



ENGAGED  
SCHOLARSHIP

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES | BROWN

# 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

Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute  
111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI

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





MIDDLE EAST  
STUDIES  
BROWN



**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

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