professor Benjamin Isakhan. Prior to obtaining this position, Antonio had already worked at numerous cultural heritage institutions worldwide including the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage at the University of Birmingham, the Centre for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University (Doha), and the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project at Oxford University.



Dr Fiona Hill participated in University of Melbourne archaeological expeditions in Syria's northern Euphrates River valley and returned there annually until 2013. Today Fiona specialises in Middle East & North Africa (MENA) heritage and contemporary life, and her business (Almanar Consultancy) provides Project Coaching & Cultural Consultancy to clients including Saudi royalty, oil and gas companies, educational institutions, NGO's, Arab and Australian Governments, a range of commercial businesses, and travelers. Fiona is Victorian Chair & National Board Member Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry (AACCI). In 2013 the UNHCR invited Fiona's expert advice on camp governance at Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan.



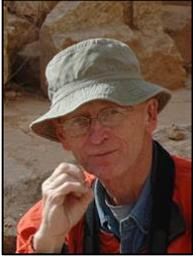
Dr Heather Jackson is currently an Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Her early career was as a teacher of Classics, but she has excavated at Jebel Khalid since 1989 and was made Co-Director in 2000. She is the author and co-author of several books on the site.



Dr Andrew Jamieson a senior lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology and curator of the Classics and Archaeology Collection at the University of Melbourne. He has worked at archaeological sites in Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. For ten seasons he was involved in the Australian excavations at Tell Ahmar (ancient Til Barsib) in northern Syria. He specialises in the study of ancient ceramics – Bronze and Iron Age pottery – and is interested in archaeological collections management practices. He is the author of *Tell Ahmar III: Neo-Assyrian Pottery from Area C*, published by Peeters Press in Leuven (2012). Since 2005 he has curated over 20 exhibitions in the Classics and Archaeology Gallery at the Ian Potter Museum of Art.



Holly Jones-Amin is the Senior Objects and Archaeological Conservator at the University of Melbourne's Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation where she manages the Objects conservation consultancy program. She is a foundation lecturer for the MA of Cultural Materials Conservation, in which she has lectured, tutored and coordinated subjects since 2004. Holly has worked in the Middle East, Europe and Southeast and central Asia and has conducted materials conservation on archaeological sites in Melbourne, Italy (1993), Syria – Jebel Khalid (1996-2001) and the Republic of Georgia – Chobareti (2013-2014, 2016). Holly is pursuing a PhD part-time at the University of Monash investigating the conservation and degradation of low-fired archaeological ceramics from Caution Bay PNG.



Dr Thomas McClellan lectured in Near Eastern Archaeology in the Middle Eastern Studies department at the University of Melbourne and co-directed the excavations at el-Qitar. After leaving Melbourne, Tom taught at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and at the University of California, Berkeley. With Anne Porter, he went on to excavate third millennium Tell Banat, ten km north of el-Qitar.



Dr Mandy Mottram holds a PhD in archaeology and has worked on sites in Australia, Syria, Jordan and Guam. She participated in the 1982–1987 excavations at Tell el-Qitar and was subsequently involved in the Chicago Euphrates Project surveys and rescue excavations in the Tishrīn Dam flood zone. In 2004 and 2006 she conducted surveys in the Euphrates hinterland surrounding Jebel Khalid. Mandy has worked as an academic, Commonwealth public servant and archaeological consultant, and now provides cultural advice on the Middle East North Africa region for Almanar Consultancy. Inspired by the rich artistry of the MENA region, Mandy creates unique lines of jewellery under the Seraglio Designs label.



Cliff Ogleby has been involved with archaeology for some 40 years, starting with the Victorian Archaeological Survey (VAS) Summer Schools. He was the surveyor for the initial University of Melbourne Archaeological projects at el Qitar, Jebel Khalid and Tell el Binat in Syria, and has participated in many other digs including the current Georgia-Australia Investigations in Archaeology (GAIA) in the Republic of Georgia. He also remains involved in the recording, documentation and information management of cultural heritage sites, his biggest love being rock art.



Jeremy Smith is Heritage Victoria's Principal Archaeologist, and was a member of the Archaeology Advisory Committee of the Victorian Heritage Council from 2002- 2016. He was a member of the University of Melbourne expedition to Tell Ahmar (ancient Til Barsib) from 1990-1993, and completed his Masters dissertation on the iron artefacts from the site in 2006. Jeremy was the co-curator of the Secret Lives, Forgotten Stories exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art in 2014.



Dr Marilyn Truscott has studied archaeology (BA Hons, University of Sydney; MA American University of Beirut), history, materials conservation, and cultural heritage management (PhD on community heritage engagement). She worked as an archaeological researcher, museum curator, and as a senior government heritage official. Now a consultant, her heritage experience extends from Australia internationally to many continents. Marilyn currently lectures on heritage at the University of Canberra, and online for the University of British Columbia, Canada. She is a past president of Australia ICOMOS, the international professional association, and immediate past president of the ICOMOS International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Dr John Tidmarsh was previously Tutor and then Part-Time Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sydney and was formerly President of the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation. He is a Co-Director of the University of Sydney's excavations at Pella in Jordan (where he has worked since 1979) and is also Co-Director of the Australian Archaeological Mission at Jebel Khalid in Syria. He was previously Associate Director of the University of Sydney's excavations at Paphos, Cyprus, and Senior Investigator at the university's excavations at Torone in Greece.