



The director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens B. H. Hill (with the white suit) on a visit to Asia Minor to locate a suitable site for excavation (c. 1921). To the right with the dark suit is Konstantinos Kourouniotis, the archaeologist in charge of the Greek archaeological mission. Credit: American School of Classical Studies at Athens Archives, Carl W. Blegen Papers; reproduced with permission.

LECTURE

IMAGINING A DECOLONIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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In our recent book *Archaeology, Nation, and Race*, we discuss the enduring coloniality of archaeological practice and public engagement in Greece and Israel, observing its crypto-colonial origins and the continuing resonance of the concepts of purity and racial distinction in the work both of local and of foreign archaeologists. In our talk, we will continue our dialogue, focusing on the question of what archaeologists must do to decolonize their practice and thinking, and what the implications might be for Europeans who work in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Building on our respective projects in both ancient and contemporary arenas, we will discuss what we have had to unlearn during fieldwork, who our interlocutors have been, and what aspects of power and privilege we have had to relinquish in the quest to reboot our field.

