Welcome

3 August 2022

Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

This edition further showcases some of the amazing work our students are doing in all sorts of different fields of Egyptology. Right now, staff are also planning fieldwork seasons at three sites in Egypt from January to April 2023. Thanks to the generosity of Rundle Members, our 30 June appeal helped raise funds to assist students with travel bursaries to work with us in the field. Thank you for your support!

Best wishes, Karin
Dr Karin Sowada
The Australian Centre for Egyptology

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HDR students showcase their research at the RF2 Conference

Image: Earlier this year, Meredith Stewart presented her MRes research at the 6th Australasian Egyptology Conference. Her research concentrates on experimental archaeology and Predynastic black-topped pottery. One of her pots, created for her thesis research, was on display for attendees to handle. Photo: ACE.
Last month, Faculty of Arts second-year Master of Research (MRes) students participated in the Research Frontiers 2 (RF2) Conference. Running over four days, Tuesday 21st – Friday 24th June, the RF2 Conference was a wonderful event where current MRes students showcased the brilliant, innovative research they are pursuing within the Master of Research program in the Faculty of Arts.

Drawing together researchers from every Discipline, Department and School in the Faculty, the conference celebrates the diversity, creativity, innovation, and interdisciplinary conversation that characterises the MRes program and the Faculty more broadly.

Egyptology was well represented, with presentations from Meredith Stewart, Michael Hitches, Khyya Ryder, and Eleonora Ferretti, as well as many more from the Department of History and Archaeology.

Congratulations to presenters on the achievement of this milestone and best of luck with the completion of your theses!

READ THE PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS HERE

_The MRes is a two-year Higher Degree Research program. In the first year, students undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in their area of study. The second year is a research training program. Students are required to submit a thesis of 20,000 words._

**Students of Egyptology: MRes Completions 2021-2022**

We offer our congratulations to those MRes students who have submitted their theses this year. Well done on this wonderful and monumental achievement!

<table>
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<th>Charlotte Wilkinson-Bibicos</th>
<th>The ‘Egyptianisation’ of Nubia: A Historiographical Review of a Persistent Concept in Egyptology</th>
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<td>Kefie Blair</td>
<td>Funerary Apotropaic Devices in Egypt’s Old Kingdom</td>
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Michelle Kay  
Tattoos and Identities in early Middle Kingdom Egypt: A Case Study of Three Tattooed Women Buried in the Temple of Mentuhotep II

We also continue to extend our well wishes to those students who are currently in their final stages of completing their MRes theses for 2022.

We also extend our warmest congratulations to Lydia Bashford on the award of her PhD earlier this year, under the supervision of Associate Professor Linda Evans. Lydia's thesis was entitled Egyptian observations of the avian world: Categorisation through human, bird, language, and landscape interactions.

Get to know: Trent Hugler
This month our Get to Know series features Trent Hugler, Rundle Member, MQ graduate, and soon-to-be Oxford D.Phil candidate! Many of our readers will be familiar with Trent from his active involvement in the MQ Egyptology community. Later this year, Trent will be moving to the UK to undertake his doctoral studies at Oxford University.
Before he jets off though he spoke with Rachel Nawar about his research and academic journey up to this point. Read below…

**RN: Tell us about yourself…what did you do before your postgraduate study?**

I started my Bachelor of Ancient History at Macquarie in 2017, specialising in Egyptology. In hindsight, I believe the decision to study my undergraduate degree in Egyptology at Macquarie to be one of the best decisions of my early life. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else today; Egyptology is, in my opinion, one of the most intriguing and uniquely complex fields of history, and its draw is something that ignites our collective imagination like few other ancient societies have been able to achieve.

I am the first person in my family to attend university, so my time at Macquarie is something I will always greatly appreciate, especially considering the uniqueness and friendliness of the Egyptology community here. I have been fortunate enough to have miraculous support during my time at Macquarie.

**RN: Tell us about your research area…**

My research area is the early Eighteenth Dynasty of New Kingdom Egypt. Specifically, my MRes dissertation, under the supervision of Dr Susanne Binder and Dr Camilla Di-Biase Dyson, was on Thutmose II. By re-examining the historiographic construction of Thutmose II’s image, I illustrated that he was not a ‘sickly king’ as previous studies have uncritically accepted as fact because there exists no evidence to support this idea. Intriguingly, this research led to the surprisingly unexpected conclusion that our modern perception of Thutmose II is framed by his posthumous representations in the reigns of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III (there is substantially more evidence for Thutmose II from the period after his life than that which survives from his current life and reign), and therefore, is more likely representative of the dynamic and multifaceted developments of this period.

The foremost of these developments was the ‘damnatio memoriae’ of Hatshepsut, the campaign of erasure that saw the names and images of Hatshepsut erased and re-carved with the names of other monarchs in her dynasty, namely her father Thutmose I, or her half-brother/husband Thutmose II. As Egyptologists have had to grapple with the presence of erasures and changed names, they had to recognise that the evidence they were dealing with necessarily skewed the historical record. Many speculations were made about the reasoning behind the erasures and who initiated them, revealing a rich cultural history inextricably connected with forgetting and cultural memory. This aspect of my research is historic, philological, and
epigraphic, combining many of the aspects that makes Egyptology unique, which is why I am drawn to it.

**RN: How did you become interested in this area of research?**

My interest in the early Eighteenth Dynasty began during my HSC when I studied New Kingdom Egypt to the death of Thutmose IV in Ancient History. Throughout my time at Macquarie, I have gained a world-class education in the archaeological, art, and language of ancient Egypt, which has added to my appreciation of ancient Egyptian history, particularly the early New Kingdom. The moment that I believe solidified this period as my primary area of research was the first time I visited Hatshepsut’s mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari. I have no doubt knowing what Sir Alan Gardiner meant when he wrote ‘Even now there is no nobler architectural achievement to be seen in the whole of Egypt’.

**RN: Tell us how your research adds to the current study within Egyptology...**

In October, I will be heading to Hertford College at Oxford University to study for a DPhil in Oriental Studies, specialising in Egyptology, supported by both a Clarendon Fund Scholarship and an Oxford-Australia Scholarship. Under the supervision of Professor Elizabeth Frood, my doctoral research will focus on the ‘damnatio memoriae’ of Hatshepsut. Professor Frood’s work has good synergy with my research in terms of theoretical frameworks and methods. She offers a unique perspective on how secondary interaction with monuments, especially temple walls, presents an insight into the use and subsequent re-use of sacred space in Egyptian temples. Significantly, Frood views secondary interaction with a monument, that received a new image or inscription which was not initially intended to receive it, as a smaller component of large-scale architectural contexts and decorative programmes.

More specifically, my DPhil will expand on the preliminary research I conducted into the phenomenon for my MRes research, which demonstrated that the ‘damnatio memoriae’ of Hatshepsut differed in its methods of execution across various sites due to numerous factors such as but not limited to, location, the function of certain rooms in sacred spaces, and the accessibility of monuments.

The intention of my DPhil is to provide the first comprehensive catalogue of the evidence for the erasure of Hatshepsut’s monuments. In so doing, I will grapple with the core issues of the mechanics of dynastic succession and legitimacy at this time. It is hoped that my analysis of the campaign of erasure will shed new light on potential patterns in the historical record. Ultimately, my research will assess the appropriateness of the labels ‘damnatio memoriae’, ‘proscription’, and ‘iconoclasm’ for describing this complex phenomenon and look at whether prevailing theories on
the erasures can be upheld when assessed against the primary evidence. Indeed, the highly unusual reign of the female king and responses to that are a productive case study for a DPhil.

*We wish Trent all the best with the next step in his studies and academic journey. Stay in touch, Trent!!*

**PUBLISHED!**

**Interventive dental therapy in Ancient Egypt**

A new publication from MQ Master of Research graduate, Sarah Massingham, and Professor Ronika Power is now available for readers to sink their teeth into in the latest issue of the International Journal of Paleopathology.

The abstract of this publication reads “this paper critically reviews the history of research concerning ancient Egyptian interventive dental therapy between the Old Kingdom – Graeco-Roman Period (c. 2686 BCE–AD 323), concentrating on the published osteological evidence”. Available for free download for the 50 days from its publication, follow the link below to discover more.

**READ MORE**


The article is available as a free download here.

**ACE/Rundle Events and Lecture Series**
The 2022 ACE/Rundle Lecture Series will return on Wednesday 10 August, 6.30 pm (AEDT) on Zoom. Our presenter Dr Julien Cooper will speak on The Archaeology of Eastern Sudan: Two seasons of the Atbai Survey Project.

REGISTER FOR JULIEN’S TALK HERE.

READ JULIEN’S ABSTRACT

The ‘Atbai’ is the indigenous Beja name for the vast region east of the Nubian Nile, a rocky and mountainous desert that was the home of nomadic groups such as the Medjay and Blemmyes – and, importantly for its history, the source of much of Northeast Africa’s gold wealth. It is this gold wealth which attracted Nile peoples to this otherwise inhospitable region. From the ancient Egyptians, Nubian Kushites, Romans, and medieval Arabs, Nile regimes all attempted to exploit the mineral wealth of this desert. The desert archaeology thus tells a long story of foreign resource exploitation and indigenous nomadic habitation, and is one of the world’s most enduring case studies of nomad-state relations. With the broad aim of addressing these historical dynamics and documenting sites that are under threat from modern goldmining operations, the Atbai Survey Project was created in 2018. This presentation will illuminate some of the key results and discoveries from our first seasons while also discussing the aims and issues relating to future fieldwork in this remote desert.

Save these dates
In the second half of the year, we will be 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 2**

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

Banner image: Foreigners from the Tomb of Khnumhotep II, Beni Hasan.  
Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology.

Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter 12 was compiled by Rachel Nawar and Gillian Smith, on July 28, 2022. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

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