EMBEDDED!
Archaeologists & Anthropologists in Modern Landscapes of Conflict

May 1-2
Watson Joukowsky Forum

Organized by Ömür Harmansah,
Assistant Professor of Archaeology
& Ancient Western Asian Studies
About

This workshop is the second leg of the annual Engaged Scholarship Workshops organized by Brown University’s Middle East Studies, under the broader initiative entitled “Knowledge Production, Ethics, Solidarity: Stories from the field.”

These two-day workshops take place in the spring of every academic year. The format of the gatherings is explicitly geared towards offering an open platform of critical discussion for controversial topics that emerge from the intersection of academic fieldwork, ethics, social movements and activism. The Second Engaged Scholarship Workshop will be concerned with the contemporary archaeological and anthropological field practices in contexts of war and social conflict and their ethical implications.

In recent decades, both archaeologists and anthropologists who work in the precarious war zones in the Middle East have been increasingly drawn into collaborations with western and local military forces via initiatives such as the so called Human Terrain Systems, adopting military technologies for accessing data about otherwise inaccessible places, and accepting funding from the military for field research. These developments intersect with a cultural/social scientific turn in the U.S. military. Likewise, in recent years, several new archaeological projects have been initiated by western archaeological teams in war-torn countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. Concerns of western institutions for the loss of cultural heritage are often canalized into initiatives to rescue heritage, supported by narratives of global ownership.

The methodological, ethical, political, cultural, and practical implications of these new initiatives and collaborations however have been rarely discussed in academic contexts, even though their problematic aspects have been pointed out persistently by several anthropologists and archaeologists, for example through the Network of Concerned Anthropologists. This workshop will provide a platform for an open and critical discussion of the ethical implications of archaeological and anthropological fieldwork in conflict zones in the Middle East, collaborations with the military and what it means to be embedded in the military complex in both the contemporary and the historical contexts.
Thursday, May 1

8:30 a.m.
REGISTRATION
Coffee, tea, and pastries

9:00 a.m.
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Beshara Doumani, Director of Middle East Studies
Ömür Harmanşah, Organizer

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND DISCUSSION
ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN THE GLOBAL COMBAT ZONE
Yannis Hamilakis, University of Southampton

10:45 - 11:00 a.m.
COFFEE BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
SESSION 1
FIELDWORK AS POLITICAL ECOLOGY: ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND
ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN LANDSCAPES OF CONFLICT
Moderator: Mayssun Succarie, Brown University

INTRODUCTION: POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF FIELDWORK
Ömür Harmanşah, Brown University

FRACTURED OVERSIGHT: PALESTINIAN SITES AND OBJECTS
AFTER THE OSLO II ACCORDS
Morag Kersel, Depaul University

EXPOSING THE COLONIAL MATRIX OF POWER:
ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES IN IRAQ
Maria Theresia Starzmann, McGill University

DISCUSSION
Discussant: Mayssun Succarie, Brown University

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
LUNCH
For speakers, discussants, and invited guests

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
SESSION 2
HUMAN TERRAIN SYSTEMS AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS
Moderator: Catherine Lutz, Brown University

FIELDWORK IN BATTLE SPACE:
ON THE INTERSECTING GEOGRAPHIES OF RESEARCH AND WAR
David B. Edwards, Williams College

ON USING ETHICS TO AVOID POLITICS: THE LIMITS OF USING
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS TO ADDRESS THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS
OF HTS AND OTHER SECURITY SECTOR PROJECTS
David Price, St. Martin’s University
Thursday, May 1 (cont’d)
Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI

EMBEDDED? TOWARD A DEEPER EXAMINATION OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS’ WORK IN NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS
Kerry B. Fosher, Marine Corps University

DISCUSSION
Discussant: Keith Brown, Brown University

6:30 p.m.

DINNER AT BILTMORE HOTEL
L’APOGEE ROOM
For speakers, discussants, and invited guests

Friday, May 2
Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
COFFEE, TEA, AND PASTRIES

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.
SESSION 3
REMOTE SENSING, DRONES, SATELLITE IMAGES: ETHICS OF THE USE OF REMOTE TECHNOLOGIES OF MAPPING AND VISUALIZATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Moderator: Felipe Rojas, Brown University

VERTICALITY AND FEAR: SURVEYING WAZIRISTAN
Vazira F-Y Zamindar, Brown University

FROM BALLOONS AND BIPLANES TO SATELLITES AND DRONES: THE INVASION OF IRAQ AND THE ETHICS OF AERIAL IMAGERY IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Adrian Myers, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure (Vancouver, Canada)

ORIENTING DISTANCE: AERIAL SURVEYS IN THE SERVICE OF MODERN WARFARE
Caren Kaplan, University of California Davis

DISCUSSION
Discussant: Felipe Rojas, Brown University

10:45 - 11:00 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Moderators: Yannis Hamilakis, University of Southampton and Ömür Harmanşah, Brown University

End of Workshop
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