

Ian Blaisdell Straughn

Brown University Library
Brown University, Research and Outreach Services, Box A
Providence, RI 02912
Office Telephone: (401) 863-3394
Email: Ian_Straughn@Brown.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology	The University of Chicago	2006
M.A. Anthropology	The University of Chicago	2000
A.B. Anthropology	Stanford University	1997

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

- Postdoctoral Fellow 2009-2011
The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, Brown University
- Postdoctoral Fellow 2007-2009
Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University
- Visiting Assistant Professor 2006-2007
The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University
- Lecturer 2005
International Studies Program, The University of Chicago

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS:

- Interim Middle East Studies Scholarly Resource Librarian 2009-present
Brown University Library

AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- Archaeology of the Muslim World
- Cities and heritage in the Middle East
- Logics of space, place and landscape
- Politics of the past
- Archaeological approaches to religion
- Islamic studies
- Archaeological thought

HONORS:

- Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University
- A.B. with honors and distinction, Stanford University

FELLOWSHIPS

- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University (2007-2009)
- Watkins Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago (2005-2006)
- Century Fellowship, Division of Social Sciences, The University of Chicago (1997-1998, 1999-2001, 2004-2005)
- Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, Divinity School, The University of Chicago (2004-2005)
- Fulbright-Hays DDRA Dissertation Fellowship, Syria (2002-2004)
- Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Syria (2002-2004)
- Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fellowship (awarded 2002, declined)
- Fulbright Islamic Civilizations fellowship (awarded 2002, declined)
- Fulbright IIE (awarded 2002, declined)
- Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Center for Arabic Study Abroad, Cairo Egypt (2001-2002)

GRANTS

- Center for Digital Scholarship Grant, Brown University, for BUPAP archaeological database (with S. Alcock and M. Berenfeld)
- Undergraduate Research and Training Award (UTRA), Brown University, for Quranic Manuscript Digitization Project (Student: Evelyn Ansell, \$3000)
- Excellence At Brown, Research Stipend, Writing Program (\$2000), Brown University (2008-9)
- Cogut Center for the Humanities, Faculty Research Group Grant, (\$3300), Brown University (2008-9)
- Cogut Center for the Humanities, Faculty Research Group Grant, (\$5000), Brown University (2007-8)
- Leiffer Fund Grant, Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago (2001)

COURSES TAUGHT

- Egypt After the Pharaohs (Brown – Fall 2010)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/afterpharaohs2010/Home>
- Islamic Civilizations (Brown - Spring 2009)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/islamiccivilizations/Home>

- Sacred Space (Brown – Spring 2008)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/sacredspace/Home>
- Islamic Landscapes (Brown – Spring 2007, Fall 2008)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/islamiclandscapes/Home>
- Medieval Perspectives (Team taught course, Brown – Spring 2011, Spring 2008)
- Location of Theory in Archaeology (Brown – Spring 2010)
- Arabia and the Arabs: The making of an Ethnos (Brown – Spring 2007)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/arabiaandarabs/Home>
- The Muslim World in Archaeological Perspectives (Brown – Spring 2011, Autumn 2006, Autumn 2007)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/islamicarch2011/Home>
- Archaeology and Religion (Brown – Fall 2006, Fall 2009)
<http://proteus.brown.edu/archaeologyreligion/Home>
- The Anthropology of Islam (The University of Chicago – accepted but not taught)
- Contemporary Issues in Globalization (The University of Chicago – Winter 2004/5)

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

In preparation. *Islam Emplaced: The Landscape of an Emerging Religious Tradition*.

Articles:

- Forthcoming “Other Monumental Lessons” for *Drawing on Rocks, Gathering by the Water: Archaeological Fieldwork at Rock Reliefs, Sacred Springs, and Other Places*, ed. by Ömür Harmansah. Joukowsky Institute Publications
- Forthcoming “The Aptitude for Sacred Space” for *Locating the Sacred: Theoretical Approaches to the Emplacement of Religion*. ed. Claudia Moser and Cecelia Feldman-Weiss. Joukowsky Institute Publications
- Forthcoming “Negative evidence and settlement patterns: Rethinking an archaeology of Petra in the Islamic periods.” *Studies the History and Archaeology of Jordan*
- Forthcoming “Negotiating Identity and Colonialism in the provincial urban landscape of Early Islamic Syria.” for *Early Islamic Urbanism*, ed. Nasser Rabbat. Leiden: Brill.
- In press with Susan Alcock, Michelle Berenfeld and Christopher Tuttle. “The Brown University Petra “Upper Market” Archaeology (PUMA) Project: Report on the 2009 Exploration Season.” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities, Jordan*.

- 2012 “The Contemplation of Ruins: Heritage Practice and the Cosmopolitanism of Cairo’s Islamic Past.” In *On Location: Heritage Cities and Sites*, ed. D. Fairchild Ruggles, Springer. 193-212
- 2007 “Beyond Territorial Sovereignty: Archaeology and the spiritual dimension of the Arab-Byzantine frontier” in *Social Orders and Social Landscapes*. eds. Laura Popova, Charles Hartley and Adam Smith. Cambridge Scholars Press. Pp. 168-180.
- Under review “Islamic Archaeology” invited research synthesis for *The Journal of Archaeological Research*
- In preparation “A Tale of Two Façades: ‘Desert Palaces’ and the Secularization of an Islamic Past” for *Journal of Social Archaeology*
- In preparation “A *Dār* of One’s Own: Islam and the discourse of territoriality.” for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
- In preparation “Imperial Incongruities: Archaeological reflections on the landscape of Early Islamic Syria” for *Levant*
- In preparation ‘Islam is Large’: Material Engagements and the Iconoclasm of Muslim Societies, *American Anthropologist*

Encyclopedia Entries, Book Reviews, Reviewed Blog Posts:

- Forthcoming “Islamic civilization” for *The Oxford Companion to Archaeology*. ed. Neil Silberman. Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming “North Africa” for *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology* ed. Claire Smith, Springer
- 2009 “Medina” entry for *The Encyclopedia of Medieval Patronage*. Ed. L. Taylor et al. Leiden: Brill.
- 2008 “‘Trashed-out’”: An archaeological reading of the foreclosure crisis.” Posted to *Archaeolog* 11/19/2008. Available at: http://traumwerk.stanford.edu/archaeolog/2008/11/trashed_out_an_archaeological.html
- 2009 Review of *Negotiating the Past in the Past*. ed. Norm Yoffee. 2008. in *American Antiquity* (74:4 585)
- 2008 Review of *Muhammad’s Grave*. Leor Halevi. 2007. in *American Anthropologist* (110:3 388-389)
- 2006 “Climate: Theories of” in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. ed. Joseph Meri. London: Routledge.
- 2002 “North Africa” in *The Encyclopedia of Historical Archaeology*. ed. Charles E. Orser, Jr. pp. 395-398. London: Routledge.

Invited Lectures:

- “A Tale of Two Façades: ‘Desert Palaces’ and the Secularization of an Islamic Past”
Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University 2011
- “Heritage cosmopolitanism and the contested spaces of Cairo’s Islamic fabric” Middle
East Studies Program, Yale University, 2009
- “From Azhar Park to al-Fustat: Cairo and the Making of the Heritage City” Department
of History, The American University in Cairo, 2009
- “The Cultivation of Heritage: Mecca, Cairo and the Cosmopolitanism of an Islamic Past”
Departments of Landscape Architecture and Anthropology, University of
Illinois Champaign-Urbana, 2009.
- “From Samarra to Dubai: Islam, Global politics and the urban landscape”. Connecticut
College, 2009.
- “It isn’t immaterial: The limits of iconoclasm for the archaeology of early Islamic Syria”
Stanford University, 2008
- “Transforming the Sacred: Archaeology and Monuments of Early Islamic Syria” Rice
University, 2007.
- “A Near Eastern Empire without a Capital” AIA Narragansett Chapter, 2007.
- “When Baghdad Ruled the World, What Happened to Syria: Archaeology, Economics and
the Abbasid Empire.” Rhode Island Medieval Circle Lecture, 2007.
- “Islam and the theologico-political landscape: case studies in the spatial organization of
Bilad al-Sham” The University of Pennsylvania, 2007.
- “Muslims are not *Mushriks*: Place-making, Spatial Production and the Landscapes of
Muslim Societies.” Columbia University, 2007.
- “Diverting Attention: Archaeology, religion and the early Islamic period monuments of
Syria.” Newport Art Museum, 2007.

Conference Papers:

- “Missing God’s Signs: Archaeological oversights and other incompatibilities with the
Muslim world” TAG-US, UC Berkeley, 2011
- “When is settlement more than squatting?: Rethinking an archaeology of Petra in the
Islamic periods.” International Conference on the History and
Archaeology of Jordan. 2010
- “Absence of Archaeology in the Islamization of Knowledge Project:
Archaeology Islamized? TAG-US Brown University, 2009
- “Putting an end to the iconoclastic past: The logics of heritage preservation in
contemporary Egypt.” Society for American Archaeology Annual
Meetings, 2009. also presented at TAG-US, 2009
- “Common Ground: Landscape emplacement and the art and archaeology of early Islamic
Bilad al-Sham.” Spaces and Visions Conference, Historians of Islamic Art
Association, 2008.
- “Atomism, Iconoclasm and the Aleph: How cubes of stone and glass became one of the
wonders of the medieval Islamic world” TAG-US, May 2008.
- “A Replaced Past: Heritage crisis and the place-making of Muslim societies.” Contested
Spatialities Conference, Harvard, 2008.

- “What’s a secular building anyway? Categorizing early Islamic period monumentality in the Levant.” American Anthropology Association Annual meeting, 2006.
- “Imperial Immaturity and the Eccentricities of Early Empire: Archaeological approaches to the Umayyad *qusūr* of the early Islamic period Levant” Society of American Archaeology Annual Meetings, 2006
- “Providing for the Needs of this World and the Next: Syrian Cities, ‘Abbasid Politics and the Territorial Logics of Early Islamic Period Empire” American Anthropology Association Annual Meetings, 2005.
- “Islamic Spatial Logics and the Economics of Empire: Rethinking the Peripheralization of Greater Syria (*Bilad ash-Sham*) 750-950CE” Medieval Global Economies Conference, 2005
- “The Landscape of the Islamic Frontier: General Remarks on Archaeological Features” The 2nd University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference, 2005
- “‘Space’: God’s Creation, Man’s Appropriation: Producing the Islamic landscape of medieval northern Syria,” New York University Kevorkian Center, special invited panel “Rethinking the Anthropology of Islam,” 2005
- “Between Theology and Politics: The ethics of spatial practice in the *Fiqhī* doctrine of territoriality and early *siyar*.” *Mapping Muslim Ethics*, Duke University, 2005.
- “Managing the Border of *Dar al-Islam*: Archaeology and the Islamic landscape in the Jund Qinnasrin, North Syria” Jusur Graduate Student Conference, UCLA, 2004

Colloquia and Workshops:

- “Islam Takes Place: Towards an exegesis of landscape” Religious Studies Colloquium, Brown University, 2009
- “A Landscape in Fragments: Taking Place through the Mosaics of the Great Mosque of Damascus” Brown University, 2009.
- “‘Islam is Large’: Materiality and the secular spoliation of an Islamic tradition.” Material Worlds Symposium, Brown University, 2008.
- “*Dar al-Islam* and the territorial problem” Fellows Seminar, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, 2008.
- “Building Legitimacy, Constructing Community: The ‘imperial’ monuments of the Umayyad Caliphate” CRAM seminar, Brown University, 2008.
- “Contingent Spatialities and Imperial Immaturities: Landscape practices of the Umayyad Dynasty in greater Syria” “Paradigms of a Nomadic Mode of Living” colloquium, Sonderforschungsbereich, Wittenberg Germany, 2007.
- “Betwixt and Between: Place-making Against Spatial Production in the Landscapes of Muslim Societies” *Entrenched* Workshop, Brown University, 2006.
- “A Monumental Beginning: Imperial Ambitions, Spiritual Longings and the Forces of Spatial Production.” Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop, The University of Chicago, 2006.
- “Resurrecting the Dead Cities: Islamic period occupation, resettlement and spiritual transformation,” Islamic Art and Artifact Workshop, The University of Chicago, 2006.

“God is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and Humans are His vice-regents: Islamic spatial ontologies and the ordering of the social world.” Martin Marty Center Seminar, Divinity School, The University of Chicago, 2003.

“Spatial Analysis of a Medieval Islamic Discursive Tradition: The example of Fatimid Cairo-Fustat” CASPIC Middle East Workshop, The University of Chicago, Chicago, 2001.

“Tutankhamun and Early 20th Century Egyptian Nationalism” Anthropology Honors Symposium, Stanford University, June 1997

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

The Brown University Petra Archaeological Project

JIAAW, Brown University
Field Director (2010-present)
(Project Director: Susan Alcock)

The Petra Upper Market Project

JIAAW, Brown University
Project field director with S. Alcock, M. Berenfeld and C. Tuttle (July 2009)

The Petra Great Temple Project

JIAAW, Brown University
Project Director: Dr. Martha Joukowsky
(Consultant, survey, photography – June/July 2008)

Project Hadir-Qinnasrin, Syria

The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago
Project Director: Dr. Donald Whitcomb
(Lead Investigator (American side) – Summer 2003, Field Supervisor – Summer 2000)

Project ARAGATS, Armenia

Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago
Project Director: Dr. Adam Smith
(Field Supervisor – Summer 2000)

Combined Caesarea Expedition, Israel/Palestine

The University of Maryland
Project Director: Dr. Kenneth Holm
(Assistant Trench Supervisor 1998)

Leland Stanford Residence Project, Stanford, CA

Stanford University
Project Director: Dr. John Rick
(Two seasons Spring 1997 and Spring 1996)

N.H. Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program, Ashfield NH (field school)
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
Director: Dr. Dick Boisvert
(Archaeology field school 1996)

The Eton Rowing Lake Project, Windsor/Eton, England
The Oxford Archaeological Unit
Director: Dr. David Miles
(Field Assistant Summer 1996)

SPECIALIZED RESEARCH SKILLS

Field Methods: Proficient in survey, GPS mapping, excavation techniques, gigapan
Laboratory Methods: Training in remote sensing, GIS, ceramic analysis (basic petrography), data base management (MySQL)

LANGUAGES

Modern Standard Arabic (near fluency)
Egyptian and Syrian colloquial dialects (near fluency)
Classical Arabic (advanced reading competency)
French (academic reading competency)
Persian, Latin and German (reading ability)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Middle East Studies Association
Society for American Archaeology
American Research Center in Egypt
American Schools of Oriental Research
American Anthropology Association

MEDIA/PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Panelist and invited speaker “The Current State of the Middle East,”
Barrington Public Library, Barrington RI
- Invited Speaker, “Revolution, Egyptian Style” Bank of America Diversity
Programming, Bank of America, Providence RI
- Commentator for Current Middle East Affairs, Watson Institute, Brown
University. Interview for Choice program, high school current events
curriculum, January 31, 2011
http://choices.edu/resources/twtn_egypt.php
http://watsoninstitute.org/news_detail.cfm?id=1454

- Source and profile for National Geographic News story “Billion-Pixel Pictures Allow Ultra-Zooming for Science” May 27, 2009 available at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/05/090527-gigapan-pictures.html>

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Board	<i>Archaeological Dialogues</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2006 to present.
Coordinator	“Material Worlds Across the Academy,” an interdisciplinary research group for the study of material culture. 2007-2009 http://proteus.brown.edu/cogutmaterialworlds/Home
Panel Organizer	“Trowel Theologies: Archaeology and the secular project” Roundtable session for Theoretical Archaeology Group, North American meeting, May 2010 “Is Archaeology Useful?” <i>Archaeological Dialogues</i> ’ Forum at the SAA annual meetings, April 2009 “The Materiality of Spirituality: Critical Directions in the Archaeology of Religion and Ritual” Invited Panel Session, Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, November 2006.
Reviewer	American Anthropologist National Science Foundation
University Service	Chair, Middle East Studies Curriculum Development Committee, Brown University, 2009-10 Advisory Council Member, B-Literate Religion, Office of the University Chaplain, Brown University, 2011-present
Interim President	Taqwa EcoFoods NFP (presently, Whole Earth Meats) 2003-2005

