

Death, Burial, and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Regions

Stevenson Lecture Theatre, The British Museum



Day 1. Thursday November 27th, 2008

9:00 Registration

Pre-conference registration and payment is greatly preferred, and can be undertaken using the booking form available at the Society for Arabian Studies website (<http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org/dbconf08.shtml>).

Session 1. Introduction and Neolithic Arabia

9:45 Timothy Taylor (University of Bradford)

Materiality and the soul: challenges for the archaeology of death

10:15 Vincent Charpentier (CNRS, Paris) and Philippe Charlier (Hôpital Raymond Poincaré Garches, Paris)

First evidence of necrophobia in Neolithic Arabia

10:40 Adelina Kutterer (University of Tübingen)

Remarks on Neolithic burials in SE Arabia

11:05 Roland de Beauclair (University of Tübingen)

Seashells in the desert: burial practices at the Neolithic graveyard of al-Buhais 18, UAE

11:30 *Coffee*

Session 2. Bronze Age South-Eastern Arabia

12:00 Sophie Méry (CNRS, Nanterre) and Julio Bendezu Sarmiento (UMR GREMMO-Lyon)

Results, limits and potential: burial practices and Neolithic and Early Bronze Age societies in the Oman Peninsula

12:25 Kath McSweeney (University of Edinburgh), Sophie Méry (CNRS, Nanterre) and Walid Yasin al Tikriti (Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage)

Life and death in an Early Bronze Age community from Hili, Abu Dhabi Emirate, UAE

12:50 Eugenio Bortolini and Maurizio Tosi (University of Bologna)

Prehistoric burial cairns and control of passage in Early Bronze Age Oman: The oasis of Zukayt (Ad Dakhiliyah, northern Oman)

1:15 *Lunch*

Session 3. Bronze Age to Iron Age South-Eastern Arabia

2:00 Daniel Potts (University of Sydney)

The late Umm an-Nar period tomb at Tell Abraq, Sharjah Emirate, UAE

2:25 Debra Martin (University of Nevada Las Vegas)

Patterns of mortality and morbidity in the commingled tomb from Tell Abraq

2:50 Christian Velde (National Museum of Ra's al-Khaimah)

Wadi Suq period tombs in SE Arabia

3:15 Crystal Fritz (Bryn Mawr College)

Ceramic remains from the Iron Age II burials in the Wadi al Qawr: investigating burial practices and status differentiation

3:40 *Coffee*

Session 4. Bronze Age South-Western Arabia and Adjacent Regions

4:10 Tara Steimer-Herbet (Institut Français du Proche Orient, Damascus)

Megalithic societies: funerary and cultic aspects in Arabia and the southern Levant of the 4th and 3rd millennia BC

4:35 Jennie Bradbury (Durham University)

Mobility, territoriality and mortuary ritual: The role of cairn burials within the Levant and Arabia during the 4th/3rd millennium

5:00 Joy McCorriston (Ohio State University), Prem Goel, Dorota Bzezinska, Michael Harrower, Tara Steimer-Herbet, Jacob Reidhead, Jihye Park, Matthew Senn, Eric Ochse, and Kimberly Williams
Monuments, territories, ancestors, tribes: reconstructing social boundaries in ancient Hadramawt with remotely sensed imagery

Day 2. Friday November 28th, 2008

9:00 Registration

Day 2 registration will take place in the foyer outside the Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Session 5. Dilmun

9:30 Moawiyah Ibrahim (Al-Isra University, Jordan)
Beliefs surrounding death in Dilmun

9:55 Steffen Laursen (Moesgaard Museum)
The early Dilmun cemetery of Karzakkan – Bahrain

10:20 Eric Olijdam (Durham University)
Interpreting differences in early Dilmun burial practices: socio-cultural homogeneity examined

10:45 Christine Kepinski (CNRS, Paris)
The burial mounds of the Middle Euphrates (2100-1800 B.C.): the subtle dialectic between tribal and state practices

11:10 *Coffee*

Session 6. South-Western Arabia in the 1st Millennium BC

11:40 Jérémie Schiettecatte (CNRS, Paris)
The funerary stelae: clues for cross-cultural contacts in South Arabia during the Iron Age?

12:05 Sabina Antonini (Istituto Universitario Orientale, Università di Napoli) and Alessio Agostini (Università di Firenze)
A first Minaean necropolis in Barāqish, Jawf, Yemen: results of two archaeological campaigns

12:30 D'arne O'Neill (University of Sydney)
South Arabian miniature grave goods and the role of miniaturization in mortuary contexts

12:55 Stephen Buckley, Joann Fletcher (University of York), K. Al-Thour, M. Basalama (University of Sana'a), and Don Brothwell (University of York)
Cultural implications of new biomolecular findings on ancient Yemeni mummification

1:20 *Lunch*

Session 7. North-Western Arabia

2:15 Lucy Wadeson (Keble College, Oxford)
Sepulchral space in the Nabataean funerary realm: a comparison of the façade tomb chambers in Petra and Mada'in Salih

2:40 Isabelle Sachet (ATER, Collège de France)
Funerary meals in Nabataea

3:05 Nicolas Garnier (Laboratoire N. Garnier, Paris)
Biomolecular archaeology, burial and offerings: The case of Nabatean tombs from Petra

3:30 *Coffee*

Session 8. North-Western Arabia and Adjacent Regions

4:00 Arnulf Hausleiter (German Archaeological Institute, Orient-Section), Sebastiano Lora (Padua, Italy), and Mohammed Al-Najem (Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Tayma, Saudi-Arabia)
Burial contexts at Tayma, NW Arabia – archaeological and anthropological data

4:25 Jill Baker (Independent Researcher, USA)
The Canaanite Funeral Kit: Its Genesis and Extinction

4:50 Alexander Nagel (University of Michigan) and Hasan Rahsaz (Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation, Fars)
New investigations on the history and polychromatic appearance of the tomb of Darius I at Naqsh-e Rostam, Fars

**6:00-8:00 Conference reception and viewing of poster presentations
DETAILS TO BE FINALISED**

Day 3. Saturday November 29th, 2008

9:00 Registration

Day 3 registration will take place in the foyer outside the Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Session 9. Late Pre-Islamic Arabia

- 9:25 Michel Mouton (CNRS, Paris)
The monolithic Djin Blocks at Petra: A funerary practice of pre-Islamic Arabia
- 9:50 Carl Phillips (CNRS, Paris)
Random graves and formal cemeteries: late pre-Islamic burial practices in south-east Arabia
- 10:15 Aurelie Daems and An De Waele (University of Ghent)
"Death is a black camel": Pre-Islamic animal burials in Arabia
- 10:40 Juris Zarins (Missouri State University)
Funerary monuments of southern Arabia: The Iron Age-Islamic traditions
- 11:05 Dick Nauta (Independent Scholar, Khartoum, Sudan)
Dry-stone built tombs in the western Red Sea littoral
- 11:30 *Coffee*

Session 10. Islamic Arabia

- 12:00 James Edgar Taylor (Independent Scholar, UK)
Attitudes, themes and images: an introduction to death and burial as reflected in early Arabic poetry
- 12:25 Mikhail Rodionov (Peter-the-Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, St. Petersburg)
Wadi Hadramawt as landscape of death and burial
- 12:50 Lynne Newton (Office of the Advisor to HM the Sultan for Cultural Affairs, Salalah, Oman)
Survey of saints' tombs in Dhofar
- 1:15 *Lunch*

Session 11. Islamic History and Non-Islamic Traditions

- 2:15 Vered Madar (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Ma Mee Aladame Ella Ma Kutab Le – "A man has nothing but what the Heavens decreed": on Jewish and Muslim lament traditions and mourning in Yemen
- 2:40 Matthew Suriano (University of California, Los Angeles)
Sheol and the tomb: locating the transition to the afterlife in the Hebrew bible
- 3:05 Jose Morillas (Universidad de Granada) and Pablo Piñar (Cornell University)
In anima vili: Islamic constructions on life autopsies
- 3:30 *Coffee*
- 4:00 Leor Halevi (Texas A&M University and Vanderbilt University)
Death and Burial in the Muslim World: The Role of Islam
- 4:30 Lloyd Weeks (University of Nottingham)
Closing Comments and Thanks

Workshops

Workshops will take place in the Claus Moser Room and run in parallel with the lecture series in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre. Workshops are small sessions designed to promote discussion of specific themes of the conference. Workshop places are limited to around 20 individuals, and attendance and participation should be discussed with the workshop chair.

Workshop 1. Death and Burial in the Islamic World: from Spain to Bangladesh

Day 2. Friday November 28th, 2:00-4:00 pm

Chair: Janet Starkey (Durham University)

Maribel Fierro (Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid)

Death and burial in al-Andalus

Corinne Fortier (CNRS, Paris)

The "living death" in Mauritania and in Maliki Islam

Suhad Daher Nashif (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Instituting the dead body: the case of the Palestinian Forensic Medicine Institute

Sara Mondini (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)

The commemoration of death and its representations: royal funerary complexes in the India of sultanates

Matt Yarrington (University of Edinburgh)

Assisting the recently deceased in Bangladesh

Anne Macklin (University of Leeds)

Sofi Hamid: an Islamic cemetery in Azerbaijan

This workshop provides for the discussion of a number of specific aspects of Islamic burial traditions, with a focus on regional practices in the Muslim World from a range of anthropological, theological, ethnical and forensic perspectives. It is hoped that workshop will also allow discussion on cultural connections with Arabia. For further details, please contact Janet Starkey (j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk).

Workshop 2. Bronze Age Burial Traditions in SE and SW Arabia

Day 3. Saturday November 29th, 2:00-4:00 pm

Chair: Lloyd Weeks (University of Nottingham)

Manfred Boehme (Bat Research & Restoration Project, Oman)

Hafit and Umm an-Nar period burials at Bat, Oman

Olivia Munoz (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Around the graves: Funerary practices, social uses and rituals during the Umm an-Nar period

J. Giraud and S. Cleuziou (CNRS, UMR 7041)

Early Bronze Age graves and graveyards in the in eastern Ja'alan (Sultanat of Oman: social rules working in the evolution of a funerary landscape.

Juris Zarins (Missouri State University)

Bronze Age Funerary Monuments from the Mahra Governorate, Yemen

Ed Keall (Royal Ontario Museum)

A reverence for stone reflected in various Late Bronze Age interments at a Red Sea coastal site in Yemen

This workshop will focus on aspects of burial traditions in Bronze Age Arabia. For SE Arabia, these issues include tomb 'typologies'; ritual spaces within and around tombs, and burial landscapes. For SW Arabia, Bronze Age Megalithic traditions are documented and placed within their cultural context. The workshop will also allow discussion of cultural connections between SE and SW Arabia as documented in the burial archaeology record. For further information, please contact Lloyd Weeks (Lloyd.Weeks@nottingham.ac.uk)

Poster Presentations

Posters will be displayed in the foyer outside the Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Anne Benoist (CNRS, Paris) and Salah Ali Hassan (National Museum of Fujairah, UAE)

Inventory of finds from a second millennium grave in Dadna, Emirate of Fujairah, UAE

Ora Berger (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The phenomenon of pilgrimage to Ta'izz to the grave of the Jewish Poet Shalom al-Shabazi from the point of view of Art History.

Fabio Cavulli (University of Trento), Olivia Munoz (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Simona Scaruffi (University of Bologna)

Burials in the middle Holocene fishermen settlement of KHB-1, Sultanate of Oman

Janet Cope (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Debra Martin, David Miller (Springfield College, MA), and Daniel Potts
Discerning Health, Disease and Activity Patterns in a Bronze-Age Population from Tell Abraq, United Arab Emirates

Rémy Crassard (LCHES, University of Cambridge, UK), Holger Hitgen (DAI, Sana'a, Yemen), Hervé Guy (INRAP, Pantin, France), Jérémie Schiettecatte (CNRS, Paris, France)

Reuse of tombs or cultural continuity? The case of Bronze Age tombs in Shabwa governorate (Yemen)

Dina Dahbany-Miraglia (The City University of New York)

Jewish burial customs in Yemen

William and Fidelity Lancaster (Independent Researchers, UK)

Graves and graveyards of various locations in Ras al-Khaimah Emirate, UAE, and Musandam wilayat, Oman

Kirsi Lorentz (University of Newcastle)

Hairy stories: Reconstructing life from human remains at 3rd millennium BC Shahr-e Sokhte (Sistan, Iran)

Olivia Munoz (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Burials at Ra's al-Hamra

Carl Phillips (CNRS)

A rock-artist's sketchbook: a comparison of rock art and decorated gravestones at a village in Ras Musandam

Diana Pickworth (University of California Berkeley)

Bintayn Methul – landscape of life, death, and burial

Marie-Jeanne Roche (Collège de France)

Funerary Eye steles from Arabia: analysis and interpretation

Waleed Al-Sadeqi (University of Durham)

Beads and Wealth Exhibition in Early Dilmun Burials

Emma Thompson and Nasser Hashim (Sharjah Archaeological Museum)

Communicating Neolithic burial practices to a general audience: Al-Buhais 18, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Anna Tozzi Di Marco (IAEAS)

Cairo's City of the dead: the cohabitation between the living and the dead from an anthropological perspective

Sponsors

The conference organisers gratefully acknowledge the support of the following institutions:



The British Institute for the study of Iraq



The British-Yemeni Society

Conference website – <http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org/dbconf08.shtml>