

# EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (EBAP)

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While the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP) could not conduct fieldwork during the COVID-19 pandemic, research and grant writing continued. Two chapters appeared in the volume from the conference *The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert*, held at the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, Netherlands (March 17–18, 2017). “Populating the Black Desert: The Late Neolithic Presence” and “Flamingos in the Desert: How a Chance Encounter Shed Light on the ‘Burin Neolithic’ of Eastern Jordan,” both co-authored with Gary Rollefson and Alexander Wasse, were published in *Landscapes of Survival: The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert and Beyond*, edited by Peter Akkermans (Leiden: Sidestone Press, 2020). The EBAP team also contributed to broader studies of palaeoenvironmental conditions in the region by producing an article in the journal *Quaternary International* (2021) titled “The Palaeoenvironmental Potential of the Eastern Jordanian Desert Basins (Qe’an)” and preparing another one titled “Stable Isotopes and Proxies of Local Palaeoclimates for Three Sites in the Holocene Levant” for the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*.



Figure 1. Animal traps, known as desert kites, visible from the air.

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Yorke Rowan participated with Chad Hill in the conference Framing Society in the Past: Infrastructure in Archaeological Discourse for the Winslow Series in Archaeology (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 10–11, 2021). Their contribution, “Desert Kites: Neolithic Infrastructure in the Margins,” suggests that the hundreds of kilometers of animal traps (known as desert *kites*; see fig. 1) extending from Syria and across eastern Jordan constitute examples of pre-urban, prehistoric infrastructure initiated in the Neolithic period. This research forms part of the background for their new research project “Kites in Context: Prehistoric Land Use in the Black Desert of Eastern Jordan.” As part of this new initiative, Hill, Rowan, and Kathleen Morrison are principal investigators for a National Science Foundation award extending from September 2021 to August 2025 and administered through the University of Pennsylvania. The research project will consist in a multiscale investigation to document the desert kites at high resolution and excavate specific features in order to investigate their social and economic role within marginal environments.

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