
MARISSA A. STEVENS
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World

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EDUCATION

- 2018 **The University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**
Ph.D., Egyptology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Dissertation: “Shaping Identities in the Context of Crisis: The Social Self Reflected in 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri,” Advisor Kathlyn Cooney
- 2015 *C.Phil., Near Eastern Languages and Cultures*
- 2011 **The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**
M.A., Social Sciences
- 2010 **Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA**
Honors B.A., History and Sociology, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

CURRENT POSITION

- University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**
2020-Present *Assistant Director*
Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World
- 2018-2020 *Programs & Administration Manager*
Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- The University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**
2020-Present *Director*, Achaemenid Egypt Research Consortium
Oversee the nascent international consortium spearheaded by the Pourdavoud Center focused on studying Achaemenid textual monuments preserved in Egypt.
- 2012-2018 *Registrar & Research Assistant*, 21st Dynasty Coffins Project
Provided research assistance and oversaw database maintenance and entry of the UCLA 21st Dynasty Coffins Project under the direction of Dr. Kathlyn Cooney.
- 2013-2015 *Registrar*, Fayum Archaeological Project
Cataloged finds and maintained the database for archaeological excavations at Karanis, Egypt under the direction of Dr. Willeke Wendrich.
- 2014 *Graduate Student Research Assistant*, Artemis Papyrus Synoptic Edition
Analyzed text witnesses of a hieratic liturgy and associated texts for a synoptic edition publication under the direction of Dr. Jacco Dieleman.

Mead Art Museum, Amhurst, MA

2014 **Researcher and Collaborator**

Provided a description, transcription, and translation of a 21st Dynasty coffin, as well as conservation recommendations at the request of Dr. Bettina Jungen.

The Egyptian Virtual Museum, Santa Barbara, CA

2013 **Assistant Registrar**

Cataloged artifacts, evaluated the state of preservation of objects, and provided translations under the supervision of Dr. Francesco Tiradritti.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA

2017 & 2021 **Lecturer**, Department of Art History

Art of Egypt and the Ancient Near East, Spring 2021

Art of Egypt and the Ancient Near East, Spring 2017

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2018 **Lecturer**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Ancient Egyptian Religion, Summer 2018

2014-2018 **Instructor of Record**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Death, Afterlife, and the Underworld, Spring 2018

Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt, Summer 2016

Women and Power in the Ancient World, Summer 2015

Ancient Egyptian Religion, Summer 2014

2015-2017 **Teaching Fellow**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Ancient Egyptian Religion, Spring 2017

Ancient Egyptian Civilization II, Winter 2017

Jerusalem: Holy City, Fall 2016

Women and Power in the Ancient World, Winter 2016

Ancient Egyptian Civilization I, Fall 2015

2014-2015 **Teaching Associate**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Women and Power in the Ancient World, Winter 2015

2013-2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Ancient Egyptian Religion, Spring 2014

Ancient Egyptian Civilization I, Fall 2013

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2013-2014 **Tutor**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Taught Middle Egyptian grammar to Dr. Anthony Barbieri, through the support of a Mellon New Directions Fellowship.

The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL

2010-2011 *Facilitator*, Public Education Office

Supervised the Kipper Archaeology Discovery Center simulation dig program, introduced students to archaeological techniques, and developed museum tours.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

2021 Barbieri-Low, Anthony J. and **Marissa Stevens**, “Providing a Model Afterlife,” *Ancient Egypt and Early China: State, Society, and Culture*, editor **Marissa Stevens** (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2021), 171-206.

Articles

Forthcoming “Ägyptische Quellen,” *Companion zum persisch-achaimenidischen Imperium* (Springer Companion zur Geschichte), editor Julian Degen (Wiesbaden: Springer, forthcoming).

Forthcoming “Reactionary Functions of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri towards Coffin Reuse,” *Proceedings of the Second Vatican Coffin Conference: 6-9 June 2017*, editors Alessia Amenta and Hélène Guichard (Vatican City: Musei Vaticani Città del Vaticano, forthcoming).

Forthcoming “The Utilization of Collective Memory to Legitimize Persian Kingship in Egypt,” *Proceedings of the 14th Melammu Symposium: 18-20 February 2020*, editor M. Rahim Shayegan (Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, forthcoming).

2022 “Comparing the Civilizations of Ancient Egypt and Early China,” *Ancient Near East Today*, Vol. X, No. 3, editor Alexander Joffe (American Society of Overseas Research, March 2022).

2021 Mousavi, Ali and **Marissa Stevens**, “The UCLA Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran: Excavations of Ancient Sites in a Digital Age,” *Backdirt: Annual Review of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA* (Los Angeles: UC Regents, 2021) 76-81.

2020 “Neith as Legitimator: Persian Religious Strategy and Udjahorresnet,” *The Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections – Special Issue: Udjahorresnet and His World*, editors Melanie Wasmuth and Pearce Paul Creasman (University of Arizona, 2020) 185-194.

2019 “Family Associations Reflected in the Materiality of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri,” *Invisible Archaeologies: Hidden aspects of daily life in ancient Egypt and Nubia*, editor Loretta Kilroe (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2019) 26-55.

2019 “Illustrations of Temple Rank on 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri,” *Current Research in Egyptology 2018: Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual Symposium, Czech Institute of Egyptology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague*, 25-28

June 2018, editors Dana Bělohoubková, Jiří Honzl, Věra Nováková, and Marie Peterková Hlouchová (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2019) 162-228.

- 2016 Arbuckle MacLeod, Caroline, Elsbeth Geldhof, **Marissa Stevens**, and Kathlyn Cooney, “The Life of the Egyptian Coffin: Preliminary Report,” *Backdirt: Annual Review of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA* (Los Angeles: UC Regents, 2016) 32-37.
- 2015 **Stevens, Marissa** and Kathlyn Cooney, “The Ongoing Study of Coffin Reuse in 21st Dynasty Egypt,” *Backdirt: Annual Review of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA* (Los Angeles: UC Regents, 2015) 42-47.

Book Reviews

- 2017 “Book Review: Rogério Sousa, *Burial assemblages from Bab el-Gasus in the geographical society of Lisbon*. Monumenta Aegyptiaca, 14. Turnhout: Brepols, 2017. xiv, 290 p. €89,00 (pb). ISBN 9782503565750,” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (December 2017).
- 2016 “Book Review: France Jamen, *Le cercueil de Padikhonsu au musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon (XXI^e dynastie)*, Studien zu altägyptischen Totentexten 20 (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2016). ISBN 9783447103725. Pp. xii +240.,” *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*, Vol. 52 (2016) 353-355.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2019 “Tomb Robbery,” *All Things Egyptian: An Encyclopedia of the Ancient Egyptian World*, editor Lisa K. Sabbahy (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2019) 538-41.
- 2014 “Egyptian Mummies,” “Opening of the Mouth,” “Theban Necropolis,” and “The Egyptian Exhibit, The British Museum,” *Mummies around the World: An Encyclopedia of Mummies in History, Religion, and Popular Culture*, editor Matt Cardin (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2014).
- 2013 “Ammit,” “Amun,” Amun-Re,” “Aten,” “Atum,” “Horus,” “Introduction,” “Isis,” Mut,” “Osiris,” “Ptah,” “Re,” and “Thoth,” *Lincoln Library of World Mythology: Ancient Near East Volume*, editor Derek Gleason (Cleveland: The Lincoln Library Press, 2013).

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Papers

- August 2023 *International Congress of Egyptologists 13*, Leiden, the Netherlands
“A Reassessment of Persian Period Material in Egypt”
- July 2023 *Achaemenid Workshops II*, Obergurgul, Austria
“Persian Influences on Egyptian Perspectives: Demonstrating Authority through Nuance”

- April 2022 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Irvine, CA
 “Unfinished Business: Incomplete Funerary Papyri and Possible Implications”
<https://vimeo.com/705770026>
- November 2021 *Exalted Spirits: Veneration of the Dead through the Ages*, Cairo, Egypt
 “Functional Veneration: The Incorporation of Ancestors in Private Art of the Third Intermediate Period”
<https://youtu.be/QfgVHVF1TRU>
- April 2020 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Toronto, Canada*
 “Providing a Model Afterlife: Funerary Figurines and Models in Ancient Egypt and Early China,” presented with Professor Anthony Barbieri, UCSB
 *Paper Accepted, Conference Canceled
- February 2020 *14th Melammu Symposium*, Los Angeles, CA
 “The Utilization of Collective Memory to Legitimate Persian Kingship in Egypt”
<https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/video/the-utilization-of-collective-memory-to-legitimate-persian-kingship-in-egypt/>
- November 2019 *International Congress of Egyptologists 12*, Cairo, Egypt
 “The Rise of the Ramesside Priesthood: Divine Oracles as a Path to Power”
- April 2019 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Alexandria, VA
 “The Rise of the Ramesside Priesthood: Restructuring a Path to Power”
- November 2018 *American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO
 “The Ownership of Funerary Papyri as a Means of Defining Social Identity”
- June 2018 *Current Research in Egyptology Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic
 “Illustrations of Temple Rank on 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- April 2018 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Tucson, AZ
 “Temple Rank and 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri: Documenting Status in Theban Society”
- November 2017 *University of Oxford Invisible Archaeologies Conference*, Oxford, U.K.
 “Family Associations Reflected in the Materiality of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- September 2017 *Brown University Reuse Reconsidered Conference*, Providence, RI
 “Reactionary Functions of Funerary Papyri towards 21st Dynasty Coffin Reuse”
- June 2017 *Second Vatican Coffins Conference*, Vatican City
 “In the Shadow of Coffin Reuse: Reactionary Functions of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- April 2016 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA*
 “Connecting Coffins and Papyri: An Analysis of Social Identity through 21st Dynasty Funerary Iconography”
 *Winner of the Best Student Paper 2016
- February 2016 *UCLA Interdisciplinary Archaeology Conference*, Los Angeles, CA
 “Negotiating Social Identity in 21st Dynasty Thebes: Female Agency in Funerary Papyri”

May 2014 *Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Conference, Los Angeles, CA*
“Tomb Function and Innovation: A New Interpretation of the Monochrome Tomb Chambers of Deir el-Medina”

Conference Posters

April 2016 *Ancient Egyptian Coffins: Past, Present, Future, Cambridge, U.K.*
“Connecting Coffins and Papyri: An Analysis of Social Identity through 21st Dynasty Funerary Iconography”

April 2015 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference, Houston, TX*
“Shifting Social Identity and Self-Presentation: The Growing Emphasis on Family in New Kingdom Theban Tombs”

April 2014 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference, Portland, OR*
“Understanding Agency in Funerary Iconography: An Analysis of a Group of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri”

Panels Organized

May 2021 *Pourdavoud Center Workshop Series, Los Angeles, CA*
“Udjahorresnet’s Egypt: The Crossroads of Conquest and Identity under Achaemenid Rule”
<https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/video/udjahorresnets-egypt-the-crossroads-of-conquest-and-identity-under-achaemenid-rule/>

May 2017 *Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Conference, Los Angeles, CA*
“Body and Speech in Ritual Performance”

INVITED TALKS

March 2023 *Egypt Society of Bristol, Bristol, UK*
“Commodity and Competition: How Funerary Papyri Contain More Than Religious Knowledge”

January 2023 *Afterlives of Ancient Egypt with Kara Cooney*
“Ramesside Papyri and Persian Egypt with Dr. Marissa Stevens”
<https://www.stitcher.com/show/afterlives-with-kara-cooney/episode/ramesside-papyri-and-persian-egypt-with-dr-marissa-stevens-211095186>

September 2022 *American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County Chapter*
American Research Center in Egypt – Northern California Chapter
“Funerary Papyri as Social Reflections of the Living and the Dead”
<https://youtu.be/mldUwflcc7s>

March 2022 *The Ozymandias Project, Online Podcast*
“Ancient Office Hours – Dr. Marissa Stevens”
<https://www.theozymandiasproject.com/podcast/episode/46b20dae/episode-36-dr-marissa-stevens>

November 2020 *Cal Poly Art History Faculty Annual Lecture, Pomona, CA*
“The Art of Egyptian Funerary Ritual: Manufacturing Papyri for the Living and the Dead”

- April 2019 *Crossing Over: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Death*, Bryn Mawr, PA
“Reading 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri as Social Documents”
- January 2018 *American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County*, Santa Ana, CA
“Family Associations Reflected in the Materiality of 21st Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- March 2016 *American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County*, Santa Ana, CA
“Connecting Coffins and Papyri: An Analysis of Social Identity through 21st Dynasty Funerary Iconography”
- February 2016 *The Houston Museum of Natural Science*, Houston, TX
“Unwrapped: The Mysterious World of Mummies”
- April 2015 *Egypt Exploration Organization of Southern California*, Los Angeles, CA
“Shifting Social Identity and Self-Presentation: The Growing Emphasis on Family in New Kingdom Theban Tombs”
- March 2015 *Getty Consortium: Object-Canon-Value*, Los Angeles, CA
“Reflective Death: A New Interpretation on the Study of 21st Dynasty Egyptian Funerary Papyri”
- January 2014 *American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County*, Santa Ana, CA
“Amarna: Akhenaten’s Palace City”
- April 2013 *Wep Wa-ut in Westwood Conference*, Los Angeles, CA
“Amarna: Akhenaten’s Palace City”
- March 2013 *Egypt Exploration Organization of Southern California*, Los Angeles, CA
“Amarna: Akhenaten’s Palace City”

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & GRANTS

- 2017 *UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship* (\$20,000 stipend)
- 2017 *Friends of Archaeology Travel Grant* (\$1,200 for research travel)
- 2017 *Departmental Summer Grant* (\$2,500 for academic research)
- 2016 *Keck Foundation Grant* (\$1,000 for academic research)
- 2016 *Steinmetz Travel Grant* (\$800 for research travel)
- 2015 *Steinmetz Travel Grant* (\$1,500 for research travel)
- 2014 *Steinmetz Travel Grant* (\$1,000 for research travel)
- 2014 *Graduate Research Mentorship* (\$20,000 for graduate study)
- 2014 *Graduate Summer Research Mentorship* (\$6,500 for research travel)
- 2014 *Graduate Division Travel Grant* (\$2,000 for research travel)
- 2013 *Steinmetz Travel Grant* (\$1,000 for research travel)
- 2013 *Graduate Summer Research Mentorship* (\$6,500 for research travel)
- 2012 *National Gamma Sigma Alpha Scholarship* (\$500 for graduate study)
- 2012 *National Pi Gamma Mu Graduate Scholarship* (\$1,000 for graduate study)
- 2012 *Alpha Lambda Delta Alice Crocker Lloyd Fellowship* (\$3,000 for graduate study)
- 2012 *Mellon Fellowship* (\$27,000 annual stipend for two years of graduate study)
- 2010 *Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Scholarship* (\$7,500 for graduate study)

- 2010 *National Gamma Sigma Alpha Scholarship* (\$1,000 for graduate study)
2010 *Kelso Research and Travel Grant* (\$3,000 for summer research in Egypt)

AWARDS

- 2019 *UCLA Employee Star Award*
2018 *UCLA Grad Slam (3-Minute Thesis) 1st Place Winner*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAcV_LAshbM
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crrKp-kbZRg>
2017 *Collegium of University Teaching Fellows Honor*
2016 *ARCE National Conference Best Student Paper*
2010 *The Charles P. Eaton Prize, Independent Work in the Liberal Arts*
2010 *The Walter S. Sanderlin Prize in History, High Achievement in History*
2010 *Scholar in Sociology, High Achievement in Sociology*
2009 *Pi Beta Phi Pearl Award, Highest GPA in Sorority*
2009 *Phi Alpha Theta Conference Winner*
2008 *The Henry Willson Temple Prize, High Achievement in History*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2010-Present **American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)**
2022 Interim Member of the Board of Directors, Orange County Chapter
2023-Present Secretary of the Board of Directors, Orange County Chapter
- 2018-Present **International Council of Museums (ICOM)**
2018-Present Member of the International Committee for Egyptology
- 2018-Present **International Association of Egyptologists (IAE)**
- 2018-Present **American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)**
- 2010-Present **Phi Beta Kappa**

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of French and German
Research knowledge of Old Egyptian, Abnormal Hieratic, Demotic, and Coptic
Specialization in Middle Egyptian, Late Egyptian, and Hieratic