

Dr. Natasha D. Ayers

Austrian Archaeological Institute
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dept. of Prehistory and WANA Archaeology
Georg-Coch Platz 2
1010 Vienna, Austria

Email: natasha.ayers@oeaw.ac.at
ORCID: [0000-0002-3260-1463](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3260-1463)
Website: natashadays.com
Academia.edu: [Natasha Ayers](#)
Twitter: [@natasha.d.ayers](#)
Instagram: [@communities.reassembled](#)

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Chicago**, Egyptian Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Honors 2017
Dissertation: *Cultural Change in Upper Egypt from the late Middle Kingdom through the Second Intermediate Period: A New Analysis of the Ceramic Material*
Committee: Nadine Moeller (chair), Janet Johnson, Carla Gallorini
- M.A. **University of Chicago**, Egyptian Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2007
Thesis: *Egyptian Imitations of Aegean Vessels in the New Kingdom*
Committee: Nadine Moeller (chair), Janet Johnson, Richard Neer
- B.A. **University of Texas at Austin**, Archaeological Studies (Middle Eastern), Department of Anthropology, Honors 2004
Honors Thesis: *Mycenaean Figures and Figurines: Their Typology, Meaning, and Use*
Supervisor: Kim S. Shelton

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023–2026 **Senior Postdoctoral Researcher**, Austrian Academy of Sciences – ÖAI, Vienna.
Project: Communities Reassembled – Rethinking Identity in Ancient Egypt (FWF ESPRIT Project ESP 293-G).
- 2022–2023 **Guest Researcher**, Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna.
Project: A New Approach to Concepts of Community and Identity at Qau el-Kebir and Badari (*Stiftungsfonds für Postgraduates der Ägyptologie*).
- 2019–2021 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna.
Project: Beyond Politics: Material Culture in Second Intermediate Period Egypt and Nubia (FWF START Project Y754-G19). PI: Bettina Bader.
- 2018 **Lecturer** for Adult Education Courses, Oriental Institute, Chicago.
- 2013–2017 **Writing Teacher and Co-Instructor** for Humanities Courses, University of Chicago

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- in progress *Cultural Change in Upper Egypt from the late Middle Kingdom through the Second Intermediate Period: A New Analysis of the Ceramic Material*. PhD thesis publication.

Peer-reviewed Articles in Journals and Edited Volumes

- in progress "Development in body positions in Middle Kingdom – New Kingdom burials at Qau el-Kebir."
- 2018 "Pottery from the late Middle Kingdom through the Second Intermediate Period at Tell Edfu: The broader archaeological context of the Khyan sealings." In *The Hyksos Ruler Khayan and the Early Second Intermediate Period in Egypt. Problems and Priorities of Current Research. Proceedings of the Workshop of the Austrian Archaeological Institute and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, July 4–5, 2014*, edited by Irene Forstner-Müller and Nadine Moeller, 57–82. Vienna: Holzhausen.
- 2016 "Settlement pottery from the early Second Intermediate Period at Tell Edfu." In *Vienna II: Ancient Egyptian Ceramics in the 21st Century, Proceedings of the International Conference held at the University of Vienna, 14th–18th of May, 2012*, edited by Bettina Bader, Christian M. Knoblauch and E. Christiana Köhler, 27–45. Leuven: Peeters.
- 2012 **Ayers, Natasha** and Nadine Moeller. "Nubian pottery traditions during the 2nd millennium BC at Tell Edfu." In *Nubian Pottery from Egyptian Cultural Contexts of the Middle Kingdom and Early New Kingdom. Proceedings of a Workshop held at the Austrian Archaeological Institute at Cairo, 11–12 December 2010*, edited by Irene Forstner-Müller and Pamela Rose, 103–115. Vienna: ÖAI.
- 2011 Moeller, Nadine, Gregory Marouard and **Natasha Ayers**. "Discussion of late Middle Kingdom and early Second Intermediate Period history and chronology in relation to the Khayan Sealings discovered at Tell Edfu." *Ägypten und Levante* XXI (2011): 87–121.

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

- 2020 "Four Unique Pottery Vessels from N2000 and N2500." In V. Davies (ed.), *The Phoebe A. Hearst Expedition to Naga ed-Deir: Cemeteries N2000 and N2500*, edited by Vanessa Davies, 294–307. Leiden–Boston: Brill.
- 2020 "The MMA Egyptian Expedition's 5A Pottery." In *Excavations at Thebes: The Earl of Carnarvon and The Metropolitan Museum of Art at Carnarvon Tomb 62 and Surrounds, with contributions by Natasha Ayers, Marcel Marée, Deborah Schorsch, Daphna Ben-Tor, Frederik Hagen, Rachael Sparks, and Salima Ikram*, edited by Christine Lilyquist. Digital Open Access Publication:
<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/individual-scholarship/individual-scholarship-christine-lilyquist>
- 2020 "Carter/Carnarvon Pottery at Carnarvon 62." In C. Lilyquist (ed.) *Excavations at Thebes: The Earl of Carnarvon and The Metropolitan Museum of Art at Carnarvon Tomb 62 and Surrounds, with contributions by Natasha Ayers, Marcel Marée,*

Deborah Schorsch, Daphna Ben-Tor, Frederik Hagen, Rachael Sparks, and Salima Ikram, edited by Christine Lilyquist. Digital Open Access Publication: <https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/individual-scholarship/individual-scholarship-christine-lilyquist>

Not Peer-reviewed Articles in Edited Volumes

- 2015 “Egyptian imitations of Mycenaean Pottery.” In *Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference of Egyptologists, University of the Aegean, Rhodes, 22–29 May, 2008*, edited by Panagiotis Kousoulis and Nikolaos Lazaridis, 1935–1950. Leuven: Peeters.

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Invited Talks

- 2022 "Excavating Over 1,000 Years of Urbanism at Tell Edfu, Egypt," The Marjorie Helen Stewart Speaker Series, SUNY Brockport, NY, March 23.
- 2020 “New Kingdom Intrusive Burials at Saqqara: Cultural Complexity in Material and Practice,” Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna, June 3. <https://youtu.be/-YlbmFD-nYU>
- 2020 “A New Ancestor Shrine from the early 18th Dynasty at Tell Edfu: Updates from the 2020 Season,” Institute for Egyptology at the University of Vienna, May 18.
*Cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2020 “Cutting In: New Kingdom Intrusive Burials in Saqqara Mastabas,” Egyptological Society of New York, NY, April 10. *Cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2019 "Excavating 1,000 Years of an Ancient Egyptian Town: New Findings from Tell Edfu," Excavations of the Year, Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna, December 11.
- 2019 “Adapting Method to Material: A Decade of Recording Ceramics at Tell Edfu,” Documenting Material Culture, Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna, June 12.
- 2017 “Pottery as a Tool for understanding the Past,” Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, Chicago, IL, July 8.
- 2017 “The Second Intermediate Period at Tell Edfu, Second Intermediate Period Assemblages: The Building Blocks of Local Relative Sequences of Material Culture,” Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA, Vienna, June 22–23.
- 2017 “A Provincial Capital in Upper Egypt: Using Assemblages in Context to Elucidate Use of Space and Chronology of the Second Intermediate Period,” Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL May 11.
- 2014 “The Khayan Sealings in Context: An Overview of the Pottery from the 12th Dynasty through the early 18th Dynasty at Tell Edfu,” The Hyksos King Khayan – New Insights on the Chronology of the 13th and 15th Dynasties, Austrian Archaeological Institute, Vienna, July 4–5.

- 2014 “Ceramics and Chronology of the late Second Intermediate Period–early 18th Dynasty at Tell Edfu,” Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, Chicago, IL, March 1.
- 2010 “Nubian Pottery Traditions during the 2nd Millennium BC at Tell Edfu,” (presented with Nadine Moeller), Nubian Pottery from Egyptian Cultural Contexts of the Middle Kingdom and early New Kingdom, Austrian Archaeological Institute, Cairo, December 11–12.

Conference Talks

- 2023 “Diversity in Material and Practice at Qau el-Kebir and Badari in the Second Intermediate Period,” Contexts and Objects of the Second Intermediate Period: Pulling the Information Together & Prospects for Further Work, Austrian Academy of Sciences – ÖAI, Vienna, May 31–June 2.
- 2021 “Qau el-Kebir: Elucidating the Second Millennium BCE in Middle Egypt,” The 2nd Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, April 22–25.
- 2021 “Disentangling Identity in Ancient Egypt from the ‘Egyptian’ vs. ‘Nubian’ Dichotomy,” Meeting the Other: Transfers and Cultural Interactions around the Nile Valley, IFAO & PCMA, Cairo, March 27–31.
- 2020 “New Kingdom Intrusive Burials at Saqqara: Cultural Complexity in Material and Practice,” The 1st Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, April 17–18, 24–25.
- 2018 “Cultural Change in the Second Intermediate Period: New Evidence from Tell Edfu,” The 70th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Tucson, AZ, April 20–22.
- 2014 “Ceramics and Chronology of the late Second Intermediate Period–early 18th Dynasty at Tell Edfu,” The 65th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Portland, OR, April 4–6.
- 2012 “Settlement Pottery from the early Second Intermediate Period at Tell Edfu,” Vienna II: Ancient Egyptian Ceramics in the 21st Century, University of Vienna, May 14–18.
- 2011 “Nubian Pottery Traditions and Nubian-Egyptian Relations during the 2nd Millennium BC at Tell Edfu,” The 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Chicago, IL, April 1–3.
- 2008 “Egyptian Imitations of Mycenaean Pottery,” Tenth International Conference of Egyptologists, Rhodes, May 22–29.
- 2008 “Egyptian Imitations of Mycenaean Pottery,” The 59th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Seattle, WA, April 25–27.

Museum Talks

- 2016 “Pottery as a Tool for understanding the Past,” Lunchtime Gallery Talk, The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, July 8.

Museum Workshops

- 2017 “Archaeological Drawing Workshop (Egypt),” The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, March 11.
- 2016 “Archaeological Drawing Workshop (Egypt),” The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, March 12.
- 2015 “Archaeological Drawing Workshop (The Levant),” The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, September 12.
- 2014 “Archaeological Drawing Workshop (Egypt),” The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, September 13.
- 2014 “Archaeological Drawing Workshop (Egypt),” The Oriental Institute, Chicago, IL, June 7.

Media Coverage

- 2021 Interview with ARCE on Instagram Live, April 14, before The 2nd Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, April 22–25. One of four conference presenters chosen for an interview.
<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CNpynZMgdX9/?igshid=4xl8xsuocrg>

Talks for Schools

- 2022 “Excavating an Ancient Egyptian Town,” American International School Vienna, Grade 6 (ages 11-12), November 28.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Egypt

- 2009–Present **Ceramicist**, Tell Edfu
Yale University (previously University of Chicago/The Oriental Institute), directed by Nadine Moeller
- 2020 **Ceramicist**, Elephantine, Egypt.
The Swiss Mission to Elephantine, directed by Cornelius von Pilgrim
- 2010 **Assistant Ceramicist**, Tell el-Dab^a
Austrian Archaeological Institute, Cairo, directed by Irene Forstner-Müller
- 2008 **Small Finds Registrar**, Tell Edfu
University of Chicago/The Oriental Institute, directed by Nadine Moeller
- 2007 **Assistant Small Finds Registrar and Field Excavator**, Tell Edfu
University of Chicago/The Oriental Institute, directed by Nadine Moeller
- 2006 **Trench Supervisor and Field Excavator**, East Karnak
Pennsylvania State University, directed by Donald B. Redford

Greece

2003 **Trench Supervisor and Field Excavator**, Mycenae, Greece
University of Texas at Austin, directed by Kim S. Shelton

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

2019–2020 **Visiting Researcher in UK Museums**, Ashmolean Museum, The British Museum, Great North Museum: Hancock, Manchester Museum, Petrie Museum
Recorded, drew, and photographed objects from Qau el-Kebir and Badari, Egypt.

2009–2018 **Ceramicist**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Carnarvon Tomb 62 Project, directed by Christine Lilyquist
Analyzed and drew pottery held in The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Oriental Institute, completed the project databases, conducted research for comparative material, and prepared chapters for digital publication.

2008–2017 **Research Assistant**, The Oriental Institute, Chicago
Tell Edfu Project, directed by Nadine Moeller
Analyzed data collected from Edfu, completed the project database, conducted research for comparative material, inked illustrations, and prepared results for publications.

2013, 2015 **Archaeological Illustrator**, The Oriental Institute, Chicago
The OI Nubian Expedition Publication Project, directed by Bruce Williams
Recorded, drew, and inked pottery from the fortress of Serra East, Nubia.

2013 **Research Assistant**, The Oriental Institute, Chicago
Dorginarti Project, directed by Lisa Heidorn
Identified and registered pottery from the fortress of Dorginarti and created corresponding new catalogue entries in the museum database.

2008 **Archaeological Illustrator**, The Oriental Institute, Chicago
Tell al-Judaidah Publication Project, directed by Lynn Swartz Dodd
Recorded and drew pottery from Tell al-Judaidah.

2008 **Research Assistant**, The Oriental Institute, Chicago
Recorded and redated the Mycenaean pottery in the collection.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Guest Lecturer

Middle Kingdom Archaeology (spring 2022)

The Oriental Institute, Adult Education, Sole Instructor and Course Creator

Pottery and Society in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean (summer 2018, in-person and online)

The Ancient Mediterranean World: A Story of Trade, Diplomacy, War, and Migration (winter 2010)

University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Sole Instructor and Course Creator

Archaeological Illustrations (summer 2009–summer 2018)

University of Chicago, Division of the Humanities, Writing Teacher and Co-Instructor

Philosophical Perspectives (winter 2016, spring 2016, winter 2017)

Language and the Human (autumn 2013, winter 2014, spring 2014, winter 2015, spring 2015, winter 2016)

University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Guest Lecturer

Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History (summer 2010, summer 2011)

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2023–2026 FWF ESPRIT Grant, Vienna. Communities Reassembled – Rethinking Identity in Ancient Egypt. PI: N. Ayers **(€294,015.98)**

2022–2023 *Stiftungsfonds für Postgraduates der Ägyptologie*, Vienna. A New Approach to Concepts of Community and Identity at Qau el-Kebir and Badari. PI: N. Ayers **(€10,000)**

2006–2016 The Helen Rich Memorial Fund, University of Chicago **(\$25,000+)**

2014 2nd Place in the ARCE Best Student Paper Competition **(\$50)**

2006–2010 University Unendowed Fellowship, University of Chicago **(\$90,000+)**

2006 The Edward L. Ryerson Fellowship in Archaeology, University of Chicago **(\$1,500)**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), 2006–Present
Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), 2016–2020
Egypt Exploration Society (EES), 2019–Present

LANGUAGES

Ancient

Middle Egyptian (hieroglyphs and hieratic): Advanced reading
Late Egyptian (hieroglyphs and hieratic): Advanced reading

Modern

English: Native speaker
French: Advanced reading, beginner writing and speaking
German: Advanced reading, level B1 writing and speaking
Egyptian Arabic: Beginner reading, writing, and speaking

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Adobe: Acrobat Pro, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop; FileMaker Pro; Microsoft Office; Tableau; The Museum System (TMS)