

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

ARCHAEOLOGY, OPEN AND FREE

The Joukowsky Institute's class, 'Archaeology's Dirty Little Secrets', is the first MOOC (massive open online course) to explore and communicate the study of archaeology. The class was selected as one of three Brown pilot courses for Coursera, the Stanford-based company that is one of the leaders in online education. It launched June 3, 2013, and currently has over 37,000 people enrolled, from every continent except Antarctica.

While many MOOCs reflect the work of a single professor, all archaeologists would agree that that is not the way we work. Archaeology is such a collaborative practice that we decided Archaeology's Dirty Little Secrets should be a team effort. To that end, Andrew Dufton and Muge Durusu (two JIAAW graduate students) and I taught an undergraduate class that helped us think through the course and identify good content. Andrew and Muge worked heroically to pull together the media resources we needed for filming, and both are to be seen on camera throughout the class.

Many other faces can be seen there, however. Several Brown faculty and graduate students gave their time to the project. Contributions include demonstrations (filmed in the Haffenreffer Museum) of everything from animal bone analysis to making a cuneiform tablet. I also engage in ongoing conversations (each week with a different



topic) about different Brown field projects: Laurel Bestock about Abydos, Stephen Houston about El Zotz, and Tom Leppard

about Montserrat, while Andy Dufton and I chat about Petra. Brown graduates Michael and David Udris were our principal videographers. Each week, students begin a new 'Unit' in which they are invited to watch video clips, to do some required reading, to take a short quiz, and then to do an archaeological exercise. The exercises are intended to give people the opportunity to do some hands on (but non-destructive!) archaeology, and to learn more about the archaeological resources in their area. For the more adventurous, there are additional resources, both

readings and videos. If sufficient work is completed by the end of the eight-week class, individuals can receive

a Statement of Accomplishment, but many students are likely just to do things for fun.

The course is still in its very early stages, but the level of enthusiasm and engagement in the Discussion Forums

(with people posting and chatting from all over the world) is remarkable. There is clearly a wide range of backgrounds and experiences in the class, and we will have to see how things work out: MOOCs are a very new phenomenon on the academic landscape. At this point, however, the opportunity to reach over 37,000 students (talking to more people in one day than in a lifetime so far of teaching) is exhilarating – if somewhat overwhelming!

Sue Alcock

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To learn more about the Joukowsky Institute, visit www.brown.edu/go/archaeology

NOW AVAILABLE: *CITIES AND THE SHAPING OF MEMORY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST* BY ÖMÜR HARMANŞAH

Study of ancient cities has been largely dominated by accounts of imperial building projects and the urban utopias of powerful agents of the past: the kings, the rulers, the emperors, the elite. Yet understanding how cities take shape, how their urban spaces are formed, and what precisely happens on their stone-paved streets would be deficient without considering the collective imagination of living in the city by its citizens and the myriad ways through which urban communities transform and shape urban landscapes. If one wants to get at the real heartbeat of the city, one has to engage with both the large scale urban utopias of its builders, and how urban life and its everyday practitioners deconstruct, transform or shape it.

In his new text, *Cities and the Shaping of Memory in the Ancient Near East* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), Ömür Harmanşah explores the practices of founding and building new cities in the ancient Near East during the earlier part of the Iron Age (1200-850 BCE). Assyrian and Syro-Hittite rulers of Northern Mesopotamia and Anatolia not only carried out ambitious building projects at this time, including programs of constructing capital cities from scratch, but they also boasted about these accomplishments on their urban monuments.

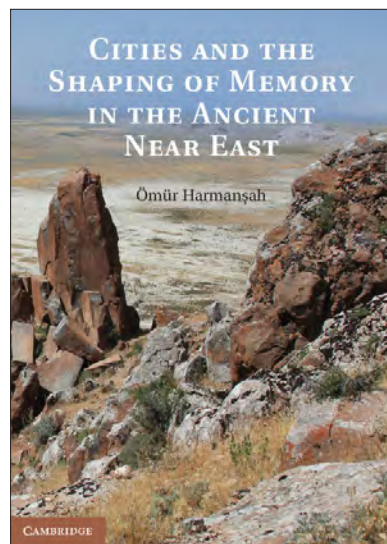
This ancient practice has modern parallels: Ankara was re-founded as the modern capital of the newly born Turkish Republic on October 13, 1923. Founders of the state in Turkey were keen on distancing themselves from Istanbul, the

aged capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. They intended to open up a new urban sphere: an ideologically and socially fresh ground for enacting their modernist utopias for the generation of an urban culture fully endowed with

European modernity. By the early 21st century, Ankara had long diverged from those utopic ideals and created a unique poetics of its own urban life.

Archaeologists have long taken leaders' ideologically charged statements at face value, resolving to accept that politics make cities, and ignoring other myriad kinds of social, cultural, environmental and human processes in the making of urban space. This book looks at precisely this tension: Harmanşah discusses the intricate political statements of the elites about raising cities and monuments in the midst of wilderness and supplying them with the prosperity of lush and green waterways and orchards. He combines such claims with a plethora of evidence drawn from epigraphic, art historical,

architectural, archaeological and paleo-environmental studies to speak about the real dynamics of settlement on the ground. In this way, he is able to tell the story of a region from the perspective of its spatial practices, social memory, landscape history and architectural technologies in addition to its political economy. In doing this, he challenges purely political readings of urban construction, using notions of place-making, desire, memory and imagination as central to the making of cities.



Hella...what? Taking Rhode Island Hall By Siege

The *helepolis*, or "city-taker" in Ancient Greek, was the superstar of Hellenistic siegecraft, allegedly used for the first time during the siege of Athens in 304 BCE. It was 140 feet high, and packed with some 17 torsion catapults shooting arrows and stone balls. Its psychological effect upon the defenders must have been devastating.

This is only one among many siege machines and devices studied during the semester in Joukowski Institute Postdoctoral Fellow Sylvian Fachard's undergraduate course, ARCH 0405

State of Siege! Walls and Fortifications in the Greek and Roman World. Students started by learning about the invention of siege-towers and battering rams in the 3rd millennium Near East, moving to chemical warfare in the sapping tunnels at Dura Europos, then ending with the famous "Greek Fire" used by the Byzantines. But in *State of Siege!*, they also studied how to build walls and to defend cities, from Mesopotamia to Roman Britain. By



studying the best sieges over 4500 years, students could assess the importance of good military organization, discipline, chain of supply, architectural skills and cash.

The course culminated by asking students to implement their new knowledge of siegecraft, by constructing real siege machines and models, which were displayed in Rhode Island Hall and on Brown University's Quiet Green. The



Joukowski siege armada included a (close to life-size) Near Eastern battering ram made of Massachusetts wood, terrifying torsion *ballistae*, scaled-down *onagers* and *helepoleis*, and a miniature *trebuchet* (throwing cherry-tomatoes and mushrooms). Other engineers devised computer reconstructions of battles at Plataea, Eretria and Alesia, and software for calculating the ideal trajectory of stone balls or for making profit when selling an entire population on the slave market following a siege.



NEW DOCTORS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Joukowski Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is delighted to announce the successful defense of two doctoral dissertations this Spring:

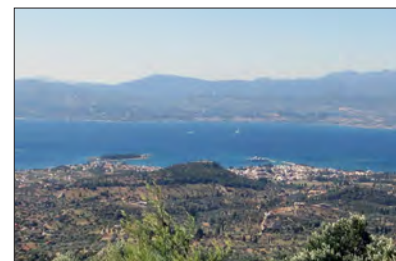
Alex R. Knodell

Small-World Networks and Mediterranean Dynamics in the Euboean Gulf: An Archaeology of Complexity in Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Greece

Dr. Knodell's dissertation employs aspects of network theory to study social complexity in the Euboean Gulf from the Mycenaean Palatial period through the Protohistoric Iron Age (c. 1400-700 BCE). It provides synthesis, analysis, and interpretation of a variety of seemingly divergent social phenomena, including the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces and the eighth-century political revolution, the disappearance of Linear B and adaptation of the Greek alphabet from the Phoenician script, the transition from bronze to iron as the dominant utilitarian metal, and a shift in maritime patterns.

Knodell argues that the networks in which the Euboean Gulf operated increasingly exhibit characteristics of "small worlds" and "the strength of weak ties," where the addition of even a single connection into a wider system can result in the relatively rapid diffusion of political, cultural, and technological ideas. At the same time, these networks go through phases of higher and lower degrees of centrality and stability, resulting in occasional societal upheaval and restructuring in explainable (though not necessarily predictable) patterns in the dynamics of social complexity.

Dr. Knodell successfully defended his dissertation on Monday, April 15th.



Thomas P. Leppard

The Logics of Island Life: The Archaeology of Movement, Distance, and Settlement in the Neolithic Aegean and Ceramic Age Lesser Antilles

Dr. Leppard's dissertation examines how colonizing populations of prehistoric food-producing communities adapted to small-island contexts. Taking the Neolithic colonization of the Cyclades (5,000-3,200 BC) and the colonization of the Ceramic Age Lesser Antilles (500 BC-AD 500) as case studies, this dissertation explores the diachronic social and spatial organization of human populations in both archipelagoes through the lenses of settlement ecology, behavioral ecology, and island biogeography.

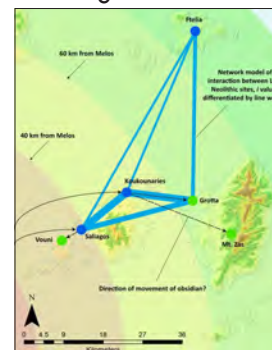
A central question is whether the combination of common technologies of food production and movement, combined with the inherent ecological challenges of small islands, made certain logics of organization self-

selecting; or, whether processes of insular adaptation in both case studies were entirely context-specific. This and subsidiary questions are considered through bringing to bear on extant data various modes of geospatial analysis and modeling, including density and Proximal Point analysis, gravity and network modeling, and resource-catchment analysis.

Conclusions suggest that, despite evident differences, the unique demographic pressures exerted by the Neolithic mode of subsistence in small islands encouraged the adoption of similar strategies of

coping and adaptation in both archipelagoes; specifically, expansion of and diversification in settlement systems, with accompanying developments in intra- and inter-site ranking, and social hierarchies.

Dr. Leppard successfully defended his dissertation on Monday, April 1st.



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STATE OF THE FIELD 2013: ARCHAEOLOGIES OF GREECE

This March a group of scholars gathered at the Joukowsky Institute for a conference entitled, "Archaeologies of Greece: Big Questions, Next Directions." This was part of the Institute's series of annual "State of the Field" conferences, in which scholars in the archaeology of a particular country gather to discuss recent developments and current trends. The moment seemed ideal to focus on Greece, given this year's remarkable concentration of faculty with Greek archaeological experience. It is also an important moment for Greek archaeology and its culture, more generally.

Greek archaeology has undergone major changes in the past few decades. Theory, method, publication, and heritage management have all advanced considerably through the initiatives of Greeks and foreigners alike, yet many basic issues in the field are likely to elicit a wide variety of responses. "Archaeologies of Greece" aimed to tease out some of these responses from an international group of speakers and attendees.

The conference began with a keynote address by Vassilis Aravantinos, drawing on his long and diverse experience as

a scholar and an ephor to address the themes of the conference.

The conference continued with a morning session that addressed currently vibrant and long-unresolved research questions, as well as problems specific to certain phases of the Greek past. While this could not be comprehensive, it aimed to be representative, with speakers talking about sub-disciplines ranging from Aegean Prehistory to Byzantine Archaeology. The afternoon's session confronted disciplinary issues of relevance to all archaeologists working in Greece, from climate change to the study of animal bones to heritage to curation.

Each session was followed by an extended general discussion, which involved participants from Brown and other universities in the region, as well as visitors who traveled from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and beyond. Altogether the conference was a great success and we look forward to many more such collaborative, discussion-driven "State of the Field" conferences in the future.

