

KITES IN CONTEXT

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Although the Kites in Context project did not put a team in the field in spring 2024, research on materials and images continued during the study season. I (Yorke Rowan) visited Amman to import small finds and, while there, delivered a lecture, “The Rich World of the Black Desert, Jordan, during the Neolithic,” simultaneously translated into Arabic for the organization Jordanian Archaeology as Sustainable Industry. In Chicago, images and video from the Kites in Context project (and the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project) featured prominently in the ISAC Museum’s special exhibition *Pioneers of the Sky: Aerial Archaeology and the Black Desert* (April 25–August 18, 2024), curated by Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow Marie-Laure Chambrade. In addition, publications from the project have begun to appear. From the inaugural season (2022), in June 2024 the team published a preliminary account, “Kites in the Desert: Placing Animal Traps in Context,” in the open-access journal *Neo-Lithics* (22: 5–12). Also in 2024, and based on the dramatic rain and flooding the team experienced during the 2023 season in Jordan, members of the team and I published “Fieldwork in an Increasingly Variable Climate: The Kites in Context Project 2023 Field Season” in the *Journal of Field Archaeology* (49, no. 2: 1–17), the first photographic essay published by that journal. The project’s coprincipal investigator Austin “Chad” Hill and I coauthored “Desert Kites: Neolithic Infrastructure in the Margins,” published as chapter 8 in *Infrastructure in Archaeological Discourse: Framing Society in the Past*, edited by M. Grace Ellis, Carly M. DeSanto, and Meghan C. L. Howey (Routledge, 2024). Also in that volume, Hill and I joined the volume’s editors in coauthoring chapter 6, “Perspectives: Scale of Infrastructure.”
