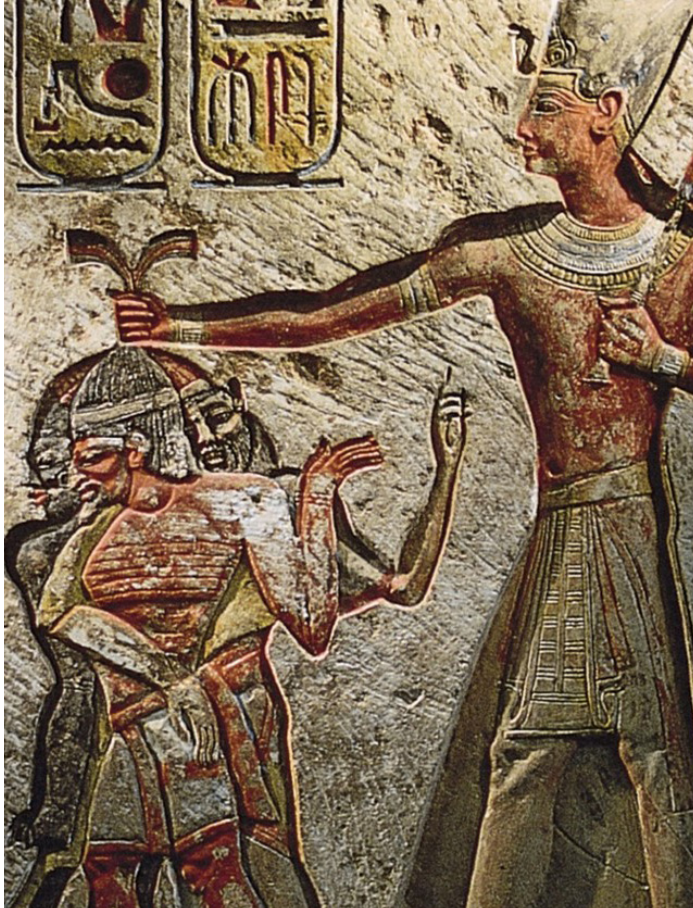


## Saturday Seminar Series



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



**The seminars will be held online on Zoom.**

### **Members**

Individual lecture      \$20  
Entire series              \$60

### **Non Members**

Individual                 \$30  
Entire series              \$90

## IN THE TIME OF THE PHARAOKHS EGYPT AND THE LEVANT DURING THE NEW KINGDOM

NEAF is delighted to present its next Saturday Series, *'In the time of the Pharaohs: Egypt and the Levant during the New Kingdom'*, which will explore Egypt and its connections with the Levant during the New Kingdom. With the exciting upcoming Australian Museum exhibition, *'Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs'*, coming to Sydney in November, this lecture series will explore the life and times

of Egypt in the New Kingdom, with special reference to pharaoh Rameses II. From politics to health and to culture, this series will study the lives of Egyptians during the New Kingdom and the extensive contacts with the Levant that brought about riches, long distance trading networks, and, ultimately, war.



Date	Time	Lecturer	Topic
7 October	10am	Margaret O'Hea	Egyptian Glass: Fit for a Pharaoh
	11 am	Karen Hendrix	Exploring the Health Status of Ancient Egyptians
14 October	10 am	Jacob Damm	Feeding an Empire: The New Kingdom Southern Levant
	11 am	Melanie Pitkin	Re-examining the architectural pillars of the Ramesside official Mes from Saqqara: a preliminary report
21 October	10 am	Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek	War and Peace: How Egypt's Pharaohs reached the Euphrates
	11 am	Stephen Bourke	The Battle for Syria in the New Kingdom: Conquest, Qadesh and Beyond
28 October	10 am	Conni Lord	The Beautiful Theban Royal Tombs of the Ramesside Period and the Artisans Who Built Them
	11 am	Maree Browne	Pi-Ramesses: The Lost City of Ramesses II



Architectural pillar of the Ramesside official Mes from Saqqara (Chau Chak Wing Museum).



**7 October 2023**

### **Lecture 1: Egyptian Glass: Fit for a Pharaoh**

**Dr Margaret O’Hea (University of Adelaide)**

Sydney: Saturday 7 October 2023 | 10am-11am

**Abstract:** In the New Kingdom, both raw glass – called “stone from the furnace” – and exquisitely finished glass objects were made at the order of kings, and were given as royal gifts. In this talk, we will outline the nature of Egyptian glass workshops up to the time of Ramesses the Great at his city of Piramesses in the Nile Delta, and we will explore the use of glass as political exchange both into and out of Egypt.

### **Lecture 2: Exploring the Health Status of Ancient Egyptians**

**Karen Hendrix (University of Sydney)**

Sydney: Saturday 7 October 2023 | 11am-12pm

**Abstract:** Considerable knowledge of ancient Egyptians comes from their funerary practices, including the glorious Pharaonic pyramids and numerous tombs. The outstanding iconography of Egyptian tomb decoration and sculpture depict Kings and Queens who looked healthy and strong. What did they really look like and did they live healthy and long lives? In this lecture we will look below the surface of the royal icons and investigate how truly beautiful and healthy were the people of Egypt. I will examine some Pharaohs of the New Kingdom (Hatshepsut, Tutankhamun, Akhenaten, Ramesses II) and several other individuals.



An artist’s impression of how Tutankhamun may have appeared.

**14 October 2023**

## **Lecture 1: Feeding an Empire: The New Kingdom Southern Levant**

**Dr Jacob Damm (Cornell University)**

Sydney: Saturday 14 October 2023 | 10am-11am

**Abstract:** From the 15th through the 12th centuries BCE, the pharaohs of the Egyptian New Kingdom sought to control the southern Levant through both direct occupation and proxy rule. This included the installation of garrisons throughout the region, places where agents of the empire were brought into close contact with the indigenous Levantine population on a day-to-day basis. This contact resulted in a mutually transformative encounter that entangled people from all sides within the system that supported Egyptian imperial ambitions. In this presentation, I will discuss two such garrisons located in modern-day Israel, the sites of Jaffa and Beth Shean. Both exhibit dynamic histories during the period of New Kingdom occupation characterized by extended periods of calm as well as episodic—sometimes violent—breakdowns in the local order. Using these two sites, we will explore how the world of food and drink shed light on the social realities of Egyptian rule in the imperial periphery.

## **Lecture 2: Re-examining the architectural pillars of the Ramesside official Mes from Saqqara: a preliminary report**

**Dr Melanie Pitkin (Chau Chak Wing Museum), A/Professor Boyo Ockinga, and Dr Susanne Binder (Macquarie University)**

Sydney: Saturday 14 October 2023 | 11am-12pm

**Abstract:** In 1862, Sir Charles Nicholson acquired several inscribed limestone blocks from Cairo antiquities dealer, Youssef Massara. These blocks, the exact provenance of which was unknown to Nicholson at the time of his purchase, belong to pillars from the tomb chapel of Mes at Saqqara dated to the time of king Ramesses II. Mes was a scribe of the treasury of Ptah and his tomb is famous for containing an extensive legal text which describes a land dispute played out over several generations. Today, the reliefs and architectural elements from Mes's tomb are dispersed across several international collections, including Cairo, Boston, Hannover and Sydney.

Since Nicholson's publication of the pillars, several scholars have tried to recreate what Mes's tomb chapel might have looked like, based on these dispersed fragments and excavation plans prepared by French Egyptologist, Victor Loret in the late 1890s, but with much conjecture. Part of this has involved trying to work out the precise placement of the Sydney pillars, although new research undertaken by A/Professor Boyo Ockinga and Dr Susanne Binder of Macquarie University, and the present lecturer, shows that this has been based on a set of erroneous line drawings from the 1860s (thought to have been done by Joseph Bonomi at the British Museum).

As a result, this has affected more than 150 years of scholarship on the tomb. Based on a current research project to re-examine and re-publish the Sydney pillars of Mes, this paper will provide an overview of the significance of Mes's tomb and the story of acquisition of the Sydney pillars. It will also concisely piece together the history of scholarship on the pillars and share some new research findings.



21 October 2023

## Lecture 1: War and Peace: How Egypt's Pharaohs reached the Euphrates

**Dr Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek (Macquarie University/University of Sydney)**

Sydney: Saturday 21 October 2023 | 10am-11am

**Abstract:** Egypt's New Kingdom is well-known for its warrior pharaohs. Its most famous boast of their exploits across the Levant, with a few even reaching the Euphrates. Yet, how were these pharaohs, and their sizeable armies, able to 'extend the boundaries of Egypt' into the Levant? To elucidate this question, this lecture will focus on the preceding decades of war and peace between the regions, as communities transitioned into the Late Bronze Age, and their leaders transformed into warriors. It will discuss the multifaceted processes behind changing technologies, new means of communication, and an ideology of expansion that contributed to the endurance of Egyptian-Levantine relations during the Late Bronze Age.

## Lecture 2: The Battle for Syria in the New Kingdom: Conquest, Qadesh and Beyond

**Dr Stephen Bourke (University of Sydney)**

Sydney: Saturday 21 October 2023 | 11am-12pm

**Abstract:** The Egyptian New Kingdom presence in Syria dates at least from the end of the 16th century BCE and the reign of Thutmose I. Thereafter, Syria was to prove the battleground of competing empires, first between the Mittani and Egypt in the early New Kingdom, and then between the Hittites and Egypt in the 19th Dynasty. Control ebbed and flowed, with conflict largely fought through tributary proxies. However, occasionally ongoing low-level insurgencies were punctuated by singular (and rare) direct clashes between rival imperial armies. Perhaps the most significant of these clashes was the Battle of Qadesh, fought between Ramses II and Hittite Great King Muwattali, around 1274 BCE. This lecture will explore the history of military activity in Late Bronze Age Syria leading up to the Battle of Qadesh, before examining the main events of the battle itself, and reflecting on the geopolitical consequences of the much disputed outcome, for both the Hittite and Egyptian empires.



28 October 2023

## Lecture 1: The Beautiful Theban Royal Tombs of the Ramesside Period and the Artisans Who Built Them

**Dr Conni Lord (Chau Chak Wing Museum/UoW)**

Sydney: Saturday 28 October 2023 | 10am-11am

**Abstract:** The 19th and 20th Dynasties of ancient Egypt are known collectively as the Ramesside Period, so named for eleven rulers of varying effectiveness, bearing the name Ramesses. The Period represents a high point in diplomacy, construction and material culture. As is the case for many eras in ancient Egyptian history, some of the most exquisite examples of this material culture can be seen in the burial places made for the royal family in Thebes. The well-designed tombs were beautifully decorated, filled with vignettes and texts aimed at guiding the royal person through the journey into and in the Afterlife.

The people who constructed the burial places for the royal families of Egypt are usually unnamed, however, thanks to the preservation of the village, Deir el-Medina, home for the builders of the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings (Thebes), we know far more about the men that constructed and decorated the Ramesside tombs than we do for many of the pharaohs for whom the tombs were built. The houses, temples, tombs, papyri, ostraca and other material culture from Deir el-Medina give us an incredible insight into the life and death of the artisans of the Theban tombs, as well as information about the burial places they made.

This talk will explore some of the most beautiful tombs of ancient Egypt, the pharaohs who commissioned them and the workforce that brought these commissions to life.

## Lecture 2: Pi-Ramesses: The Lost City of Ramesses II

**Maree Browne (University of Sydney)**

Sydney: Saturday 28 October 2023 | 11am-12pm

**Abstract:** Situated in the northeast of the Nile Delta is the city of Qantir. Within its environs lie the remains of an ancient city, one of the 'treasure cities' of the Pharaohs. This city, known as Pi-Ramesses of the Egyptians and Ramses of the Bible, was the gateway to Palestine and the Levant. It was the capitol of the Ramessides from Ramesses II until it was deserted at the end of the 20th Dynasty. It was to here that Ramesses II returned after the Battle of Kadesh. It is also proposed as the city from where the Exodus of the Bible began. The search for it has occupied antiquarians and archaeologists for many years but its location was only settled after 1960. Excavation in recent years has given us a much clearer idea of this royal city. This lecture will discuss the importance of this fabled 'treasure' city, its layout and buildings and the search for its location.



## HOW TO BOOK

Please go to book via our NEAF website.

<https://neaf.sydney.edu.au/events-and-tours/events/>

You can register for the whole series at a discount, or book for specific Saturdays.

- NEAF Members: \$20 per session. All 4 sessions: \$60
- Non-Members \$30 per session. All 4 sessions: \$90
- All Students are free

Please note – a minimum of 20 attendees is required for each lecture for this series to run – our upper limit is 300 per lecture.

All lectures will be delivered by Zoom.

## ZOOM MEETING ID

Once payment is received a receipt, Meeting ID and non-transferrable password will be sent to you.

On admission to the Zoom lecture, participants will be matched to names of financial participants. Please ensure your zoom log-in screen name correctly identifies you. If you are dialling in via telephone, please ensure the number listed when booking on our website is the same used when connecting via telephone.

## FORMAT

Our Introduction will start at 9.55am.

The lecture will start at 10am and the second lecture will begin at 11.05am and finish at 12 noon.

There will be opportunity for questions following the lectures, time permitting.



Scarab seal EA 17774 of Thutmose I, Dynasty 18. -copyright Trustees of the British Museum.