

**Day 4    2 June 2021    Jerusalem**

Hosted by The W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research



**Program (subject to change)**

**Session 1 (2 hours)**

**08:00 London; 09:00 Cairo; 10:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 17:00 Sydney**

- 07:00 GMT**    Welcome and Introductions (Dr Matthew J. Adams, AIAR Director)
- 07:10 GMT**    *Deconstructing the Putative Egyptian Colonial System in Southern Levant at the End of the Fourth Millennium BCE*  
Marcin Czarnowicz (Jagiellonian University in Kraków) and Eliot Braun (W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem)
- 07:30 GMT**    *A Note on Some Theoretical, Cultural and Spatial Aspects of the Egyptian Presence in Southern Levant during the late 4th Millennium BC*  
Yitzhak Paz (Israel Antiquities Authority)
- 07:50 GMT**    *The Negev and Surrounding Deserts during the Late 3rd Millennium BCE: An Update from the South*  
Zachary C. Dunseth (Brown University)
- 08:10 GMT**    *Egyptian-Southern Levantine Interaction on the Fringe of the Desert: A View from the Negev Highlands*  
Yuval Yekutieli (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
- 08:30 GMT**    Discussion (30 mins)

**Break (1 hour)**

**10:00 London; 11:00 Cairo; 12:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 19:00 Sydney**

**Session 2 (2 hours)**

**11:00 London; 12:00 Cairo; 13:00 Jerusalem/Beirut/Amman; 20:00 Sydney**

- 10:00 GMT** *The Adoption of Quotidian Metallurgy in Egypt and the Levant: A Comparative Zooarchaeological Perspective*  
Haskel J. Greenfield (University of Manitoba and St. Paul's College) and Eleuterio (Luther) Abreu De Sousa (Macquarie University)
- 10:20 GMT** *Crafting Communities into Contact: Investigating the Production and Uses of Stamp Seals in Egypt and Crete during the Third Millennium BCE*  
Nadia Ben-Marzouk (Tel Aviv University)
- 10:40 GMT** *Contact between Egypt and Crete in the 3rd/4th Dynasty: An Early Minoan II Vessel from Mendes, Egypt*  
Matthew J. Adams (W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research), Christopher Hale (O.P. Jindal Global University), and Peter Tomkins (University of Leuven)
- 11:00 GMT** *Correlating Egypto-Levantine Connectivity in Ceramic Assemblage Profiles between Tel Erani and the Negev Highlands*  
Samuel Atkins (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
- 11:20 GMT** Discussion (30 mins)

## Abstracts

### **Deconstructing the Putative Egyptian Colonial System in Southern Levant at the End of the Fourth Millennium BC**

Marcin Czarnowicz  
*Jagiellonian University in Kraków*

Eliot Braun  
*W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem*

Since the first traces of a 4th-millennium-BCE Egyptian settlement were found in southern Levant at Tel Erani by Shmuel Yeivin, various scholars have suggested interpretations of the nature of relations between the two regions. Presently, the most popular interpretation assumes that a newly born Egyptian state tried to establish a colony in the region in order to exploit its resources. Copper, olive oil and wine were exported to Upper Egypt via localities in the Delta region to fulfill a demand by the local nobility for luxury goods. The hypothesis states that Tell es-Sakan was the center of the colony directly controlled the southern coastal plain, the northern Negev and the southern Judean Shephela (piedmont).

Although the nature of the relations between Egypt and southern Levant has been at the center of scholarly debate for almost 7 decades, the theoretical foundations of this relationship has not been thoroughly discussed. In this paper we discuss the definition of “colonization” within the context of that time and place. We suggest a new methodological background for understanding the Egyptian presence in southern Levant at the end of 4th millennium BCE which suggests a much reduced “colonial” experience.

**A Note on Some Theoretical, Cultural and Spatial Aspects of the Egyptian Presence in Southern Levant during the late 4th Millennium BC**

Yitzhak Paz  
*Israel Antiquities Authority*

The Egyptian presence in the Southern Levant in the late 4th millennium BCE has been intensively studied for several decades with researchers covering every aspect of material culture, relative and absolute chronology, socio-political and economic implications, and more. The nature of the physical Egyptian presence at the southern Levant has been characterized by scholars in various scales that from maximal (military and/or colonial occupation, focusing on the establishment of Egyptian enclaves within local settlements) to minimal (purely commercial activity with almost no physical presence of Egyptians). The geography-based tri-partite scheme in which the Egyptian presence in the land of Israel is reconstructed according to the analysis of spatial distribution of Egyptian finds seems to best reflect the situation to date.

The current paper focuses on the nature of the Egyptian presence in the late 4th millennium BCE by pointing out some theoretical, cultural, and spatial aspects, based on old and new finds from sites like Tel Lod, Al-Maghar and 'En Esur. The study of various settlements located north of the Besor basin (in which Egyptian physically resided) may point towards a short-time foreign presence that had no dramatic influence on local population and did not change the nature of local "Canaanite" settlements.

**The Negev and Surrounding Deserts during the Late 3rd Millennium BCE:  
An Update from the South**

Zachary C. Dunseth  
*Brown University*

This paper summarizes the results of the nearly decade-long Negev Highlands Research Project, an interdisciplinary study of the desert settlement phenomena of the fourth and third millennium BCE at the macro- and microscale. Using a battery of geoarchaeological methods, this work has focused on identifying subsistence strategies, evaluating desert metallurgical activities, establishing a high-resolution radiocarbon framework, and reconstructing settlement patterns at four sites: two central sites, Ein Ziq and Mashabe Sade, and two smaller sites, Nahal Boqer 66 and Nahal Nizzana 328. In parallel to our work, other researchers in the southern deserts of the Negev, Jordan, and Sinai have contributed much to the understanding of the period, including the study of desert waterscapes, iconography, and copper sourcing. Altogether, the results of these studies enable a new discussion about desert societies and the role of the larger economies of Egypt and Syria in the arid south during the long 3rd millennium BCE.

**Egyptian-Southern Levantine Interaction on the Fringe of the Desert:  
A View from the Negev Highlands**

Yuval Yekutieli  
*Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

Surveys, excavations, and rock-art research carried out by BGU teams in the Northwestern Negev Highlands have revealed substantial activities bearing witness to interconnections between the region's local population and Egypt during the Fourth and Third millennia BCE. These interconnections demonstrate what we propose to understand as two different patterns: exchange activity focused on products and crops produced within the area, and trade routes that crossed the region, along which products made in other regions were transported.

The first pattern existed in the region during the Fourth millennium BCE (Early Bronze 1b), while it was inhabited by a local population that traded with agents from the Egyptian colony located further north, towards the Mediterranean coast. This was most dramatically evidenced in our survey and excavations at the site of Mitzpe Sde Hafir, which probably served as a regional barter trade center.

The second pattern occurred during the Third millennium BC (Intermediate Bronze Age - IBA), when copper shipments from Feinan to Egypt passed through the region. New indications for this activity—beyond the already known IBA sites in the region—are rock-art scenes and icons carved along the routes and some pottery scatters.

**The Adoption of Quotidian Metallurgy in Egypt and the Levant:  
A Comparative Zooarchaeological Perspective**

Haskel J. Greenfield  
*University of Manitoba and St. Paul's College*

Eleuterio (Luther) Abreu De Sousa  
*Macquarie University*

Most studies of the spread of copper and bronze metallurgy across the Near East have relied upon the relatively few metal finds that have survived. Further, most of these are from mortuary contexts and indicate little about daily life activities. In recent years, a new method that circumvents the biased metallurgical record has been developed using microscopic groove analysis on zooarchaeological remains. In this paper, we present and compare our data from the southern Levant and Egypt to begin assessing the nature of the spread of metallurgy between the two regions. The paper will present the method, followed by a presentation of the data from the southern Levant, and finally from Old Kingdom Egypt. The results allow an initial assessment of the relative importance of stone versus metal tools in different parts of the eastern Mediterranean for quotidian activities, such as meat processing.

**Crafting Communities into Contact:  
Investigating the Production and Uses of Stamp Seals in Egypt and Crete during the Third  
Millennium BCE**

Nadia Ben-Marzouk  
*Tel Aviv University*

Eastern Mediterranean exchange networks of the third millennium BCE saw the movement of goods and people, as well as the development of new practices. One such practice to gain prominence in Egypt and on Crete is the use of stamp seals. Though miniature in size, glyptic provides a window into the construction of new practices and identities in a community. This paper critically investigates the stamp seals in Egypt and on Crete during the third millennium, seeking to better understand the appearance of similarities and differences in each corpus. While previous research has debated the extent to which each regional assemblage was influenced by the other, this paper builds on a prior proposal that glyptic specialists from Crete were in direct contact with individuals in Egypt, suggesting similarities were more than superficial. Production techniques, form, iconographic motifs, and consumption practices will be surveyed, as well as non-glyptic material engaged in order to provide a more nuanced understanding of the nature of contact between communities. It is argued that these regional assemblages may have evolved alongside one another, reflecting local participation in an interregional community of exchange during the late third millennium. The implications of such contact will be explored.



**Contact between Egypt and Crete in the 3rd/4th Dynasty:  
An Early Minoan II Vessel from Mendes, Egypt**

Matthew J. Adams  
*W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research*

Christopher Hale  
*O.P. Jindal Global University*

Peter Tomkins  
*University of Leuven*

Of the varied projects of the Pennsylvania State University excavations at Mendes excavation project, one focused on an extensive stratigraphic sondage through a mound upon which the New Kingdom temple was built (Field AJ). The mound was shown to be a tell of its own comprised of the Old Kingdom temple complex, adjacent domestic and production buildings, and provincial cemetery. At present, the stratigraphic sondage has revealed continuous remains from the early First Dynasty through the First Intermediate Period. One of the phenomena observed at the site is the construction of a large mudbrick platform in the 5th Dynasty, understood to be the base for the temple of the Banebdjed, around which grew a large provincial cemetery (Field AJ, Phase III). The entire site was dramatically destroyed, and the tombs looted in the late 6th Dynasty.

In the remains of a building preceding the construction of the temple (Field AJ, Phase IV), dated to the 3rd/4th Dynasty, a vessel was discovered bearing a number of Cretan typological and technological features indicative of an Early Minoan II date. In this paper, we present the context of this unique vessel, review Aegean parallels, consider issues of chronological synchronization, and initiate a broader discussion of Egyptian and Aegean contact in the mid Third Millennium BCE.

## **Correlating Egypto-Levantine Connectivity in Ceramic Assemblage Profiles between Tel Erani and the Negev Highlands**

Samuel Atkins

*Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

The role of nomadic pastoral tribes in the Egypto-Levantine interaction sphere of the late 4<sup>th</sup> millennium southwestern Levant has been often acknowledged, but rarely examined in detail. New data on the subject has been acquired from recent excavations by Ben-Gurion University at Mitzpe Sde Hafir and by the Israel Antiquities Authority excavations at Yeroham – Nahal Avnon, two late EB I sites in the Western Negev and Central Negev Highlands respectively. The study of the new data has revealed two zones of complex and transformational nomadic encounters with sedentary societies at a pivotal phase of Egypto-Levantine connectivity. A comparative multivariate statistical analysis of ceramic assemblage profiles from these two desert sites along with phases of Egypto-Levantine colonial relations at Tel Erani has revealed unexpected correlations, with consequent chronological and social-evolutionary implications. Viewed within a holistic frame that considers the overall material morphology of these sites, the interplay between Nomadic agency and Egyptian socio-economic and cultural influence in the region was evidently stimulative in the formation of new structures of desert-sown interaction.