



Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter | Edition 7

2 March 2022

Welcome

Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

We are excited about this year's activities, which includes a monthly lecture series and the Annual Rundle Conference on 12 June. The event immediately follows the 6th Australasian Egyptology Conference, to be held in the new Macquarie University Arts Precinct. 2022 is a year of big milestones in Egyptology globally, and so the Rundle Day will focus on the Life and Times of Tutankhamun as we celebrate the centenary of the tomb's discovery. Please mark these dates in your diary – Members are welcome to attend both events, with registration details announced shortly.

Dr Karin Sowada
The Australian Centre for Egyptology

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SAVE THE DATE: 12 June 2022

Mark your calendars! In collaboration with the 6th Australasian Egyptology Conference, the **2022 Rundle Foundation Annual Conference** will take place on Sunday 12 June.

This day will honour Egyptology's jubilee year: 200 years of Champollion's breakthrough in deciphering hieroglyphs and 100 years since the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.



Registrations open soon... watch this space!

CALL FOR PAPERS: Australian Egyptology Conference

MACQUARIE University
Sydney, 9–12 June 2022
In-person & hybrid virtual mode
6th Australasian Egyptology Conference
Call for Papers
Abstracts due by 15 March 2022
email to AAEC22@mq.edu.au
Details on host website:
The Australian Centre for Egyptology, Macquarie University

The **SIXTH AUSTRALASIAN EGYPTOLOGY CONFERENCE (AEC 6)** returns to Sydney in 2022 and will be held in hybrid (both in person and online) at the new Macquarie University Arts Precinct. We warmly welcome everyone interested in current Egyptological research and fieldwork.

Local and international scholars together with postgraduate candidates are invited to submit Abstracts for:

- papers of 20 minutes duration plus time for Q&A.
- papers of 10 minutes duration plus time for Q&A.
- poster presentations

A [template in WORD format](#) is provided for the submission of your Abstract.

Please submit your Abstract and requested information by **15 March 2022** (5.00pm AEST) to AAEC22@mq.edu.au

Egyptology at the 43rd ASCS Annual Conference



The 43rd ASCS Annual. Conference and Meeting. Photo: ASCS Twitter.

Macquarie University's Egyptology department was well represented at the recent 43rd [Australian Society for Classical Studies](#) (ASCS) Annual Conference, hosted online by the University of Tasmania.

Rundle member, [Tanya Blake](#), provides a report on the conference below.

The 43rd ASCS conference, hosted by the University of Tasmania, saw a strong representation from faculty and students in Egyptology from Macquarie University. Presentations were divided into three panels: Egyptology; Egyptian Textual Sources: Body, Gender and Emotion; and Egyptian Textual Sources: Religion, Thought and Perception.

[Hannah Vogel](#) and [Sarah Massingham](#) set the bar very high with their excellent discussion highlighting a lacuna in scholarship concerning lived experiences. It's one thing to identify ailments and hypothesise what the effects may have been; yet no one has really examined what the disease may have meant not only to the afflicted person, but to their family and societal group as well.

The next two panels, which were developed from the Ancient Languages and Lab group at Macquarie, spoke to different perspectives and approaches to the ancient Egyptian language. First was the panel Egyptian Textual Sources: Body, Gender and Emotion. Tanya Blake explored the efficacy statements found in the magical-medical papyri of pharaonic Egypt; [Ginger-Rose Harrington](#), examined masculinity in the literature; and [Madeline Jenkins](#) explained what it meant to be "sad" in ancient Egypt. The final panel, Egyptian Textual Sources: Religion, Thought and Perception, strongly closed out our representation at the conference. [Dr Camilla Di Biase-Dyson](#) re-examined the word *sgd* in terms of lexical semantics, morphology, historical syntax and narratology; [Associate Professor Boyo Ockinga](#) reappraised the double determinative found in the Aten's title 'father'; and [Michael Hayes](#) explained how he applied Conceptual Metaphor Theory to the Amarna writings.

Congratulations to all presenters!!

New research from MQ on minimally invasive ancient DNA sampling



The coffin of Mer-Neith-it-es being CT scanned. Photo: Macquarie Medical Imaging.

Research from Macquarie University PhD candidate [Dylan Multari](#) and [Professor Ronika Power](#) on minimally invasive ancient DNA sampling techniques has been published in the prestigious *Journal of Archaeological Science*. This novel technique presented in the article has been applied to the 26th Dynasty Egyptian mummified individual from the coffin of a woman named [Mer-Neith-it-es](#).

READ THE ARTICLE ABSTRACT

Ancient protein analysis has been shown to have several advantages over ancient DNA studies, largely due to the ability of many proteins to survive over longer periods of time than their corresponding genes. Typically, sampling of bioarchaeological material for proteomics has involved the use of invasive tools such as drills and hammers, presenting an issue when working with museums and heritage organisations.

Here we present the development of a novel minimally invasive sample preparation technique for application in the mass spectrometric analysis of bioarchaeological materials. The extraction protocol was developed by applying commercially available, dermatology-grade skin sampling strips to modern skin surfaces as a surrogate, and then applied to cranial and bone fragments belonging to a 26th Dynasty Egyptian mummified individual from the coffin of a woman named Mer-Neith-it-es. We have identified ancient intracellular proteins on the surfaces of the various cranial and bone fragments, without causing any visible morphological damage to these valuable remains.

READ MORE

Multari, D.H., Ravishankar, P., Sullivan, G.J., **Power, R.K.**, Lord, C., Fraser, J.A. & Haynes, P.A. (2022), 'Development of a novel minimally invasive sampling and analysis technique using skin sampling tape strips for bioarchaeological proteomics', *Journal of Archaeological Science* vol. 139, 105548.

The publication is available [here](#)

GET TO KNOW...

Dylan Multari, PhD Candidate



Learn more about Dylan and his research...

Can you give us an 'elevator pitch' of your research area?

My research is focused on exploring the ways in which molecular and analytical chemistry techniques can be applied to the study of ancient materials. I completed my Master of Research in 2019 developing a minimally invasive sample collection technique for subsequent

protein analysis (which later became our recent publication after we incorporated additional data analysis).

In layman's terms, what is the wider impact of your research?

The wider impact of my research is to make scientific analysis of archaeological materials more accessible to the general research community without compromising on the preservation of these invaluable artefacts.

How did you become interested in this work and who's work in the discipline do you admire?

I've always had a natural interest in both history and science, and the ways in which these two apparently different fields interconnect. I was among the first cohort of Bachelor of Archaeology students at MQ, and on a complete whim, I chose Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences as my major. This decision led me to be taught by and work with many influential people including A/Prof Yann Tristant, my current PhD supervisors Prof Paul Haynes and Prof Ronika Power, and my good friend Dr Michelle Whitford. Their dedication to research, student advocacy, and overall enthusiasm motivated me to pursue archaeological science further.

What are other interesting works that we should be reading about in the area you study?

A good review paper on how protein analysis can be applied to archaeological research: Hendy, J., (2021). Ancient protein analysis in archaeology, *Sci Adv* 7. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.abb9314.

A previous paper from our lab (albeit before my time) working with Dr Jana Jones: Jones, J., Mirzaei, M., Ravishankar, P., Xavier, D., Lim do, S., Shin, D.H., Bianucci, R., Haynes, P.A., (2016). 'Identification of proteins from 4200-year-old skin and muscle tissue biopsies from ancient Egyptian mummies of the first intermediate period shows evidence of acute inflammation and severe immune response', *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* 374. doi: 10.1098/rsta.2015.0373.

Photo: Supplied.

PUBLISHED! **New and notable works from ACE members**



From dragonflies to resilience theory, learn more about the latest research from ACE members in these new and notable publications...

Evans, L. and Weinstein, P. (2021). 'Dragonflies? 'A possible composite type in Egyptian tomb scenes and its implications', in: Bárta, M., Coppens, F. and Krejčí, J. (eds), *Abusir and Saqqara in the Year 2020*, Charles University. ISBN: 978-80-7671-051-1.

Mourad, A.-L. (2021). 'Strategies of Survival? Change, Continuity and the Adaptive Cycle across the Middle to Early Late Bronze Age at Tell el-Dab'a, Egypt', *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 64, 101367. Available for [download here](#).

Mourad, A.-L. (2021). 'Transforming Egypt into the New Kingdom: The Movement of Ideas and Technology across Geopolitical, Cultural and Social Borders', in M. Bietak and S. Prell (eds.), *The Enigma of the Hyksos, Volume IV: Changing Clusters and Migration in the Near Eastern Bronze Age*, 457-476. Contributions to the Archaeology of Egypt, Nubia and the Levant 12. Harrassowitz. ISBN: 978-3-447-11737-1

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH [MQ GIFTSHOP](#)

Bommas, M. (2022) *100 Treasures 100 Emotions*. Giles. ISBN 978-1911282808 (paperback).

Use the code 100TREASURES at the checkout to receive a 15% discount.

Bommas, M. (2021) *East Meets West: The Crusades and the Age of Decolonisation*. Giles. ISBN 978-1913875022 (paperback).

Use the code EASTWEST at the checkout to receive a 5% discount.

We recommend... Egypt, Land of Writing(s): Online Lecture Series

Hosted by the University of Liège (Belgium), this online thematic lecture series on writing in Egypt (and in relation to Egypt), titled *Egypt, land of writing(s)*, celebrates the 200th anniversary of the deciphering of the hieroglyphs by Champollion.

Dimitri Laboury & Jean Winand (ULiège)

Neo-hieroglyphs in the Prince-Bishopric of Liege during the Renaissance

Friday 25 March, 6.00am (AEDT) / Thursday 24 March 8.00pm (CET)

For a full schedule of events and Zoom details visit [this link](#).



Architrave from the mastaba of Mehi, Saqqara, Dyn. 6. Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology

ACE/Rundle Events and Lecture Series

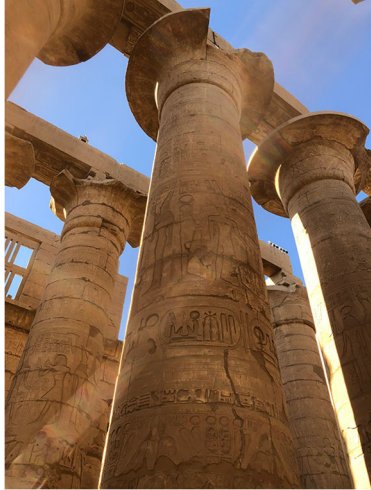
We invite members to attend our second lecture in the **2022 ACE/Rundle Lecture**

Series which will be held on **Wednesday 9 March, 6.30 pm (AEDT) on Zoom**. Our presenter [Dr Gillian Smith](#) will speak on the *Hypostyle Hall at Karnak Temple: decoding complexity and experiencing monumental space*.

[Register now](#)

READ ABOUT GILLIAN'S PRESENTATION

Since its construction during the Ramesside Period, the Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Amun-Re at Karnak has stood as a monument to the ingenuity, wealth,



and power of Ancient Egyptian civilisation. This presentation explores the relationship between the art and architecture, the ritual function, and symbolic meaning of the Hall. Through a focus on the iconographic program of the Hall, it will be shown that the space acts as a permeable boundary between the mundane and secular world outside the temple, and the divine and sacred world inside the inner sanctuaries. This contrast of the hidden divine and the open world plays out in both the architecture and the decorative program. The areas that can be accessed by human visitors to the

space – the walls and columns – display the power of the king and, importantly, his ability to fulfil his duties towards the gods.

By contrast, the decorative program of the hidden clerestory structure – a space that due to its great height could be “viewed” only by the gods – shows the direct and exclusive relationship of the king and Amun-Re.

Image: The Hypostyle Hall at Karnak Temple. Photo: Gillian Smith

We are continuing to hold lectures on zoom and will move to a hybrid format as soon as suitable. Please reserve the following **Wednesdays 6.30–8.00 pm Sydney time (AEDT)** for the ACE/Rundle Lecture Series:

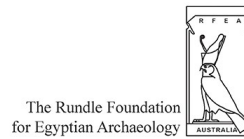
Semester 1

Wed 9 March 2022
Wed 13 April 2022
Wed 11 May 2022

Semester 2

Wed 10 August 2022
Wed 14 September 2022
Wed 12 October 2022
Wed 9 November 2022

Rundle Membership Fees



With 2022 now well underway, it's time to think about renewing your [Rundle Foundation membership](#) for 2022/2023.

As members will be aware, it is many years since there has been an increase in the membership fees of The Rundle Foundation. The last three years, because of Covid interruptions to our planning of events/functions, we have extended the terms of membership without cost to our members.

This year, it has been deemed necessary to raise the subscription fees. Details of the new prices are as follows:

- Single Membership \$50 (1 year) or \$135 (3 years)
- Double Membership \$75 (1 year) or \$200 (3 years)
- Student Membership \$30 (1 year) or \$80 (3 years)

PLEASE NOTE: As renewal will not be due until 1 July, 2022, the Rundle Foundation Office will advise all members, local and international, of their membership status in June and at the same time will advise those members whose membership is due for renewal this year.

Thinking of a Bequest?

Recently my family did some estate planning and I decided to leave a Bequest to the Australian Centre for Egyptology. It was easier than I thought to organise. Will you join me in providing for the future of Egyptology at Macquarie? For information, [click here](#).

If you would like a confidential discussion about a bequest, please contact me (karin.sowada@mq.edu.au) or Andrew Graves at MQ Philanthropy (andrew.graves@mq.edu.au).

Dr Karin Sowada, Director

Banner image Tomb of Inumin, Saqqara, Dyn. 6. Photo: Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology

Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter 7 was compiled by Rachel Nawar and Gillian Smith, February 28, 2022. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Support us

Like what we do? Please support the work of Egyptology at Macquarie with a tax-deductible donation to the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology. Thank you!

I'd like to donate

Contact us

[The Australian Centre for Egyptology](#)

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You are receiving this email as a Member of the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology. Our aim is to keep you informed about Egyptology at Macquarie University, of the fieldwork and research undertaken, of news, events and other activities.

YOU *to the power of us*



Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia



T: +61 2 9850 7111 | [Ask a question](#)

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