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i10-index: 29

h-index: 19

education

Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D., Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Dissertation: “The Collapse of a Complex State: A Reappraisal of the End of the First Dynasty of Babylon, 1683–1597 B.C.”

May 2002
with distinction

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. B.A., American History, Literary Journalism May 1990, *cum laude*

awards	2014	Princeton University Library Grant (declined)
	2013	Franklin Grant, American Philosophical Society
	2007	University of Chicago, Franke Institute for the Humanities Fellow
	2005	University of Chicago, Grant for Instructional Improvement

positions

Associate, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures 2018–present

Co-Editor, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 2024–present

Managing Editor, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 2011–present

Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History 2003–2011

The Oriental Institute / Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Professorial appointments in the College and Dept. of Classics (Program on the Ancient Mediterranean World); Program Head for Ancient Near Eastern History; Ph.D. Faculty advisor for Oriental Institute Museum; Student Affairs Committee 2004–2010; Graduate Student Counselor 2007–2010.

books

‡ *Monarchies and the Organization of Power: Ancient Egypt and Babylonia Compared (2100–1750 BC)*, co-authored with Juan Carlos Moreno García. In press for the Cambridge University Press series *Ancient Egypt in Context* (forthcoming, 2024).

Ancient States and Infrastructural Power: Europe, Asia and America, co-editor with Clifford Ando. Philadelphia, PA, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

Scholarship e³ Inquiry in the Ancient Near East, co-editor with Steven Garfinkle, special issue of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 2/2 (2016).

Sennacherib at the Gates of Jerusalem: Story, History, and Historiography (co-edited with I. Kalimi). Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 71. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

Texts from the Late Old Babylonian Period 1. *Journal of Cuneiform Studies Supplemental Series* 2 (2010).

Rebellions and Peripheries in the Cuneiform World (editor). American Oriental Series 91. Ann Arbor, MI: American Oriental Society, 2010.

books in progress

ana šulum āli: *For the Safety of the City: On the collapse of the First Dynasty of Babylon*. In prep.

Texts from the Late Old Babylonian Period 2. Autographs and editions of cuneiform texts. In prep.

articles and essays (*peer reviewed; ‡ co-authored)

In Preparation

“The Lives of Dates and a Narrative Turn: Babylonian Date-lists as Chronicles.”

“Play a Game of *tēltu*: Sumerian Proverbs and Rhetorical Practice.”
“Progress and Modesty in the Study of Mesopotamian Toponymy: A Critical Essay.”

Currently Under Review

[000]

In Press

- * “Mesopotamian Words for ‘Slave’: Opacity and Mutability in Early Terms and Practice,” *The American Historical Review* (forthcoming).
- * ‡ “Community and State Violence in the Middle Bronze Age,” co-authored with Steven J. Garfinkle, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*.
- * “Uncertain Omens and the Negotiation of Certainty,” in *Ambiguity in the Ancient Near East*, ed. E. Knott and L. K. McCormick (Brepols, 2024).
- “Babylonian Expectations: Developing Concepts of Legal Right in Mesopotamia,” in *Cambridge History of Rights, Volume 1: The Ancient World*, ed. C. Ando, et al. (Cambridge U. Press, 2024).
- “‘The Plans of the Gods are Destroyed’: Babylonian Doubts about the Gods and War,” in *Religion and War from Antiquity to Early Modernity*, ed. Irene Polinskaya et al. (Bloomsbury, 2024).
- “On the Autonomy of Witnesses: A Case Study of Late Old Babylonian Slave Sales,” for *Festschrift Simonetta Ponchia* (Münster, Zaphon, 2024).
- “Sargonic Points and Vectors: The Geographically Imagined Empire,” in *Navigating the Worlds of History* (FS XXX), ed. J. Degen et al. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, forthcoming 2024).
- “First Causes, Individual Focus: Displacement and Inequality, Babylon, 17th c. BCE,” in *Crossroads IV: Mobility and Migration in the Ancient Near East*, ed. J. Mynářová et al. (Prague: Charles University, 2024).
- * “Residential Mobility in Mesopotamia’s Old Babylonian Period,” in *Mobility in Antiquity: Rethinking the Ancient World through Movement*, ed. Selim Ferruh Adalı and Jana Mokrisova, Routledge Rewriting Antiquity Series (London: Routledge, 2025).
- “A Heterarchic Landscape: Tell Muḥammad from Below and Above,” in *Connecting Babylon and Ešnunna: Textual and Archaeological Evidence of the First Half of the Second Millennium BCE*, ed. Nicola Laneri and Annunziata Rositani, *Nisaba* 35 (2024).

Published

2024

“Political Performance: A Theory Response & Conclusion,” pp. 389–404 in *Pomp, Circumstance and the Performance of Politics*, ed. K. Morgan, ISACS 16 (Chicago: The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, 2024).

2023

- ‡ “Genocide in Ancient Mesopotamia during the Bronze and Iron Ages” (co-authored with Tracy Lemos), pp. 209–234 (Ch. 7) in *The Cambridge World History of Genocide*, vol. 1, ed. Ben Kiernan et al. (Cambridge University Press, 2023).
- “Mesopotamian Slavery,” pp. 17–39 (Ch. 2) in *The Palgrave History of Global Slavery throughout History*, ed. D. A. Pargas and Juliane Schiel (Palgrave, 2023).
- “An *arḏu* brought *ārirtu*, ‘downstream’ (to GN)?” *N.A.B.U.* 2023 no. 103.

2022

- * “Old Babylonian Letters and Class Formation: Tropes of Sympathy and Social Proximity,” *Journal of Ancient History* 10/1 (2022): 1–34.
- “In Mantic and Hostile Lands: Surveillance and Mimesis by Divination in the Late Old Babylonian Period,” pp. 55–70 (Ch. 4) in *Sacred Nature: Animism and Materiality in Ancient Religion*, ed. N. Laneri and A. Perdibon. Material Religion in Antiquity 2. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- * “Thy Neighbor’s Ghost: Ideal Types, Stereotypes, All Types,” invited response to Sonia Kerry’s *Caring for the Dead in Ancient Israel* (SBL Press, 2020) *Metatron* 2/1: 1–11 (<https://metatron.scholasticahq.com/article/36654-thy-neighbor-s-ghost-ideal-types-stereotypes-all-types>).

- * “Hard Times for Sippar Women: Three Late Old Babylonian Cases,” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 9/2 (2022): 319–350 (<https://doi.org/10.1515/janeh-2021-0009>).
- “Raiders, Neighbors, and Night-time: ‘Hybrid Peace’ in Babylonia,” pp. 107–128 in *Making Peace in the Ancient World: Proceedings of the 7th Melammu Workshop, Padova, 5–7 November 2018*, ed. G. B. Lanfranchi, S. Ponchia, and R. Rollinger. Melammu Workshops and Monographs 5, Padua. Münster: Zaphon, 2022.
- “Polishing Some Sumerian Jewels,” *N.A.B.U.* 2022/2 no. 50 (pp. 110–111).
- review of *Writing Neo-Assyrian History: Sources, Problems and Approaches* (=SAAS 29), ed. G. B. Lanfranchi et al. (2019). *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXXVIII 5/6 (2022): 698–703.

2021

- * “Place and Portability: Divine Emblems in Old Babylonian Law,” in *As Above, So Below: Religion and Geography – Proceedings following a Workshop Conducted during the 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Philadelphia, July 11–15, 2016*, ed. S. Zaiia and G. Konstantopolous (Eisenbrauns, 2021), 28–73.
- “Partial Persons, Unsafe Spaces: the Babylonian Production of Class through Laws About Animals,” in *Animals and the Law in Antiquity*, ed. S. Olyan and J. Rosenblum. Brown Judaic Studies (Providence: Brown University, 2021), 41–67.
- ‡ “Rethinking Slavery in the Ancient Near East,” co-authored with Ella Karev, *ANE Today* IX/10 (<https://www.asor.org/anetoday/2021/10/rethinking-slavery/>).
- review of *Catalogue of the Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum, Volumes IV–V*, by E. Leichty, et al. (2019) for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 80/2 (Oct. 2021): 427–429.

2020

- * “The Origin of Foreign Slaves in the Late Old Babylonian Period.” *KASKAL* 17 (2020): 53–73.
- “Old Babylonian Taxation as Political Mechanism,” in *Economic Complexity in the Ancient Near East: Management of Taxation and Resources* (3rd – 2nd millennia BC), ed. J. Mynářová and Sergio Alvernini (Prague: Charles University, 2020), 217–247.
- * ‡ “Wine from Mamma: *alluḫarum*-pots in 17th-century Trade Networks.” *Iraq* 82 (2020): 179–205.
- “Because Empire Means Forever: Babylon and Imperial Disposition,” pp. 167–187 in *Short-Term Empires: Decapitated or Defective?* ed. S. Fink and R. Rollinger. Ugarit-Verlag, 2020.
- “Down with ‘Legitimacy’: On ‘Validity’ and Narrative in Royal Tales,” pp. 243–260 in *Tales of Royalty: Notions of Kingship in Visual and Textual Narration in the Ancient Near East*, ed. E. Wagner-Durand and J. Linke. SANER 23 (Boston: DeGruyter, 2020).
- review of Odette Boivin, *The First Dynasty of the Sealand in Mesopotamia* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2018). *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 111 (2021): 290–296.

2019

- “Aliens and Alienation, Strangers and Estrangement: Difference-Making as Historically-Particular Concept,” pp. 307–340 in *Crossroads III: A Stranger in the House: Foreigners in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Societies of the Bronze Age*, ed. J. Mynářová et al. Prague: Charles University.
- * “The Oracle BOQ 1, the Dūr-Abiešuh texts, and the end of Babylon I.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 78/2 (Oct. 2019): 215–37.
- * “Walking Capital: The Economic Function and Social Location of Babylonian Servitude.” *The Journal of Global Slavery* 4/3: 285–342.
- “By the Hand of a Robber: States, Mercenaries, and Bandits in Middle Bronze Age Mesopotamia,” pp. 9–26 in *Piracy, Pillaging and Plunder in the Ancient Mediterranean World*, ed. R. Evans. London: Routledge.
- “Nature Engaged and Disengaged: The Case of Animals in Mesopotamian Literatures,” pp. 11–40 in *Impious Dogs, Ridiculous Monkeys and Exquisite Fish – Evaluative Perception and Interpretation of Animals in Ancient and Medieval Thought*, ed. Johannes Pahlitzsch and Tristan Schmidt. Berlin: DeGruyter.
- “Updating the List of Late OB Babylonian Fortresses.” *N.A.B.U.* 2019/1, no. 21.

2018

- “The Mesopotamian Citizen Conceptualized: Affect, Speech and Perception.” Pp. 261–75 in *State Formations: Global Histories and Cultures of Statehood*, ed. J. Brooke, J. Strauss, and G. Anderson. Cambridge Univ. Press.

“Sumer and Stereotype: Re-forging ‘Sumerian’ kingship in the Late Old Babylonian Period.” Pp. 145–86 in *Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future* (Melammu Symposia 9), ed. R. Rollinger. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag.

* “‘They heard from a distance’: The *šemû-rūqu* paradigm in the late Assyrian empire” in *Hic Sunt Dracones: Creating, Defining, and Abstracting Place in the Ancient World*, ed. G. Konstantopolous, special issue of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 4/1-2: 1–33.

* “A note on the name ‘Sinnaces’ and Armenian claims on an Assyrian royal background,” *Anabasis* 8: 123–27.

“Low Power States with High Power Aspirations in Early Mesopotamia,” *ANE Today* VI/8 (<https://www.asor.org/onetoday/2018/08/Low-Power-States/>).

review of *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States*, by James C. Scott (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 77/2 (2018): 307–11.

2017

“Before Things Worked: A ‘Low-Power’ Model of Early Mesopotamia,” Pp.17–62 in *Ancient States and Infrastructural Power: Europe, Asia, and America*, ed. C. Ando and S. Richardson. U. Pennsylvania Press.

“Messaging and the Gods in Mesopotamia: Signals and Systematics,” Pp. 167–94 in *Mercury's Wings: Exploring Modes of Communication in the Ancient World*, ed. R. Talbert and F. Naiden. Oxford University Press.

* “Goodbye, Princess: Iltani and the DUMU.MUNUS.LUGAL,” *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 69: 67–108.

2016

* “Obedient Bellies: Hunger and Food Security in Ancient Mesopotamia,” in *The Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient* 59/5: 750–92.

“The Many Falls of Babylon and the Shape of Forgetting,” Pp. 101–42 in *Envisioning the Past through Memories*, ed. D. Nadali. Cultural Memory and History in Antiquity. Bloomsbury Press.

“Getting Confident: The Assyrian Development of Elite Recognition Ethics,” Pp. 29–64 in *Cosmopolitanism and Empire: Universal Rulers, Local Elites and Cultural Integration in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*, Oxford Studies in Early Empires, ed. M. Lavan, R. Payne, and J. Weisweiler. Oxford University Press.

“Introduction: Scholarship and Inquiry in the Ancient Near East,” in *Scholarship and Inquiry in the Ancient Near East*. Special issue of *The Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 2/2: 91–107.

“Insurgency and Terror in Early Mesopotamia,” pp. 31–61 in *The Brill Companion to Insurgency and Terrorism in the Ancient World*, ed. L. Brice and T. Howe. Leiden: Brill.

review of *Relations of Power in Early Neo-Assyrian State Ideology*, by Mattias Karlsson (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2016), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (Nov. 2016): <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2016/2016-11-06.html>.

2015

“Building Larsa: Labor-Value, Scale, and Scope-of-Economy in Ancient Mesopotamia,” pp. 237–328 in *Labor in the Ancient World*, ed. P. Steinkeller and C. Wunsch. Dresden: ISLET, 2015.

“Re-digging Hammurabi’s canal,” *N.A.B.U* 2015/4, no. 94.

“Samsuditana and the sixty-armed horde,” *N.A.B.U* 2015/2, no. 37.

2014

* “Mesopotamian Political History: The Perversities,” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 1/1: 61–93.

“The First ‘World Event’: Sennacherib at Jerusalem,” pp. 433–505 in *Sennacherib at the Gates of Jerusalem*, ed. I. Kalimi and S. Richardson. Leiden: Brill.

‡ “Sennacherib at the Gates of Jerusalem—Story, History and Historiography: An Introduction” (with Isaac Kalimi), pp. 1–7 in *Sennacherib at the Gates of Jerusalem*, ed. I. Kalimi and S. Richardson. Leiden: Brill.

review of *Tracing the Earliest Recorded Concepts of International Law: the Ancient Near East (2500–350 BCE)*, by Amnon Altman (Leiden: Martinus Mijhoff, 2012), *Law and History Review* 32/3 (August 2014): 715–17.

2013

review of *Ancient Mesopotamia at the Dawn of Civilization: The Evolution of an Urban Landscape*, by Guillermo Algaze (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 72:1 (April 2013): 113–16.

2012

* “Early Mesopotamia: The Presumptive State,” *Past & Present* 215/1: 3–49.

“The Hypercoherent Icon: Knowledge, Rationalization & Disenchantment at Nineveh,” pp. 231–258 in *Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond* (OIS 8), ed. Natalie N. May. Chicago: Oriental Institute.

* “‘The Crowns of Their *bābtum*’: on Wives, Wards, and Witnesses,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 132/4: 623–639.

2011

“Mesopotamia and the “New” Military History,” pp. 11–51 in *Recent Directions in the Military History of the Ancient World* (PAAH 10), ed. L. Brice and J.T. Roberts (Claremont, CA: Regina Books).

review of *Brotherhood of Kings: How International Relations Shaped the Ancient Near East*, by Amanda H. Podany (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), *The Ancient History Bulletin* 25 (2011): 137–40.

2010

“On Seeing and Believing: Liver Divination and the Era of Warring States,” pp. 225–266 in *Divination and Interpretation of Signs in the Ancient World* (OIS 6), ed. A. Annus. Chicago: Oriental Institute.

“The Fields of Rebellion and Periphery,” xvii–xxxii in *Rebellions and Peripheries* ed. Richardson (*supra*).

“Writing Rebellion Back into the Record: A Methodologies Toolkit,” pp. 1–27 (Ch. 1) in *Rebellions and Peripheries* ed. Richardson (*supra*).

“A Light in the *gagûm* Window: The Sippar Cloister in the Late Old Babylonian period,” pp. 329–46 in *Opening the Tablet Box: Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Benjamin R. Foster*, ed. S. Melville and A. Slotsky. Leiden: Brill.

review of *Mesopotamien: Die altbabylonische Zeit* (*Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis* 160/4), by D. Charpin, D.O. Edzard and M. Stol. (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht; Fribourg: Academic Press, 2004), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69/2 (Oct. 2010): 260–63.

review of *From Egypt to Babylon: The International Age, 1550–500 BC*, by Paul Collins (Cambridge: Harvard University, 2008), *Journal of World History* 21:2 (June 2010): 315–320.

2008

“Ningirsu Returns to His Plow: Lagash and Girsu Take Leave of Ur,” pp. 153–157 in *On the Third Dynasty of Ur: Studies in Honor of Marcel Sigrist*, ed. P. Michalowski, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies Supplemental Series* 1. Boston: American Schools of Oriental Research.

2007

“The World of the Babylonian Countrysides,” pp. 13–38 in *The Babylonian World*, ed. Gwendolyn Leick. London: Routledge.

“Death and Dismemberment in Mesopotamia: Discorporation between the Body and the Body Politic,” pp. 189–208 in *Performing Death* (OIS 3), ed. N. Laneri. Chicago: Oriental Institute.

“Omen Report No. 38” and “Once more, *ana še'im*,” *N.A.B.U.* 2007/3, nos. 47 and 48.

“The Many Lives of a Brooklyn Figure,” *B.E.S.* 17 (*Studies in Honor of James F. Romano*) 2007, 205–8.

review of *Reconstructing the Emar Landscape*, by Lucia Mori (Rome: Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza,” 2003), *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXIV No. 3–4 (May–August 2007), 411–14.

review of *The Anatomy of a Mesopotamian City. Survey and Soundings at Mashkan-shapir*, by E. Stone and P. Zimansky. (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2004) *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127/3 (2007): 376–78.

2006

* “*gir3-gen-na* and Shulgi’s ‘Library’: Liver Omen Texts in the Third Millennium BC (I).” *Cuneiform Digital Library Journal* 2006/3: 1–9 (http://cdli.ucla.edu/pubs/cdlj/2006/cdlj2006_003.html).

“Uneasy Lies the Head that Wears a Crown,” *N.A.B.U.* 2006, no. 1, pp. 3–4.

review of *The Helsinki Atlas of the Near East in the Neo-Assyrian Period*, by Simo Parpola and Michael Porter, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65:2 (April 2006): 125–27.

2005

* “Axes Against Eshnunna,” *Orientalia* 74/1: 42–50.

“Trouble in the Countryside, *ana tarji* Samsuditana: Militarism, Kassites, and the Fall of Babylon I,” pp. 273–289 in *Ethnicity in Mesopotamia* (CRRAI 48), ed. W. van Soldt. Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten.

review of *The Gendered Language of Warfare in the Israelite-Assyrian Encounter* (=HSM Monographs 62), by Cynthia Chapman (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2004), *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 5 (2005): 241–46.

2004

“Another Sin-leqe-unninni,” *N.A.B.U.* 2004, no. 4, p. 93.

“Whose Feast? Re-installing Room 7,” *The Oriental Institute News & Notes* No. 183, Fall, 2004.

review of *Vorderasiatisches Schriftdenkmäler XXIX*, by Horst Klengel and Evelyn Klengel-Brandt, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124/4 (Oct.-Dec. 2004): 787–91.

2003

review of *Economy and Society in Northern Babylonia in the Early Old Babylonian Period*, by Anne Goddeeris, *The Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 46/3 (2003): 379–83.

2002

“Ewe Should Be So Lucky: Extispicy Reports and Everyday Life,” pp. 229–244 in *Mining the Archives: Festschrift for Christopher Walker on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*, ed. C. Wunsch. Dresden: ISLET.

2001

* “An Assyrian Garden of Ancestors: Room I, Northwest Palace, Kalhu.” *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin* XIII: 145–216.

* “Libya Domestica: Libyan Trade and Society on the Eve of the Invasions of Egypt.” *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* XXXVI: 149–64.

manuscript/project evaluation (*=multiple reviews)

Akkadica

American Journal of Archaeology

Amsterdam University Press

Archiv Orientalní

Asia Anteriore Antica

Avar

Bioarchaeology of the Near East

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies*

Charles University*

Estonian Research Council

European Research Council

History of Religions

Israel Science Foundation

International Review of Social History

Journal of African and Asian Studies

*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History**

Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory

Journal of Borderlands Studies

*Journal of Cuneiform Studies**

Journal of Institutional Economics

*Journal of Near Eastern Studies**

Journal of the American Oriental Society

*Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient**

Lethbridge University

Lockwood Press

Melammu Workshops and Monographs*

Oriental Institute Publications

Oxford University Press

Rivista degli Studi Orientali

conference papers / invited lectures

- 2024 “Trafficking, Valuation, Instrument: Slave Bodies at the Intersection of Forms of Exploitation,” invited lecture, University of Turin, March.
“XXX,” invited lecture, Charles University, Prague, April.
“Mapped and Myopic Worlds: On the Poverty of Babylonian Toponymy,” Association of Ancient Historians, Harvard University, April.
“‘One City Does Not Greet Another’: Constructed Persons, Incomplete States, and the Motor of the Politics,” keynote lecture, Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale 69, Helsinki, July.
- 2023 “Community Violence in the Ancient Near East: Fact or Fiction?,” invited lecture, Charles University, Prague, March.
“Babylon, Ešnunna, and the Fortress Archipelago, 17th–16th cs. BC,” invited lecture for RAI 68 panel “Connecting Babylon and Ešnunna,” Leiden, July.
“Old Babylonian Slavery: Collating New Findings,” invited lecture at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, November.
“The Lives of Dates,” invited lecture for Symposium on Historiography in the Old Babylonian Period, Würzburg, November.
“But Does It Spark Joy? On Material Sparseness in Babylonian Aesthetics & Memory,” ASOR meeting Chicago, November.
- 2022 “Towards a Mesopotamian Lexicon of Servitude,” invited lecture for eCOST/WORcK group, Université Aix-Marseille, March 3.
“Kitchen Chronographies: Mesopotamian Letters and Constructions of Past Time,” for panel on Comparing Ancient Historiographies, Toulouse, July 6.
“Individual Mobility and Mass Migration in the Ancient Near East: Displaced and Domesticated, Babylon, 17th c. BC,” for Crossroads IV conference, Prague, September 19.
“Incursions, Anxieties: Rest and Motion in State Formation,” invited keynote lecture, Fifteenth MELAMMU Symposium, Graz, September 23.
- 2021 respondent for book panel on Kerry Sonia’s *Caring for the Dead in Ancient Israel* (2020), March.
“In Mantic and Hostile Lands: Surveillance and Mimesis by Divination,” invited lecture for “Sacred Nature” conference (CAMNES, Florence), May.
“*Histoire conjecturale* and household memory,” guest lecture (ISAW, New York), May.
“Pledges and Precariats: Partial Personhood and Old Babylonian Slavery,” ASOR annual meeting (Chicago), November.
- 2020 Keynote Address, GSANES conference “Engaging with Empires,” Harvard University (March).
“Domain Change: Reterritorializing Hammurabi’s Babylon.” University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop (October).
“Ten Years On: Reflections and Conclusions on Rebellion in Babylonia.” Invited Speaker, ASOR online meeting, November.
(Accepted papers slated for 2020 ICAANE and AOS meetings cancelled/postponed due to pandemic.)
- 2019 “Armed and Alienated: On a Babylonian Politics of Rebellion ca. 1600 BC.” Invited Speaker for conference “Rebellion in the Ancient World,” University of Pennsylvania Center for Ancient Studies, January 25–26 2019.
“Exercising Sympathy: Class and Social Proximity in Mesopotamian Letters.” Invited Speaker for workshop “Relationship, Clientele, and Power,” University of Witten/Berlin, February 4–5 2019.
“Plausible and Probable: Dissecting an Oracle for Historical Content.” American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 2019.

- “The Plans of the Gods are Destroyed’: Babylonian Scribal Views of War and the Gods,” Invited Speaker for conference “Religion and War from Antiquity to early Modernity: Historical Varieties of a Recurring Nexus,” King’s College, London, June 24–26 2019.
- “Displacement and Poverty: The Scope of the Problem in the Middle Bronze.” Columbia University, Chicago, November 2019; also given at University of Minnesota, February 2020.
- 2018 “Partial persons, unsafe spaces: Babylonian animals and legal liminality,” Invited Speaker for conference “Animals and the Law in Antiquity,” Brown University, December 3–4.
- “Raiders, Neighbors, and Night-time: ‘Hybrid Peace’ in Babylonia.” Invited Speaker for conference “Making Peace in Antiquity,” MELAMMU Workshop, University of Padova, Nov. 5–7.
- “On Aliens and Alienation: the “stranger” as an historically-particular concept.” Invited Speaker, Crossroads III Conference: “Strangers in the Ancient Egyptian and the Near Eastern Societies of the Bronze Age,” Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 10–13.
- 2017 “Walking Capital: The Economic Function of Slavery in Old Babylonian Letters,” American Oriental Society, Los Angeles, CA, March 17–20. Also given at the University of Chicago Oriental Institute (May 2018) and Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop (November 2018).
- “Practical and Symbolic Animals, and their Scholars.” Invited Speaker for conference “Present Absents: Animals in Asian History,” Harvard Divinity School, March 27–28.
- “From Prosopography to Politics: The Old Babylonian Case.” Invited Speaker, Leiden Univ., May 4.
- “History & Generalism: Perpetrating the Humanities inside of Assyriology.” Invited Speaker, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, June 16.
- “The *šemû-rūqu* paradigm in the late Assyrian empire,” Invited Plenary Speaker for Workshop on “Subaltern Spaces,” Freie Universität Berlin, June 19.
- “Hammurabi and Šamši-Adad I: Historical Memories and Political Lessons,” Invited Speaker for conference “Short-termed empires in World History: Decapitated or Defective?” Blankenheim in der Eifel, June 21–23.
- “Uncertain omens and the ambiguous future: prediction and query as figure and ground.” Invited Speaker, ASOR, Boston, November. Also at CAMNES, Lorenzo de’ Medici Institute, Florence, Nov. 9 2018.
- “Community violence in the Middle Bronze Age” (co-presented with Steve Garfinkle). Invited Speaker, ASOR, Boston, November.
- 2016 “Neo-neo-Sumerian kingship: the Late Old Babylonian Period.” American Oriental Society, Boston, MA, March.
- “Obedient Bellies: Hunger and Food Security in Ancient Mesopotamia.” Invited Speaker, Ancient Societies Workshop, University of Chicago. April.
- “Place and Portability: Divine Emblems in Old Babylonian Law.” Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Philadelphia PA. July.
- “Nature engaged and disengaged: the case of Mesopotamian literatures.” Invited Speaker, Workshop on Early Concepts of Man and Nature: Universal, Local, Borrowed, Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany. September.
- “‘Imagistic’ Mesopotamian omens and the interpolation of uncertainty.” Invited Speaker, Workshop on Image and Writing in Ancient Religions, Paris Center, University of Chicago. September.
- “They heard from a distance”: the *šemû-rūqu* paradigm in the late Assyrian empire.” Invited Speaker, ISAW conference “*Hic Sunt Dracones*: Creating, Defining, and Abstracting Place in the Ancient World.” October.
- 2015 “Goodbye, Princess: Iltani and the DUMU.MUNUS.LUGAL.” American Oriental Society, New Orleans, LA, March.
- “‘I am living in a city of hunger’: towards a hermenutics of scarcity in Mesopotamia.” Invited Speaker, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. New York, NY, April.
- “Re-forging ‘Sumerian’ kingship in fin-de-siècle Babylon I.” Invited Speaker, Melammu 15 Conference, Helsinki, Finland, May.
- “The Fall of the First Dynasty of Babylon.” Invited Speaker, Czech Institute of Egyptology, Charles University, Prague, May.

- "Bound & Indeterminate: Measuring Labor & its Alternatives." Invited Speaker, Neubauer Symposium on Comparative Economics, May.
- "The Mesopotamian Citizen Conceptualized: Affect, Speech and Perception." Invited Speaker, *State Formations: Histories and Cultures of Statehood* workshop, Ohio State University. September.
- "Babylonian Divine Emblems: Portability, Place & Power." Invited Speaker, Chicago-Paris Working Group on Ancient Religions, September.
- "Recasting the "Magic Circle": The Politics of Food in an Incomplete State." Invited Speaker, Baghdad Committee panel, ASOR, Atlanta, GA, November. With Tate Paulette.
- "Clio and Eros in Babylon: historical method and theory for cuneiform antiquity." Invited Keynote Speaker, Historiography panel, SBL, Atlanta, November.
- 2014 "Before Things Worked: A 'Low-Power' Model of Early Mesopotamia." Invited Speaker, conference on Infrastructural and Despotic Power in Ancient States, University of Chicago, April.
- "Notes on Sargonic Geography: Legibility and Legacy." Invited Speaker, Workshop on the Sargonic Empire, Harvard University, May.
- "Towards a Theory of 'Beforeness': State Collapse and Apocalyptic in its Mesopotamian Context." Invited Speaker, Leiden University, June.
- 2013 "Selective Forgetting: The Memory of the Babylonian Past as Programmatic Amnesia," invited speaker at conference on History and Memory, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza," Rome, November.
- "Sennacherib and Jerusalem, 701 BC: The First 'World Event'." Invited speaker, Cambridge University, October.
- "The Unenviable Dilemma: Cosmopolitanism and Cultural Authenticity in the Neo-Assyrian Empire." Invited speaker for "Imperial Cosmopolitanisms" workshop, Univ. Heidelberg, July.
- "A Theoretical Agenda for the Political History of the Ancient Near East." Invited speaker for inaugural panel of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History*, Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, University of Ghent, July.
- 2012 "The Presumptive State: Developing 'Legal Voice' in Babylonia." Invited speaker for panel on Ancient Law at annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January.
- "Mesopotamian Geographies, Pedestrian and Imaginative." Invited speaker for panel on Ancient Trade and Travel at meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January.
- "Such A Simple Little Text: On Witnesses, Wives, and Wards." American Oriental Society, Boston, MA, March.
- "Sennacherib and Jerusalem, 701 BC: The First 'World Event'." The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May.
- "The Long Afterlife of Sennacherib-at-Jerusalem." Society for Biblical Literature, Chicago, IL, November.
- "Scattered People & Small Wars: Power Without Sovereignty In Babylonia," American Schools of Oriental Research, Chicago, IL, November.
- 2011 "Sacred History and Pristine Civilizations in the Ancient Near East." Organizer and speaker for panel, at annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January.
- "When Hatti Marched on Akkad, 1595 B.C.: Ancient State Collapse and the Roots of Instability." Invited lecture, Dept. Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University, February.
- "The Collapse of the First Dynasty of Babylon: From Prosopography to Politics." American Oriental Society, Chicago, IL, March.
- "Communication and Power in Mesopotamia." Invited lecture, National Humanities Center conference *Communications in the Classical World*, Research Triangle Park, NC, March.
- "The Hypercoherent Icon: Knowledge, Rationalization & Disenchantment in Mesopotamia." Invited lecture, Oriental Institute Symposium "Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond," Chicago, IL, April.
- "Authority and Its Others: Rebellion and a Mesopotamian Politics." 2011 meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians, Erie, PA (May).
- "Babylonian Billets: Quartered Away from Home in the Middle Bronze Age." 2011 meeting of the Society of Military History, Lisle, IL (June).

- 2010 “‘Deep History,’ Environmental Determinism, and the Mesopotamian Past in the Present,” American Oriental Society, St. Louis, MO, March.
 “On Babylon and Collapse: In Theories, In Dossiers.” Invited lecture, Workshop on the History and Historiography of the Ancient Near East, Harvard University, April 28.
 “On Babylon and Collapse: Problems of Ancients and Moderns,” 55th Annual Wheaton College Archaeology Lecture Series, Wheaton, IL, September.
 “Babylonian Knowledge: Formation, Reformation, Deformation.” Invited lecture, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, October.
- 2009 “Babylon Stood Alone: 1595 B.C. and the Death of the State Idea,” invited lecture at Brown University, Dept. of Egyptology and Western Asia, February 19.
 “On Seeing and Believing: Liver Divination, Observationalism, and the Era of Warring States,” invited lecture at Univ. Chicago, Oriental Institute Symposium “Science & Superstition,” March 7.
 “Going Down Slow: Again on Assyrian Trade at OB Sippar,” American Oriental Society, Albuquerque, NM, March 16.
 “*ex Oriente* flux: Problems and Preconditions in Transmission,” Association of Ancient Historians, Vancouver, BC, May 16.
- 2008 “Ammititana *in extremis*,” American Oriental Society, Chicago, IL (March).
 “Failed States and Falling Cities: A Modernist Take on Ancient Collapse,” invited lecture, American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 20).
- 2007 “Exchange and Early Mesopotamian States,” Assoc. Ancient Historians, Princeton Univ., NJ (May)
 “Opening Remarks” and “Response to Speakers” at “Text Envy & Artifact Allure” conference, Oriental Institute (May).
- 2006 “The Field of Rebellion: Surveying the Mesopotamian Evidence,” American Oriental Society, Seattle, WA (among eight-speaker panel organized by myself).
 “At, Under, After Sippar: ‘Real’ Collections and ‘Artificial’ Reflections,” at “The Organization of Knowledge in Antiquity,” an invited conference at Western Washington University.
 “Death and Dismemberment in Mesopotamia: Discorporation between the Body and the Body Politic,” at Oriental Institute Symposium “Performing Death”.
- 2005 “Countryside(s): Modeling Babylonian Exurbia,” American Oriental Society, Philadelphia, PA.
 “Building Larsa: Mass Labor, Scope of Economy, and a Babylonian Rhetoric of Work,” British Association of Near Eastern Archaeology, London (March), Institute for the Study of Long-term Economic Trends, Dresden (May). [Substantially revised from 2001 lecture].
- 2004 “Forts on the River: ANE State Interest in Euphratean Trade,” American Schools of Oriental Research, San Antonio, TX.
 “As Darkness Falls: Crown Lands in the Twilight of Babylon I,” American Oriental Society, San Diego, CA.
 “Finding the Circuit of Babylon: Collapse, Warlords, and the State,” Franke Institute for the Humanities, the University of Chicago.
- 2003 “Seeing and Believing: On Extispicy as an Observational Science,” 49^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, The British Museum, London.
 “Babylonian Divination and the Secrecy Paradigm,” Columbia University, New York, NY.
 “A Prism Over Babylon: On Telling Mesopotamian History,” Bennington College, Bennington, VT.
 “On Losing Babylon & Getting It Back: The Fall of an Ancient State, 1597 B.C.,” The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2002 “Period and Paradigm in Ancient States,” Towson University, Towson, MD.
 “Trouble in the Countryside, *ana tarḫi* Samsuditana,” 48^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Leiden, The Netherlands.
 “Babylon, *Desaparecida*: The Murky End of a Famous Kingdom,” The Historical Society, Atlanta, GA.

- 2001 “Changes and Paradigms: How We Periodize Mesopotamian History,” The Biblical Archaeology Society of New York, New York, NY.
 “Building Larsa: A New Perspective on the Social Setting of Mass Labor in Ancient Babylonia,” American Oriental Society, Toronto, Canada.
- 1999 “The Geneonymy Garden of Aššurnaširpal II: Room I at Kalḫu,” American Schools of Oriental Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 1998 “The Merneptah Stele in its Ancient Near Eastern Context,” The Biblical Archaeology Society of New York, New York, NY.
- 1997 “Libyan Wars: The Other Front,” The Egyptological Seminar of New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.

panels organized

Respondant, Luiza Da Silva dissertation discussion, Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop, 2021.

Organizer for seven-speaker panel “Ancient Propaganda: Rules and Contexts in the Art of the Possible.” Seven-speaker panel organized and accepted for 2020 ASOR meeting; subsequently withdrawn for online time constraints and held independently, November 2020 – January 2021. *Speakers*: J. Finn (Marquette University), Breton Langendorfer (University of Pennsylvania), John Hyland (Christopher Newport University), Kara Cooney (U.C.L.A.), Niv Allon (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Clemens Reichel (University of Toronto), Piotr Michalowski (University of Michigan), Caroline Waerzeggers (University of Leiden), Vicky Almansa Villatoro (Brown University). *Respondents*: Marc Van De Mieroop (Columbia University), Ellen Morris (Columbia University), Steven Garfinkel (Western Washington University).

Respondant, Oriental Institute Postdoctoral Conference on “Pomp, Circumstance, and the Performance of Politics,” March 7–8 2019.

Organizer and **speaker** for American Historical Association panel “Sacred History and Pristine Civilizations in the Ancient Near East,” Jan. 2011. *Speakers*: Guillermo Algaze (U.C. - San Diego), Alhena Gadotti (Towson University), Andréas Stauder (Swiss National Science Foundation), and Beate Pongratz-Leisten (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World).

Co-chair and **organizer** for “Communication and Power in Mesopotamian Civilizations,” for Nov. 2010 ASOR meeting. *Speakers*: Alexandra Kleinerman (Johns Hopkins Univ.), Alan Lenzi (Univ. of the Pacific), Francesca Rochberg (Univ. California, Berkeley), and Ed Stratford (Brigham Young Univ.).

Co-organizer and **respondant** for 10–speaker conference “Text Envy & Artifact Allure: Evidence, Methods and Epistemologies Across the History/Prehistory Divide,” Oriental Institute (May 2007); *speakers* included Jerry Cooper (Johns Hopkins U.), Jan Assmann (U. Heidelberg), L. von Falkenhausen (UCLA).

Organizer and **speaker** for panel “Rebellions & Peripheries,” American Oriental Society 2006 meeting. *Speakers*: N. Yoffee (Univ. Michigan), R. Westbrook† (Johns Hopkins Univ.), D. Fleming (New York Univ.), S. Melville (Clarkson Univ.), A. Podany (Cal. State Poly Univ. – Pomona), R. Beal (Univ. Chicago), N. Brisch (Univ. Michigan), and myself.

Co-organizer, Ancient Near East panel, The Historical Society, Atlanta, GA, April, 2002.

trade work / catalogs

Copyediting of eight contributions for proceedings of 2012 Chicago workshop on historical linguistics.

Eight essays for *Great Trade Routes*, ed. Philip Parker (Anova Books), forthcoming 2012: “Prehistoric Pathways,” “Uruk and its World,” “Mesopotamia and the East,” “The Old Assyrian Trade,” “Egypt: Gateway to Africa,” “The Mediterranean in the Late Bronze Age,” “Phoenician Trade,” and “The Age of Empires.”

Catalog entries for *Picturing the Past*, ed. Jack Green, Oriental Institute 2012: “View of Babylon” and “Model of the Ziggurat at Babylon (Etemenanki).”

Encyclopedia entries for *World Book* 2011: “Babylon,” “Babylonia,” “Chaldea,” “Mesopotamia,” “Nineveh,” “Sargon of Akkad,” and “Ur.”

Six essays in *The Middle East: The Cradle of Civilization Revealed*, ed. Stephen Bourke (Thames & Hudson, 2008): “The Kingdom of Israel,” “Neo-Assyrian Sculpture,” “The Neo-Babylonian Dynasty,” “Nebuchadnezzar II,” “The Chaldaeans,” and “The Sack of Jerusalem.”

Manuscript review for Guillermo del Toro’s *Night Eternal*, Harper-Collins 2011.

Manuscript review for Eric Cline and Mark Graham's *Ancient Empires: From Mesopotamia to the Rise of Islam*; for Cambridge University Press, 2006.

public lectures

- 2010 "The Old Babylonian Period: A Users' Guide," California Museum of Ancient Art, Los Angeles.
- 2008 "Idols Without Anxiety," Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 "The Ziggurat as Entoptical Image of Power," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL.
- 2007 "How to Build a God: Mesopotamian Icons and Biblical Parodies," U. of C. Humanities Open House.
- 2006 "Babylonian Liver Omens," University of Chicago Humanities Open House.
- 2006 "The Future of the Past in Iraq," open forum, Western Washington University.
- 2005 "Cosmic and Quotidian: Mesopotamian Perceptions of Reality," U. of C. Humanities Open House.
- 2004 "Visiting an Assyrian Palace at Chicago," University of Chicago Humanities Open House.

academic service (university of chicago)

- 2017–2023 Scientific Committee, Crossroads conference series, Charles University, Prague
- 2007–2010 NELC Graduate Student Adviser.
- 2004–2010 NELC Student Affairs Committee.
- 2003–present Program Head, NELC Ancient Near East History program.
- 2007–present Manuscript reader for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.
- 2004–2010 Oriental Institute Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Search Committee.
- 2005–2010 Program in the Ancient Mediterranean World: Executive Committee, 2008–2009; Admissions Committee, 2006; Curricular Review, 2005.
- 2008–2010 "Aims of Education" colloquium leader for U. of C. first-year orientation.
- 2005–2008 Faculty Sponsor, Ancient Societies Workshop.
- 2003–2009 Mesopotamian Faculty Advisor, Oriental Institute Museum; Guest Curator, 2004–2005.

other academic service / experience

- Crossroads III/IV, Charles University, Prague, 2017+.
- Member, Committee on Nominations, American Oriental Society, 2012–2014.
- Member, Baghdad Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research, 2009–2012.
- Advisor, Publications Committee, American Association of Ancient Historians, 2011–2014.
- Advisor, Project on Computational Tools for the Search and Identification of 3D and 2D Freeform Writing (Smith College / Heidelberg University), 2014–.
- Panel Chair, "Writing Systems," American Oriental Society, San Antonio, TX, 2007.
- Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Columbia Univ., Dept. of Middle East Languages and Cultures, 2002.
- Preceptor, New York Univ., Morse Academic Program: "World Cultures: The Ancient Near East," 2001.
- Research Assistant, Columbia University, Dept. of Middle East Languages and Cultures, 1995–2001.
Copy- and style-editing for a dozen+ scholarly works, editing of Sumerian & Akkadian texts for publication.
- Research Assistant, Ancient Near East Dept., Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, 1998.
Research in support of the reinstallation of the Ancient Near Eastern department's permanent galleries.
- Preceptor, Columbia Univ.: "Islamic Civilization," "Theories of Culture," "Modern M.E. / India," 1997–2000.
- Rapporteur, University Seminar on the Ancient Near East, Columbia University, 1996–1999.
- Research Assistant, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, 1994–2001.
- Research Assistant, The National Museum of the American Indian, 1991–1993.
- Research Assistant, The National Museum of American History, 1990–1991.

memberships

- American Oriental Society (2000+)
- American Historical Association (2002+)
- Association of Ancient Historians (2007+)
- International Association of Assyriology (2003+)
- American Schools of Oriental Research (1998, 2004, 2008+)