The bust of Nefertiti is, arguably, one of the most iconic and recognizable artifacts from the ancient world. Since her discovery in 1912, and public display in 1923, the use of Nefertiti as a symbol of German imperial power, dominance, and “care for the past” has turned her into an icon and symbol of Berlin and Germany. Requests by the Egyptian government for her return to Egypt have proved unsuccessful, and she remains
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in Germany to this day. Though Nefertiti’s bust is housed in the Neues Museum in Berlin, Egyptians identify her as a symbol of their country and culture. This paper discusses Nefertiti’s use as a symbol of Egypt, where she is used to represent the country, people and history of ancient Egypt to the modern state.

Though they may not be able to repatriate the physical object itself, by using Nefertiti’s image and iconography, modern Egyptians are able to repatriate and re-appropriate her identity for their political, social, and economic use. In essence, the modern Egyptian state strategically and symbolically has taken ownership of Nefertiti once again. This lecture begins by outlining the current post-colonial theories of control and appropriation. It then explores the imperial and colonial adaptation of Nefertiti by Germany and compares this to how the people of Egypt have responded by altering her image, identity, and meaning through the lens of Egyptian revolutionary street art.

**Advance registration is required.** Click on the link below by Saturday, Jan. 9, to receive an email with instructions on how and when to join. That email will have the author line ARCE-NC <no-reply@zoom.us>, the title of the lecture and "Confirmation," and it will contain the link that you will click on to join the meeting. Save that email: You'll need the link to join the meeting. Please do not share the join link with anyone; it is unique to your email address.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsc-yurDkiGdHxJXVqFlBGQYCQ5kdQnZJ1

Questions? Please email Glenn Meyer at arcencZoom@gmail.com.

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**About Nicholas Brown**

**Nicholas R. Brown** is an American Egyptologist who has worked as an archaeologist in Egypt since 2011. He received his MA degree in Egyptology from the American University in Cairo in 2016 and is currently a PhD. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Nicholas’ excavation experience includes working with archaeological sites in Aswan (at Elephantine Island and Wadi el-Hudi), as well as funerary sites in Luxor, Amarna and in Sudan.
In 2016, Nicholas spent the summer working at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, as the Terrace Curatorial Research Associate in Egyptology, and returned to the MFA over the summer of 2019 to conduct archival research for the Egyptian Art Department’s exhibit “Ancient Nubia Now.”

Nicholas’ research interests include funerary material culture from the New Kingdom, as well as the use and perception of ancient Egypt within modern contexts.

**From the President**

Happy New Year, ARCE friends!

Was a new year ever more welcome than this one? Here’s hoping you’re all safe and well. ARCE has many exciting offerings planned for 2021.

Once again, ARCE National will hold its annual meeting virtually thanks to COVID-19. It’s scheduled for April 23-25. Last year, chapter members who told me they had never imagined themselves attending a scholarly conference called into the meeting and were pleasantly surprised at the interest and range of the talks. We, the chapter board, choose our monthly speakers from the best of these talks and invite the speakers to Berkeley – usually live, but via Zoom through at least May 2021. The nicest part of it all, besides being able to attend 8 a.m. sessions in our pajamas, is that we hear from presenters who might not have been able to travel to an IRL annual meeting, including many from Egypt.

If you are a scholar or graduate student who’d like to present, you have a couple more days to apply. National’s deadline is January 8. Go to [https://www.arce.org/annual-meeting](https://www.arce.org/annual-meeting) for details.

Be well,
Barbara Wilcox
President, ARCE Northern California

**Anxieties about Race in Egyptology and Egyptomania: A panel discussion with Salima Ikram and colleagues**

**January 16, 10 a.m. PST**

ARCE National’s first open-access lecture of 2021 features Donald Reid, Salima Ikram, Vanessa Davies, Fayza Haikal, Eve M. Troutt Powell, and Annissa Malvoisin. They will be speaking about the racial anxieties that exist between both Egyptologists and non-specialists in the field; the history of debates surrounding race in Egyptology and the interpretations of ancient Egypt and how that is interconnected with personal beliefs and prejudices today.

To register, [click here](https://www.arce.org/annual-meeting).
Dr. Denise Doxey on New Perspectives on Ancient Nubia at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

January 23, 10 a.m. PST

The second lecture of ARCE National’s Nubian Virtual Lecture series features Dr. Denise Doxey as she tackles the last 30 years of excavation in southern Egypt and Sudan. In Boston, Egyptian art has upstaged that of Nubia for a century. Why is that? One reason is that for centuries Nubia left no written records, leaving its story to be told by others – first by their rivals and sometime enemies, the Egyptians. This lecture will address the history and the museum’s role in Nubian art. To register, click here.

Umit Ozturk Awarded Third Annual ARCE Northern California Eugene Cruz-Uribe Memorial Student Grant

In December, the chapter awarded its third ARCE Northern California Eugene Cruz-Uribe Memorial Student Grant to Ümit Özturk, a doctoral student at Stanford University. Ümit earned his BA and MA degrees in history from Boğaziçi University in Turkey. He plans to use the $1,500 grant to access archival materials for his dissertation on the economics of the eastern Mediterranean.

The grant honors the late Prof. Eugene Cruz-Uribe, a scholar of Greco-Roman Egypt and longtime chapter member who died in 2018 after a bicycle accident. He was editor of the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt at the time of his death, as well as a recently retired professor of history at Indiana University East. Friends and well-wishers established the grant in his name to assist students of any phase of Egyptology who attend school or have a hometown in Northern California.

ARCE Northern California also disburses a $1,000 grant each spring in honor of founding chapter president Marie Buttery. Call for applications will go out later this semester.

From National: Return of the Theban Mapping Project

The Theban Mapping Project began during Dr. Kent Weeks’ time at Berkeley in the 1970s. In 1989, international fascination with KV5 and the Theban Mapping Project exploded, and KV5.com was established to provide worldwide access to information about the project’s work in the Valley of the Kings.
The website flourished until 2010. ARCE National is proud to announce that it is bringing the TMP back online as [http://thebanmappingproject.com/](http://thebanmappingproject.com/) with a user-friendly interface and contemporary design.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

All talks below are Sunday, 3 p.m. PST via Zoom.

**February 7, 2021**  
The Land of Gold and Nomads: History and Archaeology of the Atbai Desert of Sudan  
Dr. Julien Cooper, United International College, Ziangzhou District, Zauhai, China

**March 13, 2021**  
Excavations at Lisht  
Dr. Gregory Mumford, University of Alabama at Birmingham