Kathleen J. Birney, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Mediterranean environment, Near East–Aegean cultural interactions: Sea Peoples, Phoenicians, Persian & Hellenistic periods, archaeological chemistry, ancient medicine, perfumes & organic commodities, ceramic analysis and ceramic material science

EDUCATION

M.I.T. Adv. Studies Program (Center for Materials Research in Archaeology & Ethnology) 2018-9

Harvard University Ph.D., Near Eastern & Mediterranean Archaeology 2007

Fields: Near Eastern History, Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Mediterranean Archaeology, Hebrew Bible

Dissertation: Sea Peoples or Syrian Peddlers? The Late Bronze – Iron I Aegean Presence in Syria & Cilicia

Harvard Divinity School Master of Theological Studies 1998

Yale University B.A., Classics (Ancient Greek, pre-med) 1996

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Wesleyan University

Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies and the Archaeology Program 2018-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies and the Archaeology Program 2011-2018

Affiliate: Department of Art History, Jewish and Israel Studies, Middle Eastern Studies Certificate

Harvard Semitic Museum, Research Associate 2010-present

Harvard University, Post-Doctoral Fellow 2007-2008

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

PI, Ancient Environment Initiative 2020–present

Co-Director, OpenARCHEM Project and OpenARCHEM Archaeometric Database 2016–present

Head of Persian and Hellenistic Research, Tel Shimron Project 2015–present

Co-PI, Kastrouli-Desfina Archaeological Project, Greece 2018–2020

Assistant Director, Ashkelon Excavations (Israel) 2015–2016

Grid Supervisor, Ashkelon Excavations 2007–2015

Square Supervisor, Ashkelon Excavations 1998–2002, 2004

Research Appointment, Ashkelon Publications, Cambridge MA 2003, 2005

BOOKS

Ashkelon 9: The Archaeological History of the Hellenistic Period. Final Reports of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon. In press, expected 2021, Eisenbrauns.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Hellenistic Agricultural Economies at Ashkelon, Southern Levant (with J. Marston). *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* https://doi.org/10.1007/s00334-021-00850-1 2021

The Mycenaean Citadel and Environs of Desfina-Kastrouli: A Trans-Disiciplinary Approach to Southern Phokis. (with I. Liritzis, A. Koh, I. Roy) *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry* 20.3: 47-73. 2020

Ancient Organic Residues as Cultural and Environmental Proxies: The Value of Legacy Artifacts (with A. Koh). *Sustainability* 11 (3).656 2019

An Astynomos at Ascalon. *Eretz Israel* 33: 25-32 2018

Adventures in Storax (with A. Koh). *Full Spectrum* 1.1 2018

Phoenician Bathing in the Hellenistic East: Ashkelon and Beyond 2017
Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research 378: 203-222

Organic Compounds and Cultural Continuity: The Penn Museum Late Minoan IIIC Jar from Tourloti. (with A. Koh) *Mediterranean Archaeology & Archaeometry* 17.2: 19-33 2017

To the Dregs: Drawing Meaning from the Rhodian Handles of Hellenistic Ashkelon 2015
Center for Hellenic Studies Research Bulletin 3.2 (2015)
http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hlnc.jissue:CHS_Research_Bulletin.Vol_03.Issue_02.2015

Infant Burial and the Iconography of Death on a Burial from Philistine Ashkelon. 2011
(with B. Doak) *Israel Exploration Journal* 61/1 (2011): 32-53. [Reprinted with minor edits in *Ashkelon 7: The Iron Age I,* ed. L. Stager, D. Master, and A. Aja (2020)]

Iron II Weights and Measures, and 'Phoenician' Inscribed Bronze Cuboid Weights, 2011
(with E. Levine), in Stager, Schloen and Master (eds.), *Final Reports of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, vol. III.: The 604 B.C.E. Destruction*, 473-92. (Eisenbrauns)

Tracking the Cooking pot *à la steatite*: Signs of Cyprus in Iron Age Syria. 2008
American Journal of Archaeology 112 (2008): 565-580.

WORKS IN PREPARATION

Organic Residues from Ritual Deposits of the Fetish Shrine at the Cult Center of Knossos-Anetaki (with A. Koh) In *Knossos-Anteaki: The Neo-Palatial Fetish Shrine,* A. Kanta and P. Betancourt. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press. In preparation.

Stratigraphy and Methodology, in L. Stager, J. Greene, B. Gernand and K. Birney (eds.) *Excavations in the "Precinct of Tanit" (Tophet) at Carthage, 1976-1979*. American Schools of Oriental Research Punic Project, vol. 1. (Volume expected in press 2021)

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation: Major Research Instrumentation (PI) 2020-2022

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship 2018-2020

Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies Publication Working Group Grant 2017
(Mouliana Project, with A. Koh, M. Clinton)

Loeb Classical Library Fellowship (declined) 2015

Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies Research Fellowship, Washington D.C. 2015

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship 2014
(W.F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel)

U.S. Women's National Team, Shotokan Karate 2004-2011

Robert Pfeiffer Traveling Fellowship for archaeological research in Israel 2000, 2004, 2007

Derek Bok Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University 2001, 2006

Dorot Foundation Travel Fellowship 1998, 1999, 2002

G. Ernest Wright Prize for academic excellence in the study of ancient history 1998

EXCAVATION REPORTS

Tel Shimron, Israel: 2019 Preliminary Excavation Report, Grid 94 2019

Kastrouli, Greece: 2018 Preliminary Excavation Report, South Terrace 2018

Tel Shimron, Israel: 2017 Preliminary Excavation Report, Grid 94 2017
https://www.academia.edu/39129990/Tel_Shimron_Preliminary_Excavation_Report_Grid_94

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2014 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2014
https://www.academia.edu/31877844/2014_Grid_51_Field_Season_Report

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2013 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2013
https://www.academia.edu/31877843/2013_Grid_51_Field_Season_Report

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2012 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2012
https://www.academia.edu/31877845/2012_Grid_51_Field_Season_report.doc

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2011 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2011
https://www.academia.edu/31877841/2011_Grid_51_Field_Season_Report.docx

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2010 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2010
https://www.academia.edu/31877842/2010_Grid_51_Field_Season_Report.pdf

Grid 51, Ashkelon: 2009 Field Season Preliminary Excavation Report 2009
https://www.academia.edu/31877840/2009_Grid_51_Field_Season_Report.doc

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wesleyan University, Dept. of Classical Studies & Archaeology Program 2011- present

Visualizing the Classical (Design Theory & Archaeological Reconstruction, Advanced)

Patterns in Ancient Organic Residue Degradation (Advanced Tutorial, Integrated Lab)

The Greek Vase as Art and Artifact (Advanced)

Archaeological Field Methods (Intermediate; onsite: Ashkelon, Shimron, Kastrouli)

Pyramids & Pyres: Death and Afterlife in Egypt & Greece (Intermediate)

Bronze Age Art & Archaeology (Introductory)

Greek Art & Archaeology (Introductory)

From Linear B to the Little Iliad: Homer and Homeric Traditions of the Bronze Age (Adv. Greek)

Hesiod: The Greek Creation Myth in Mediterranean Context (Adv. Greek)

Body, Soul, and Afterlife Journeys in Ancient Greece (Int/Adv. Greek)

Introduction to Ancient Greek (two semester course, Introductory)

Single Combat in the Ancient World (First-year Writing Seminar)

Senior Thesis Advising for Archaeology & the Dept. of Classical Studies (Advanced):

Archaeology of Pan-Hellenic Politics: Monumental Dedications at Delphi and Cycladic Political Identity (A. Peck 2012)

Hellenistic or Roman? A Case Study of a Mosaic in Tel Dor, Israel in Regional Context (A. Ruiz-Lopez 2013)

What is for Lunch? Thin-Section Optical Mineralogy Study of Cooking Vessel Fabric during the Hellenistic Period at Ashkelon, Israel (E. Shames, 2015)

Egyptianizing Amulets from Persian Ashkelon (S. McCully 2016)

Grave Concerns: The Sacred Corpse and Burial Re-entry in Antiquity (M. Rothberg 2016, co-advised with A. Sharma of Anthropology, 2016)

Colonial Collecting (Senior Essay with exhibit in Olin Library, virtual exhibit online, S. Hoynes 2016)

Our Warp Bloodred, Our Weft Coarseblue: Experimental Exploration of the Use and Mythology of the Warp-Weighted Loom in Norse Greenland and Ancient Greece (C. Diemer, 2018)

Shedding Light on Dark Ages: LMIIIC Burials in East Crete (K. Barnes, 2018)

Il far dela cola: Examining 16th century Techniques of Steelmaking through Translation and Experimental Archaeology (A. Lam, 2020)

Hedrai and Hemorrhages: a study of War Wounds and their Treatment in the Hippocratic Corpus (T. Zitter, 2021)

Going back to the Roots: A Phytochemical Investigation of Iris in the Ancient Mediterranean (A. Rogers, 2021)

Ashkelon Archaeological Field School (undergraduate and graduate instruction) 2008 - 2016

Harvard University, Classics Department and Core Program 2006
Teaching Fellow, "Images of Alexander the Great" (Professor David Mitten)

Independent Tutor for Latin Language SAT 2006

Harvard University, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations 1999, 2001, 2003
Head Teaching Fellow "The Bible and Its Interpreters" Prof. James Kugel, Prof. Gary Anderson 2002
Head Teaching Fellow "The Archaeological History of Egypt" (Prof. Peter der Manuelian)

CONFERENCE PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS

A Phytochemical Basis of Ancient Uses of Iris (*I. germanica*) (with A. Rogers, A. Roberts). 2021
Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology.

Hellenistic Unguentaria from Ashkelon: Insight from combined Organic and Materials Analysis 2019
(with W. Gilstrap, MIT). Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools
of Oriental Research, San Diego, CA.

The Value of Legacy ORA Data and Objects: Case Studies (with A. Koh) 2017
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston, MA

The Mouliana Project: Results of the 2016 Season (with A. Koh, M. Clinton) 2017
Paper delivered at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Toronto

The Phoenician Perimeter: Considering Persian Control of the Southern Levant 2017
Paper delivered at the Society for Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Boston MA

Hellenistic Agricultural Economy in the Southern Levant: New Evidence from Ashkelon 2017
(with J. Marston). Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools
of Oriental Research, Boston, MA

To the Dregs: Drawing Meaning from the Rhodian Handles of Hellenistic Ashkelon. 2015
Paper delivered at the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies Research Symposium, Washington D.C.

To Rinse or to Receive? An Analysis of 2nd Century Stuccoed Rooms at Ashkelon. 2015
Paper delivered at Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research Paper, Atlanta, GA

From Ashkelon to *Ascalon:* Towards a Reconstruction of the Hellenistic City. 2014
Paper delivered at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel.

Recent Excavations at Ashkelon: The Persian and Hellenistic Periods in Grid 51 2013
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Baltimore, MD

Mycenaean Influence in Iron Age Syria – Reconstructing the Big Picture 2008
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston, MA

Intramural Infant and the Iconography of Death at Ashkelon (with B. Doak) 2008
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston MA.

Tracking the Cooking Pot à la Stéatite: The Road Inland 2005
Paper delivered at the American Schools of Oriental Research, Philadelphia, PA

INVITED TALKS

Rethinking Iris in Dioscorides: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Invited talk for the Research 2021
Institute of Classical Studies, University of Rethymno, Crete. April 1, 2021.

Archaeology meets Chemistry: Challenges in Organic Residue Analysis. Wesleyan University 2020
Natural Sciences and Mathematics Luncheon Series.

INVITED TALKS (cont'd)

Material, Culture, and Identity in Hellenistic Ashkelon. Paper invited for the "Mapping the Cultural and Social Diversity of the Southern Levant in the Hellenistic Period". Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. June 18, 2020 (*postponed due to COVID)* 2020

The OpenARCHEM Database as a Resource for Scientists and Humanists
Invited Talk for the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Tübingen 2018

Making Digital Humanities work in the Classroom: Getting Students to Engage 2018
Invited Talk for AALAC/CLAC Workshop on Digital Humanities, Wellesley College

Who wants Take-Out? Exploring Archaeological Models for Urban Economies. 2017
Invited talk for the Boston University Archaeology Seminar Series

Building Technology Training into Humanities Courses: Reflections and Analysis 2017
Invited Talk for NESCAC Digital Humanities Conference, March 2017

Homeric Heroes in Mediterranean Context 2017
Invited talk for the Department of Classics, Connecticut College

Invited talk for "From Theory to Practice: Digital Methods in Research &Teaching" 2017
Workshop, Wesleyan University

Of Markets and Migrants: Thinking 'with' Mycenaean material culture in the 12th century 2017
Keynote Speaker, Brandeis University Graduate Conference, Department of Classics

Philistines, Dead and/or Alive: Recent Archaeological work at Ashkelon, Israel 2016
Invited talk for the Classical Association of Connecticut, Hartford, CT

Wrestling with *-ization* yet again: Material, Culture and Identity in Persian-Hellenistic Ashkelon 2016
Invited talk for the University of Connecticut Archaeology Lecture Series, Storrs, CT

The Impact of Hellenism on the Coast of Palestine: Ashkelon as a Test Case. 2014
Invited talk at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Pushing Boundaries: Pioneers of Attic Red Figure 520-490 B.C. 2014
Invited talk at Wesleyan Potters, Middletown, CT

From Philistines to Phoenicians and Beyond: Ongoing excavations at the City of Ashkelon 2013
Invited talk at the Wasch Center, Wesleyan University

An Introduction to Philistine Culture 2011
Invited talk, American Institute of Archaeology Lecture Series, Trinity University, Hartford CT

Rethinking our Approach to the Sea Peoples 2010
Invited talk for the Core Archaeology Graduate Group, Harvard University, Cambridge MA

Economy and Trade in Ancient Egypt 2009
Invited talk for the Harvard Semitic Museum, Cambridge, MA

INVITED TALKS (cont'd)

Late Bronze Age Trade in the Mediterranean: Modern Market Principles in the Ancient World 2008
Invited talk for the Harvard Semitic Museum, Cambridge, MA

Mycenaean-Style Pottery in the 'Amuq Valley, Syria 2006
Invited Talk, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee 2021–present

Community Mentorship Program 2021–present

Chair, Archaeology Program, Wesleyan University 2019–present

Archaeological Institute of America, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee 2016–present

Reviewer: 2011–present
Israel Science Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
Archaeometry
Cambridge Archaeological Journal
American Journal of Archaeology

Voting Institutional Representative & Managing Committee Member, American School of Classical Studies at Athens 2011–present

Wesleyan Admissions Office Faculty Panel Speaker 2011–present

Wesleyan University, Review and Appeals Board 2021

"Live from Mount Olympus" (Onassis Center myth podcast) consultant and commentator 2021

Fries Center for Global Studies Grant, Tel Shimron Israeli-Palestinian Educational Program 2019

Wesleyan University Archaeology Program, Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee 2018-2019

National Endowment for the Humanities, FPIRI Granting Committee 2018

Session Mediator "Getting Students to Engage" 2018
AALAC/CLAC Workshop on Digital Humanities, Wellesley College Jan 12 2018

Wesleyan University Faculty Committee on Rights and Responsibilities 2017-2018

Brandeis University 2016-2018
Master's Thesis Co-Advisor, Dept. of Classical Studies
Hellenistic Moldmade Bowls: Tracking Connections between Fabrics and Motifs (R. Jones)
Spatial Studies of Rhodian Amphora Distribution in Hellenistic Israel (S. Chase)

Session Co-Chair "Integrating Organic Residue Analysis into Archaeology" 2017
Workshop, American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting (with A. Koh) Boston

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Committee, AIAR 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (cont'd)

Wesleyan University, Language Resource and Technology Committee	2016-2017
Project-Based Learning Grant, Wesleyan University Center for Pedagogical Initiatives	2016
University Lecture Grant, Allbritton Center for Public Life (with E. Visvardi) (for sponsored lecture by Prof. Josiah Ober, Stanford University)	2016
Design & Engineering Initiative Course Development Grant (with C. Parslow)	2016
Wesleyan University Language Resource Center Committee	2015-2016
SHARE Field Program Coordinator	2012-2015
Board Member, Society for Humanitarian Archaeological Research and Exploration	2010-2015
Wesleyan University First Year Program Committee	2013-2014
Wesleyan University Archaeology and Anthropology Collections Committee	2013-2014
Session Chair, "Archaeology of the Near East: Bronze and Iron Ages," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Baltimore, MD	2013
Collaborative Proposal Grant, Allbritton Center for Public Life (with S. Croucher)	2013
University Lecture Grant, Allbritton Center for Public Life, (for sponsored lecture by Dr. Adriaan Lanni, Harvard Law School)	2012
Mentor, AIA/APA Women's Classical Caucus	2012-2013
Instructor and Coach, Harvard Karate Club and Harvard Karate Team	1998-2011
Non-resident Tutor, Lowell House, Harvard University	2004

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Ancient: Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Phoenician, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Hittite, Luwian
Modern: Russian, reading fluency in French and German.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Archaeological Institute of America

American School of Classical Studies at Athens

American Schools of Oriental Research

Society for Classical Studies

Society for Biblical Literature