

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 and organic commodities; ceramic analysis

EDUCATION

M.S., Yale School of the Environment Environmental Science degree expected 2024

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

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

Fields: Mediterranean Archaeology, Near Eastern History, Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Hebrew Bible
Dissertation: Sea Peoples or Syrian Peddlers? The Late Bronze – Iron I Aegean Presence in Syria & Cilicia

M.A., Harvard Divinity School Master of Theological Studies 1998

B.A., Yale University 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 2016–2021

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Birney, K. (in press) *Ashkelon 9: The Hellenistic Period*. Final Reports of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns. <https://www.eisenbrauns.org/books/titles/978-1-64602-216-8.html>

Articles and Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)

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

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

Koh., A., **Birney, K.** (2019). Ancient Organic Residues as Cultural and Environmental Proxies: The Value of Legacy Artifacts. *Sustainability* 11 (3).656 <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11030656>

Birney, K. (2018) An Astynomos at Ascalon. *Eretz Israel* 33: 25-32

Birney, K. (2017) Phoenician Bathing in the Hellenistic East: Ashkelon and Beyond *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 378: 203-222

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

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

Birney, K., Doak, B. (2011) Infant Burial and the Iconography of Death on a Burial from Philistine Ashkelon. *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)]

Birney, K., Levine, E. Iron II Weights and Measures, and ‘Phoenician’ Inscribed Bronze Cuboid Weights (2011). 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. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.

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

Database/Encyclopedia Entries

Birney, K., Shapiro, A. (2022) Friable Brown Cooking Ware. *The Levantine Ceramics Project*. <https://www.levantineceramics.org/wares/1029-friable-brown-cooking-ware>

Birney, K., Shapiro, A. (2022) Southern Levantine Mortaria Ware. *The Levantine Ceramics Project*. <https://www.levantineceramics.org/wares/1029-southern-levantine-mortaria-ware>

WORKS IN PREPARATION

Imports and Imitations: Insight from Materials Analysis on Greyware Unguentaria from Ashkelon (with W. Gilstrap). In preparation, for submission to *BASOR*.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation: Major Research Instrumentation (PI) (Award # 2018821, \$151,255.00)	2020-2022
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship (Award N-1710-04961, \$279,000) *second year delayed due to COVID	2018-2019;* 2022-2023
Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies Publication Working Group Grant (Co-PI)	2017
Loeb Classical Library Fellowship (declined)	2015
Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies Research Fellowship, Washington D.C.	2015
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (W.F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel)	2014
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

CONFERENCE PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS

Bowman, N., and Birney, K. Reconstructing environments of medicinal <i>Crocus sativus</i> in the Mediterranean. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology, San Francisco, CA.	2022
Rogers, A., Roberts, A. and Birney, K. A Phytochemical Basis of Ancient Uses of Iris (<i>I. germanica</i>) Poster presented (online) at the Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology	2021
Birney, K. , and Gilstrap, W. Hellenistic Unguentaria from Ashkelon: Insight from combined Organic and Materials Analysis. Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, San Diego, CA.	2019
Birney, K. , and Koh, A. The Value of Legacy ORA Data and Objects: Case Studies. Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston, MA	2017
Koh, A., Clinton, M., and Birney, K. The Mouliana Project: Results of the 2016 Season. Paper delivered at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada	2017

CONFERENCE PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

- Birney, K.** The Phoenician Perimeter: Considering Persian Control of the Southern Levant. 2017
Paper delivered at the Society for Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Boston MA
- Marston, J., and **Birney, K.** Hellenistic Agricultural Economy in the Southern Levant: 2017
New Evidence from Ashkelon. Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools
of Oriental Research, Boston, MA
- Birney, K.** 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.
- Birney, K.** 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
- Birney, K.** 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.
- Birney, K.** 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
- Birney, K.** 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
- Birney K.**, and Doak, B. Intramural Infant and the Iconography of Death at Ashkelon 2008
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston MA.
- Birney, K.** Tracking the Cooking Pot à la Stéatite: The Road Inland 2007
Paper delivered at the American Schools of Oriental Research, Philadelphia, PA

INVITED TALKS

- Rethinking Iris in Dioscorides: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Research Institute of 2021
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
- Material, Culture, and Identity in Hellenistic Ashkelon. Paper invited for the “Mapping the 2020
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*)
- The OpenARCHEM Database as a Resource for Scientists and Humanists 2018
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Tübingen
- Making Digital Humanities work in the Classroom: Getting Students to Engage 2018
AALAC/CLAC Workshop on Digital Humanities, Wellesley College
- Who wants Take-Out? Exploring Archaeological Models for Urban Economies. 2017
Boston University, Archaeology Seminar Series

INVITED TALKS (cont'd)

- Building Technology Training into Humanities Courses: Reflections and Analysis
NESAC Digital Humanities Conference, March 2017 2017
- Homeric Heroes in Mediterranean Context
Department of Classics, Connecticut College 2017
- From Theory to Practice: Digital Methods in Research & Teaching
Digital Humanities Workshop, Wesleyan University 2017
- Of Markets and Migrants: Thinking 'with' Mycenaean material culture in the 12th century
Keynote Speaker, Brandeis University Graduate Conference, Department of Classics 2017
- Philistines, Dead and/or Alive: Recent Archaeological work at Ashkelon, Israel
Classical Association of Connecticut, Hartford, CT 2016
- Wrestling with *-ization* yet again: Material, Culture and Identity in Persian-Hellenistic Ashkelon
University of Connecticut Archaeology Lecture Series, Storrs, CT 2016
- The Impact of Hellenism on the Coast of Palestine: Ashkelon as a Test Case.
Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel 2014
- Pushing Boundaries: Pioneers of Attic Red Figure 520-490 B.C.
Wesleyan Potters, Middletown, CT 2014
- From Philistines to Phoenicians and Beyond: Ongoing excavations at the City of Ashkelon
Wasch Center, Wesleyan University 2013
- An Introduction to Philistine Culture
American Institute of Archaeology Lecture Series, Trinity University, Hartford, CT 2011
- Rethinking our Approach to the Sea Peoples
Core Archaeology Graduate Group, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2010
- Economy and Trade in Ancient Egypt
Harvard Semitic Museum, Cambridge, MA 2009
- Late Bronze Age Trade in the Mediterranean: Modern Market Principles in the Ancient World
Harvard Semitic Museum, Cambridge, MA 2008
- Mycenaean-Style Pottery in the 'Amuq Valley, Syria
University of Chicago, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations 2006

PODCASTS & PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Birney, K. Science in Archaeology. (2022 Jan 24) [Educational video]. *Mummies of the World Educational Module*. Connecticut Science Center. 2022
- Birney, K. (Host). (expected release date 2022 Apr 5) "Hermes: God of Middle Children"
[Audio podcast episode]. In *Mythlets: Live from Mount Olympus*. Onassis Center Media.
https://open.spotify.com/episode/32ZFapcZXSDktVgNXpAqRV?si=-pU8M2D_RM-P-KSjWra45w 2022

PODCASTS & PUBLIC OUTREACH (cont'd)

- Birney, K. (Host). (2021 Dec 14). "I Belong to No Man". [Audio podcast episode]. 2021
 In *Mythlets: Live from Mount Olympus*. Onassis Center Media.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5TGItaHt7a0t56q7MvJVH6>
- Birney, K. (Host). (2021 Nov 16). "A Mouth Like Flame and Breathing Death" 2021
 [Audio podcast episode]. In *Mythlets: Live from Mount Olympus*. Onassis Center Media.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1WbXIHBMW6EQqL0iCLjs8>
- Birney, K. (Host). (2021, Oct 12). "Don't Drop Your Shield". [Audio podcast episode]. 2021
 In *Mythlets: Live from Mount Olympus*. Onassis Center Media.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4KHPxFQvpsjfsxQBONKf6z>
- Birney, K. (Host). (2021 Sep 9). "I bestow upon thee my adamantine sword". [Audio podcast 2021
 episode]. In *Mythlets: Live from Mount Olympus*. Onassis Center Media.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2BEbFrg8Qp4oCioB3qzNJV>

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)
- 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)

UNDERGRADUATE THESES ADVISED

- Going back to the Roots: A Phytochemical Investigation of Iris in the Ancient Mediterranean (A. Rogers) 2021
 Hedrai and Hemorrhages: War Wounds and their Treatment in the Hippocratic Corpus (T. Zitter) 2021

UNDERGRADUATE THESES ADVISED (cont'd)

Il far dela cola: Examining 16th century Techniques of Steelmaking through Translation and Experimental Archaeology (A. Lam)	2020
Shedding Light on Dark Ages: LMIIIC Burials in East Crete (K. Barnes)	2018
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, with COL)	2018
Colonial Collecting. (Thesis with accompanying exhibit mounted in Olin Library) (S. Hoynes)	2016
Grave Concerns: The Sacred Corpse and Burial Re-entry in Antiquity (M. Rothberg, with Anthropology)	2016
Egyptianizing Amulets from Persian Ashkelon (S. McCully)	2016
What is for Lunch? Thin-Section Optical Mineralogy Study of Cooking Vessel Fabric during the Hellenistic Period at Ashkelon, Israel (E. Shames, with Earth/Env Sci)	2015
Hellenistic or Roman? A Case Study of a Mosaic in Tel Dor, Israel in Regional Context (A. Ruiz-Lopez)	2013
The Archaeology of Pan-Hellenic Politics: Monumental Dedications at Delphi and Cycladic Political Identity (A. Peck)	2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Archaeological Institute of America, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee	2016–present
Reviewer: <i>Journals:</i> American Journal of Archaeology, Archaeometry, Cambridge Archaeological Journal <i>National Agencies:</i> National Endowment for the Humanities, Israel Science Foundation	2011–present
Voting Institutional Representative & Managing Committee Member, American School of Classical Studies at Athens	2011–present
National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, Granting Committee	2018
Session Mediator “Getting Students to Engage” AALAC/CLAC Workshop on Digital Humanities, Wellesley College Jan 12 2018	2018
Brandeis University, Master’s Thesis Co-Advisor, Dept. of Classical Studies <i>Hellenistic Moldmade Bowls: Tracking Connections between Fabrics and Motifs</i> (R. Jones) <i>Spatial Studies of Rhodian Amphora Distribution in Hellenistic Israel</i> (S. Chase)	2016-2018
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Committee, AIAR	2017
Session Co-Chair “Integrating Organic Residue Analysis into Archaeology” Workshop American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting (with A. Koh) Boston, MA	2017
SHARE Field Program Coordinator	2012-2015
Board Member, Society for Humanitarian Archaeological Research and Exploration	2010-2015
Session Chair, “Archaeology of the Near East: Bronze and Iron Ages,” Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Baltimore, MD	2013
Mentor, AIA/APA Women’s Classical Caucus	2012-2013

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee	2021–present
Community Mentorship Program	2021–present
Chair, Archaeology Program, Wesleyan University	2019–present
Wesleyan Admissions Office Faculty Panel Speaker	2011–present
Director/Organizer, CTW Research Symposium in Arts & Humanities (postponed due to COVID)	2021–2022
Wesleyan University, Review and Appeals Board	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
Wesleyan University Faculty Committee on Rights and Responsibilities	2017-2018
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
Wesleyan University First Year Program Committee	2013-2014
Wesleyan University Archaeology and Anthropology Collections Committee	2013-2014
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
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 Schools of Overseas Research

American School of Classical Studies at Athens

Society for Classical Studies