'Medieval Archaeology in Egypt'

Hosted by the Centre for Islamic Archaeology:

Jan 18 - Mar 01 2023

University of Exeter
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies
Schedule

Winter 2023 Seminar Series.

Jan 18  Alaa Al-Habashi
Feb 01  Wolfgang Müller
Feb 15  Alison L. Gascoigne
Mar 01  Ahmed Alshoky

All meetings take place on Zoom at 16:00 - 17:00 GMT.
For any inquiry please contact: Hesham Nasr hn315@exeter.ac.uk
Alaa El-Habashi is an Egyptian professor of architecture and heritage conservation. He received his MS and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. His research and practices aim to respect the specificities of local history and traditions. He conducted many conservation projects in the Arab World, and assisted in registering, managing, and evaluating World Heritage sites. He is founding in Bayt Yakan of Historic Cairo a Center for the Revitalization of Historic Cities.

Abstract
The presentation assesses historic Cairo’s historic layers and morphologies through selected cases, specifically residential contexts. Residential components are always ignored in the determining values of historic cities, whereas it is usually the soul of revitalizing the contemporary context. Interpreting urban archaeological remains is a tool for the prospective revitalization.
Wolfgang Müller studied Classical Archaeology and Egyptology at the University of Vienna. Since 2004 he has worked at the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research on Ancient Egypt in Cairo. Since 2004 he has been the field director of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission at Old Aswan.

**Abstract**

The Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research on Ancient Egypt in Cairo is conducting an urban archaeological project in Aswan together with the Egyptian Ministry for Tourism and Antiquities since 2000. 96 Areas throughout the modern city of Aswan have been investigated, the majority of them in rescue excavations. In most of these sites, remains of the medieval city were encountered. According to historical sources, Aswan was among the most important towns of Egypt during its heyday from the Early Islamic to Early Medieval Period. Recent archaeological work helps to get a better idea of the physical reality of the medieval town and its development. Basic facts like the extent of the town and its geographical setting as well as details concerning its fortifications, harbor installations or domestic buildings will be presented in the paper. A recently published study on the pottery from medieval Aswan by Gregory Williams as well as numismatic evidence provided the necessary data for compiling the small unconnected area into a coherent picture.
Alison L. Gascoigne

February 15th, 16:00 GMT

Meeting Link
To be provided.

Biography
Alison Gascoigne is a Professor of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, where she has worked since 2007. She has undertaken extensive fieldwork in Egypt, including at Tell Tinnis (published in 2020 as The Island City of Tinnis with IFAO Press); around Old Cairo as part of the USAid Groundwater Lowering Project; at various sites in the Aswan region; and in the Kharga Oasis in the Western Desert. She has also worked in Afghanistan, at the sites of Jam, Ghur, and the Bala Hissar, Kabul.

Abstract
This paper coordinates archaeological information on the changing urban landscape of Egypt’s first Islamic-era capital, Fustat, with topographical, social and economic insights from the Geniza archive and other sources. A focus on the organisation of the city’s pottery industry provides new insights into the multiple ‘abandonments’ and reoccupations familiar from historical sources, showing how diverse residential areas were turned to industrial use (and back) via adaptable transitional processes.
Ahmed Alshoky

March 1st, 16:00 GMT

Meeting Link
To be provided.

Biography
Ahmed Alshoky is Professor of Islamic Archeology and Vice Dean of the faculty of Archeology Ain Shams University, an Active Member of Institut d’Egypte and a correspondant scientifique d’Ifao. He is a former general director of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, and a former chairman of the National Library and archive of Egypt.

Abstract
Three seasons of the excavations of the castle of Sheikh Al Arab Hammam, located in the village of al-Arki, about 6 km southwest of Farshout. The importance of this site stems from the presence of this citadel facing Wadi al-Hol, which is the main road leading to Darb el-Arbain, a famous chameleon track on which commercial caravans managed to pass long tracts of Egyptian history. This site is one of the pristine sites that have not previously been excavated, and it represents a unique example of Ottoman-era military fortifications that survived in Upper Egypt (the Saiid).
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