

Sandra Blakely
Associate Professor
Department of Classics, Emory University
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Research Interests

Anthropology and ethnography of the ancient world; Greek and Roman religion; digital approaches to antiquity, including ArcGIS, Social Network Analysis, and gaming; historiography.

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
PhD, Classics and Anthropology, 1998

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
B.A., German and Humanities, 1982

Publications

Books

In preparation: *The Anthropology of an Island Cult: Maritime Networks and the cult of the Great Gods of Samothrace*

2015 *Alexander Polyhistor (BNJ 273)*, Leiden: Brill

2011 *Conon (BNJ 26)*, Leiden: Brill

2009 *Herodorus (BNJ 31)*, Leiden: Brill

2006 *Myth, Ritual and Metallurgy in Ancient Greece and Recent Africa*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Edited volumes

In preparation: "Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean," *Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Lockwood Press: Atlanta

2017 Guest editor for "Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice," *Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Lockwood Press: Atlanta

2009 "Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets," proceedings of the Conference on the Mysteries, *Electronic Antiquity* 12.1 (2008)

Online Research presence

<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu.samothraciannetworks/>

Articles

In preparation: "From Dardanos to the Philosophers: Initiation and Imagination in Roman Samothrace," *Classical Philology*

Submitted: "Multimodality and Social Mobility: Mithraism and cosmography in the 2nd-5th centuries CE", *Acta ad archaeologiam et artium historiam pertinentia*, special issue: *Homo renovatur de die in diem: Transforming selves and communities in liturgy and religious ritual from Late Antique Rome to the Middle Ages*

Submitted: "Metallurgy between myth and production: cognized and operational craft in the Northeastern Aegean," *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology*

2018 "Starry Twins and Mystery Rites: From Samothrace to Mithras," *Acta Classica*

2018 "Sailing with the Gods: Serious Games in an Ancient Sea", *Thersites* 7: 108-146

2015 "Human geography, GIS technology, and ancient mysteries: a case study from the island of Samothrace," *Getty Research Journal* 7, February 2015

2013 "Daimones in the Thracian Sea: Mysteries, iron, and metaphor," *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 14(1): 155-182

2012 "Toward an archaeology of secrecy: power, paradox, and the Great Gods of Samothrace" in Y. Rowan, ed., *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual*, Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association, vol. 21(1): 49-71.

2010 "Kadmos, Jason, and the Great Gods of Samothrace: initiation as mediation in a Northern Aegean context," *Electronic Antiquity* 11.1

2009 "Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets: Introduction," *Electronic Antiquity* 12.1 (2008): 1-22

Book chapters

- Submitted: "Miltiades on the Janiculum: a re-purposed herm in the Aqua Traiana", in A. Wilson, ed., publication of the Janiculum Mills excavation, American Academy at Rome
- Submitted: "Daimones in and in-between: From Metallurgy to Mobility in the Mysteries of Samothrace", in *Locating the daimonic: Demons, space and place in the ancient Greek World*, edited by Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe and Emmanuela Bakola, CHS/Ashgate
- Forthcoming: "From the Mountain to the Sea: Seascapes, Gender, and an Island Cult", in W. Meyer, ed. IEMA Volume VI: *Engendering Landscape*, Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology: State University of New York, Buffalo
- 2019 "Hermes, Kyllene, Samothrace and the Sea," in *Tracking Hermes, Tracing Mercury*, J. Miller and J. Strauss-Clay, ed.s, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 271-292
- 2018 "Images, Merchants, and Mercenaries: Aegeans and Southern Judah in the 8th c BCE", in *Judah in the 8th Century: Festschrift for Oded Borowski*, edited by Zev Farber and Jacob Wright, Society of Biblical Literature, Ancient Near East Monograph Series, 35-57.
- 2018 "The Anthropology of an Island Cult: Samothrace and the Science of man in the Nineteenth century", in E. Varto, ed., *The Classics and Early Anthropology*, Brill, 204-230
- 2017 "Object, Image and Text: Materiality and Ritual Practice in the Ancient Mediterranean", in S. Blakely, ed., *Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice*, Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Lockwood Press: Atlanta, p. 1-13.
- 2016 "Maritime Risk and Ritual Responses: Sailing with the Gods in the Ancient Mediterranean", in C. Buchet and P. de Souza, ed.s, *The Sea in History – The Ancient World*, Association Oceanides: Paris, p. 362-379.
- 2016 "Beyond Braudel: Network models and a Samothracian Seascape", in L. Mazurek and C. Concannon, ed.s, *Across the Corrupting Sea*, London: Routledge
- 2007 "Pherekydes' Daktyloi: ritual, technology, and the Presocratic Perspective", *Kernos* 20: 43-67
- 2000 "Madness in the Body Politic: Kouretes, Korybantes, and the Politics of Shamanism," in J. Hubert, ed., *The Archaeology and Anthropology of Madness, Disability and Social Exclusion*, Part 2 of *Mind and Body in Society*, p. 119-127.
- 1999 "Smelting and Sacrifice: Comparative Analysis of Greek and Near Eastern Cult Sites from the Late Bronze through the Classical Periods," in S.M. Young, M. Pollard, P. Budd, and R.A. Ixer, ed.s, *Metals in Antiquity*, Oxford: Archaeopress, 86-90.

Encyclopedia entries

- 2016 "Bronze" and "Iron", *The Herodotus Encyclopedia* (submitted)
- 2014 "The Archaeology of Greek Religion", *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology* (updated 2017)
- 2014 "Superstition", "Kabeiroi", and "Samothrace", entries in *The Cambridge Dictionary for Ancient Mediterranean Religion*, E. Orlin, ed.

Reviews

In preparation:

- E. Almagor and J. Skinner, *Ancient Ethnography: New Approaches* (2015) for *Orbis Terrarum International Journal for the Historical Geography of the Ancient World*
- E. Kistler, B. Öhlinger, M. Mohr and M. Hoernes, eds., *Sanctuaries and the Power of Consumption. Networking and the formation of elites in the archaic western Mediterranean World* (2015) for *Ancient History Bulletin*
- 2017 Review of I. Nielsen, *Housing the Chosen: The Architectural Context of Mystery Groups and Religious Associations in the Ancient World* (2014), *American Journal of Archaeology* 121.2 (forthcoming)
- 2016 Review of N. Arrington, *Ashes, Image, and Memories: The Presence of the War Dead in Fifth-Century Athens* (2014), *The Art Bulletin* (September)
- Review, Cruccas, *Gli dei senza nome*, *Journal of Hellenic Studies*
- 2008 *BMCR* 2008.07.33: Review of E. Kyriakidis, *The Archaeology of Ritual*
- 2008 *Classical Bulletin* 84: 111-113, Review of F. Naiden, *Ancient Supplication*

Selected Papers

- 2018 “Ritual, Gaming, and the Cognitive Science of Multimodal Communication”, in International Conference on Multimodal Communication, Hunan Normal University, Changsha, China, November 1-3
 “Playing the Argonauts: pedagogical pathways through creation and engagement in a virtual sea”, in Digital Approaches to Teaching the Ancient Mediterranean, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York, Oct 26
 “Samothracian Mysteries in the Second century: A cosmological turn in an archaeological context”, in Les “Mystères” au IIe siècle de notre ère: Un ‘Mysteric Turn’? Paris, September 20-22
 “Ritual networks and risk reduction in the Hellenistic Mediterranean”, in Dangerous Elements: Strategies of Mastering Maritime Risks in Antiquity and the Early Modern Age, Trier, May 3-5
 “Metallurgy between Myth and Production: cognized and operational craft in the Northeastern Aegean” in the panel Contextualizing craftsmanship in the classical world: an “economic” sphere?, International Association for Classical Archaeology, Cologne/Bonn, May 22-26
 “Gaming with the Gods: a crowd sourcing approach to modeling agency in the Samothracian sea” in the panel Gods in our Machines? Critical Approaches to Big Data and Ancient Religion, co-organized with Megan Daniels, AIA, Boston, January 4-7
- 2017 “Starry caves and social change: Mithraism in Late Antique Rome”, Rewiring Romans: Medieval liturgies as tools for Transformation, Instituto di Norvegia in Roma, June 15-17
 “Samothracian Networks: Maritime risk and Ritual Promises in the ancient Mediterranean”, Complexity Science Hub Vienna, June 19-20
 “Human seascapes and ritual action: modeling the maritime mobilities of the Great Gods of Samothrace”, European Association of Archaeology, Maastricht (August 30 – September 3)
 “Seafaring and the Sacred: Maritime networks and the Mysteries of the Great Gods of Samothrace”, Brinkley Lecture, College of William & Mary, October 2017
 “Ritual, ecology and comparison: from Indonesia to the Aegean”, in the panel “Pacific Landscapes through the Holocene”, American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington DC (November 29- December 3)
- 2016 “Structure and Agency in an Ancient Sea: Epigraphy, Argonauts and Gaming for the Great Gods of Samothrace”, in Entangled, Transnational and Transcultural Approaches to the Liminal Past, World Archaeological Congress, Kyoto Japan
 “Samothracian Networks: Economic Prospects and Ritual Promises in the Hellenistic Mediterranean,” paper in the conference co-organized with Billie Jean Collins, *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Palermo, Sicily
 “Mystery Gods at the Circus Maximus: The Samothracian Rites in Rome”, *Symposium Peregrinum*, Tarquinia, Italy
 “Testing the Gods, Saving your Ship,” paper in the panel co-organized with Amelia Brown, University of Queensland, Sailing with the Gods: The Archaeology of Ancient Mediterranean Maritime Religion. Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, San Francisco.
- 2014 “Beyond Braudel: GIS Technology and a Samothracian Seascape,” AIA Annual Conference, Chicago
 “Hermes, Kyllene, Samothrace and the Sea,” Tracking Hermes: Conference at UVA
 “Samothracian networks: GIS, epigraphy and connectivity at the Greek gateway to the Black Sea,” European Association of Archaeologists, Istanbul
- 2013 “Embodying Samothrace: the mountain and the sea,” Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology Visiting Scholar Conference, SUNY Buffalo
- 2012 “Mapping the Mysteries: GIS as a pedagogical aid in the history of Religions,” CAMWS, Baton Rouge
 “Broken Data, Abstract Models: a digital response to the Samothracian Mysteries,” SAMR conference, Brown University
- 2011 “Modeling the mysteries: GIS technology, network models, and the cult of the Great Gods of Samothrace,” Digital Classicist Seminar Series, King’s College London
 “More than pilgrimage: Samothrace, GIS, and Safety at Sea,” Society for Biblical Literature conference, San Francisco
 “Mystery gods at the Circus Maximus: Samothracian rites at Rome,” CAMWS, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- 2010 “From Dardanus to the Philosophers: Initiation and Imagination in Roman Samothrace,” Walsh Lecture, University of Chicago
- 2005 “Iron, invention and cosmology: Greek reflections on the technological past,” Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, Exeter, England

Graduate advising, Ph.D. dissertations

- 2018 Jones, Kira. *Domitian and Minerva at Rome: Iconography and Divine Sanction in the Eternal City*. Art History: expected defense 2018
- 2017 Moore, Eric. *Claiming Places: Reading Acts of the Apostle as a Colonizing Narrative*. Religion, New Testament.
- 2013 Ruiz, Gilberto Alfonso. *Temple Commerce and John 2:13-22*. Religion and Biblical Studies
- 2008 Palinkas, Jennifer. *Eleusinian Gateways: Entrances to the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis and the City Eleusinion in Athens*. Art History.

Emory Service

- 2017-18 Chair, Humanities Subcommittee, University Research Committee
- 2017 Data Science Research and Education at Emory University, Academic Learning Community Dean’s Achievement Scholars review
- 2014-16 Member, University Senate and co-chair of Undergraduate Education working group, Strategic Plan
- 2013 Docent training, Carlos Museum: Pyrotechnology and Bronze Age
- 2012 Leader, Carlos Museum Reading Group: Prometheus Bound
- 2011 Leader, Carlos Museum Reading Group: Theogony
- 2011 Leader, Great Works Series, Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry: Odyssey
- 2010-13 Chair, Humanities Subcommittee, University Research Committee
- 2010 “Heroes, Horses, and Hoplite of Unusual Size” lecture in support of the museum’s celebration of the anniversary of Marathon
- 2008-10 Member, Humanities Subcommittee, URC
- 2007-13 Director, Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies
- 2001-17 Local chapter representative, Archaeological Institute of America

Professional Activity

- 2018 Co-Organizer with Megan Daniels, *Gods in Our Machines? Critical Approaches to Big Data and Ancient Religion*, AIA annual meeting
- 2017 Co-Organizer with Megan Daniels, *God the Anthropologist: text, material and theory in the study of ancient religion*, AIA annual meeting
- 2017-20 Member, Committee on Admissions and Fellowships, American School of Classical Studies
- 2016-18 President, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions
- 2015-16 Co-Organizer with Billie Jean Collins, *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean*, international conference in Palermo, Sicily
- 2013 Organizer, *Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice*, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions conference at Emory University
- 2013-17 Chair, CAMWS Excavations and Field School Award Committee
- 2012-13 CAMWS committee on resolutions
- 2012 Association of Ancient Historians, chaired panel, *Historical Geographic Information Systems: Questions and Applications* at UNC and Duke
- 2007-11 Member, Committee on Admissions and Fellowships, American School of Classical Studies
- 2006 Organizer, *Ancient Song in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Ritual, Performance, and History*, conference at Emory University
- 2002 Organizer, *Conference on the Mysteries: Ancient Mystery Religions and the Anthropology of Secrecy*, at Emory University

Selected Academic Awards

- 2016-17 Residential Scholar, University Indian Ruins, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson
- 2013-14 Villa Scholar, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
- 2010-11 Fellow, Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University

2007-10 Winship Distinguished Associate Research Professorship, Emory University
2006-07 Margot Tytus Fellowship, University of Cincinnati
University Research Center grant, Emory University
2003 NEH Summer Seminar, "Roman Religion in its Cultural Context"
2000-01 Junior Fellow, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington DC
1998-99 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Albright Institute, Jerusalem
1998 American Academy in Rome, Summer Program in Archaeology
1997 George A. Barton Fellowship, Albright Institute, Jerusalem
1996-9 Jacob Hirsch Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies, Athens