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MARISSA A. STEVENS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
Pourdavoud Institute *for* the Study of the Iranian World  
Yarshater Center *for* the Study of Iranian Literary Traditions

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stevensma@ucla.edu

## **EDUCATION**

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- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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- University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**  
2020-Present *Assistant Director*  
Pourdavoud Institute for the Study of the Iranian World  
Yarshater Center for the Study of Iranian Literary Traditions (since founding in 2023)
- 2018-2020    *Programs & Administration Manager*  
Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- The University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA**  
2020-Present *Co-Director*, Achaemenid Egypt Research Consortium  
Oversee the nascent international consortium spearheaded by the Pourdavoud Institute  
focused on studying Achaemenid textual monuments preserved in Egypt.
- 2012-2018    *Registrar & Research Assistant*, 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Coffins Project  
Provided research assistance and oversaw database maintenance and entry of the UCLA  
21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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**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**

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**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 Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures**, 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

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### 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 “Unfinished Funerary Papyri and What It Reveals about Commission, Production, and Usage,” *From Thebes to Tanis: Egypt in the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty*, editor Rogério Sousa (Rome: L’erma di Bretschneider, forthcoming 2025).

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

In Press “Reactionary Functions of 21<sup>st</sup> 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).

In Press “Persian Influences on Egyptian Perspectives: Demonstrating Authority through Nuance,” *Proceedings from the Second Achaemenid Workshop: July 3-7, 2023, Obergurgl, Austria*, editors M. Rahim Shayegan and Robert Rollinger (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, forthcoming 2024).

In Press “Ägyptische Quellen,” *Companion zum persisch-achaimenidischen Imperium* (Springer Companion zur Geschichte), editor Julian Degen (Wiesbaden: Springer, forthcoming 2024).

2024 “Layered Meanings: Spears, Enemies, and Achaemenid Iconography through Egyptian Eyes,” *Navigating the Worlds of History: Studies in Honor of Robert Rollinger on the Occasion of His 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday*, editors Kai Ruffing, Brigitte Truschnegg, Andres Rudigier, Julian Degen, Sebastian Fink, and Kordula Schnegg (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2024) 1079-1090.

2024 “Through the Eyes of the Beholder: Motifs (Re)Interpreted in the 27th Dynasty,” *Ancient Egyptian Art Studies: Art in Motion, a Social Tool of Power and*

*Resistance*, editors Kathlyn Cooney and Alisée Devillers, *Arts 13*, no. 3: 76 (MDPI, 2024).

- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> 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**

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### **Conference Papers**

- April 2024 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA  
“The Manipulation of Egyptian Text and Image for the Benefit of Achaemenid Imperial Rule”
- December 2023 *Second Gate of the Priest Conference*, Cairo, Egypt  
“Unfinished Funerary Papyri and What It Reveals about Commission, Production, and Usage”
- August 2023 *International Congress of Egyptologists 13*, Leiden, the Netherlands  
“A Reassessment of Persian Period Material in Egypt”
- July 2023 *Achaemenid Workshop II*, Obergurgl, 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/QfgVHVFItru>
- 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 *14<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- April 2018 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Tucson, AZ  
“Temple Rank and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- September 2017 *Brown University Reuse Reconsidered Conference*, Providence, RI  
“Reactionary Functions of Funerary Papyri towards 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Coffin Reuse”
- June 2017 *Second Vatican Coffins Conference*, Vatican City  
“In the Shadow of Coffin Reuse: Reactionary Functions of 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri”
- April 2016 *American Research Center in Egypt Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA\*  
“Connecting Coffins and Papyri: An Analysis of Social Identity through 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Iconography”  
\*1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of the Best Student Paper 2016
- February 2016 *UCLA Interdisciplinary Archaeology Conference*, Los Angeles, CA  
“Negotiating Social Identity in 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri”

## **Panels Organized**

- May 2021 *Pourdavoud 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**

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- “Persian Kings on Egyptian Soil: Culture and Identity Negotiation as an Expression of Power”  
*American Research Center in Egypt – Vancouver Chapter* October 2024
- “Museums Reimagined: Egypt’s New Exhibit Spaces”  
*American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County Chapter* April 2024  
*American Research Center in Egypt – D.C. Chapter* March 2024
- “Episode 12: Dr. Marissa Stevens”  
*Legacies of Ancient Persia, Online Podcast* March 2024  
<https://app.resonaterecordings.com/hosting/legacies-of-ancient-persia/f9c443e8-3eed-45a9-bb96-d5f53dcaae2f>
- “The Book of the Dead as a Family Affair”  
*J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA* November 2023  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FoYR16C7yk>
- “Commodity and Competition: How Funerary Papyri Contain More Than Religious Knowledge”  
*Egypt Society of Bristol, Bristol, UK* March 2023
- “Ramesside Papyri and Persian Egypt with Dr. Marissa Stevens”  
*Afterlives of Ancient Egypt with Kara Cooney, Online Podcast* January 2023  
<https://www.stitcher.com/show/afterlives-with-kara-cooney/episode/ramesside-papyri-and-persian-egypt-with-dr-marissa-stevens-211095186>
- “Funerary Papyri as Social Reflections of the Living and the Dead”  
*Egyptian Exploration Organization of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA* October 2024  
*American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County Chapter* September 2022  
*American Research Center in Egypt – Northern California Chapter* September 2022  
<https://youtu.be/mldUwflcc7s>
- “Ancient Office Hours – Dr. Marissa Stevens”  
*The Ozymandias Project, Online Podcast* March 2022  
<https://www.theozymandiasproject.com/podcast/episode/46b20dae/episode-36-dr-marissa-stevens>
- “The Art of Egyptian Funerary Ritual: Manufacturing Papyri for the Living and the Dead”  
*Cal Poly Art History Faculty Annual Lecture, Pomona, CA* November 2020
- “Reading 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri as Social Documents”  
*Crossing Over: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Death, Bryn Mawr, PA* April 2019
- “Family Associations Reflected in the Materiality of 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Funerary Papyri”  
*American Research Center in Egypt – Orange County, Santa Ana, CA* January 2018

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

## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & GRANTS**

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- 2023 *Dean’s Division of Humanities Professional Development Fund* (\$5,000 grant)  
 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**

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- 2019 *UCLA Employee Star Award*  
 2018 *UCLA Grad Slam (3-Minute Thesis) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAEV\\_LAshBM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAEV_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*

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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- 2024-Present **Faculty Development and Writing Support Committee**  
 University of California, Los Angeles
- 2023 **Dissertation Committee Member: Elisabeth Koch (terminal M.A. awarded)**  
 Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA Graduate Division

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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- 2010-Present **American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)**  
 2023-Present Secretary of the Board of Directors, Orange County Chapter  
 2022-Present Program Coordinator and Speaker Liaison, Orange County Chapter  
 2022 Interim Member of the Board of Directors, Orange County Chapter
- 2023-Present **Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)**  
 2023-Present UCLA Program of Iranian Studies Institutional Representative
- 2022- Present **Melammu Project**  
 2022-Present Member of the Board of Junior Scholars
- 2018-Present **American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)**
- 2018-Present **International Association of Egyptologists (IAE)**
- 2018-Present **International Council of Museums (ICOM)**  
 2018-Present Member of the International Committee for Egyptology
- 2010-Present **Phi Beta Kappa**

## **LANGUAGES**

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