

NICHOLAS G. BLACKWELL

Department of Classical Studies, Ballantine Hall 616
Indiana University, 1020 E. 3rd Street, Bloomington, IN 47405
niblackw@indiana.edu / Ballantine Hall 657 / 812-855-7337

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Indiana University, Bloomington

Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, 2019–
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, 2019–
Schrader Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, 2017–2019

North Carolina State University

Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar, Department of History, 2015–2017

American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Greece)

Assistant Director, 2012–2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Archaeology and material culture of ancient Greece; the Aegean Bronze Age; Ancient technology and craftsmanship (e.g., stone working, metallurgy, sculpture, and masonry); Cross-cultural interactions across Greece, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Anatolia; Cypriot archaeology; Experimental archaeology.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2011 Bryn Mawr College, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology
Dissertation: *Middle and Late Bronze Age Metal Tools from the Aegean, Eastern Mediterranean, and Anatolia: Implications for Cultural/Regional Interaction and Craftsmanship*. Chair: James C. Wright
- 2006–07 Regular Member at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- M.A. 2004 Bryn Mawr College, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology
- B.A. 2002 Davidson College, Department of Classics (Honors)
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PUBLICATIONS

**indicates peer reviewed*

Book

In Progress. *Building Mycenae: Palatial Stoneworking and Geopolitical Relations in Late Bronze Age Greece*.

Single-authored articles and chapters

**Forthcoming*. “The Politics of Power at Mycenae: Modifying the Façade of the Treasury of

Atreus,” in *Power & Place in the Prehistoric Aegean & Beyond. A Festschrift to honor James. C. Wright*, edited by S.E. Allen, M.M. Lee, R.A. Smith, and R. Schon. Philadelphia: INSTAP Press.

- *2021. “Ahhiyawa, Hatti, and Diplomacy: Implications of Hittite Misperceptions of the Mycenaean World,” *Hesperia* 90.2, 191–231.
- *2020. “Exploring Late Bronze Age Stoneworking Connections through Metal Tools: Evidence from Crete, Mainland Greece, and Cyprus” in *ASHLAR: Exploring the Materiality of Cut-Stone Masonry in the Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age (Aegis 17)*, edited by M. Devolder and I. Kreimerman, 215–240. Louvain-la-Neuve: Presses universitaires de Louvain.
- *2020. “Tools” in *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World*, edited by I.S. Lemos and A. Kotsonas, 523–537. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- *2018. “Contextualizing Mycenaean Hoards: Metal Control on the Greek Mainland at the End of the Bronze Age,” *American Journal of Archaeology* 122.4, 509–539.
- *2018. “Experimental Stone-Cutting with the Mycenaean Pendulum Saw,” *Antiquity* 92.361: 217–232.
- *2014. “Making the Lion Gate Relief at Mycenae: Tool Marks and Foreign Influence,” *American Journal of Archaeology* 118.3, 451–488.
- *2010. “Mortuary Variability at Salamis (Cyprus): Relationships between and within the Royal Necropolis and the Cellarka Cemetery,” *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 23.2, 143–167.

Co-authored articles and chapters

- **Forthcoming*. Kuruçayırılı, E., J.W. Lehner, **N.G. Blackwell**, N. Hirschfeld, M. Jansen, S.A. Martin, and D. Langis-Barsetti. “Recent Research on the Cape Gelidonya Metal Cargo: New Insight into Existing Questions,” in *Western Anatolia in the Second Millennium BCE (WANAT): Recent Developments and Future Prospects*, edited by C. Roosevelt, M. Pieniżek, and P. Pavúk. Istanbul: Koç University Press.
- *2023. Morton, J., **N.G. Blackwell**, and K. Mahoney. “Sacrificial Ritual and the Palace of Nestor: A Reanalysis of the Ta Tablets,” *American Journal of Archaeology* 127.2, 167–187.
- *2021 [2022]. **Blackwell, N.G.** and T.G. Palaima. “Further Discussion of *Pa-sa-ro* on Pylos Ta 716: Insights from the Agia Triada Sarcophagus,” *Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici. Nuova Serie* 7, 21–37.
- *2020. Palaima, T.G. and **N.G. Blackwell**. “Pylos Ta 716 and Mycenaean Ritual Paraphernalia: A Reconsideration,” *Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici. Nuova Serie* 6, 67–95.
- 2017. Vitale, S., **N.G. Blackwell**, and C. McNamee. “Kos, Italy, and Europe during the Mycenaean Period: evidence for a special connection,” in *ΕΣΕΡΟΣ/HESPEROS. The Aegean Seen from the West. Proceedings of the 16th International Aegean Conference, University of Ioannina, Department of History and Archaeology, Unit of Archaeology and Art History, 18-21 May 2016 (Aegaeum 41)*, edited by M. Fotiadis, R. Laffineur, Y. Lolos, and A. Vlachopoulos, 243–252. Liège and Austin.
- *2017. Vitale, S., T. Marketou, C. McNamee, E. Ballan, **N.G. Blackwell**, I. Iliopoulos, C. Mantello, J.E.

Morrison, K. Moulo, I. Moutafi, K.-S. Passa, and E. Vika. "The Serraglio, Eleona, and Langada Archaeological Project (SELAP): Report on the Results of the 2011-2015 Study Seasons," *ASAtene* XCIV, serie III, 16 (2016), 225–285.

- *2011. **Blackwell, N.G.** and J.A. Johnson. "Exploring Sacred Space: GIS Applications for Analyzing the Athienou-Malloura Sanctuary," in *Crossroads and Boundaries: The Archaeology of the Past and Present in the Malloura Valley, Cyprus*, edited by M. K. Toumazou, P. N. Kardulias, and D. B. Counts, 291–302. Boston, MA: American Schools of Oriental Research.

Catalog Entry

- **Forthcoming*. "Cycladic Female Figure." Classical Art from the North Carolina Museum of Art (Raleigh, N.C.).

Book Reviews

2023. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. Y. Boswinkel, *Labouring with large stones: a study into the investment and impact of construction projects on Mycenaean communities in Late Bronze Age Greece*. (Leiden, 2021). <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2023/2023.01.42>
2018. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. Kiriati, E. and C. Knappett (eds.), *Human mobility and technological transfer in the prehistoric Mediterranean. British School at Athens studies in Greek antiquity*. (New York, 2016). <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2018/2018-03-14.html>
2015. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 74.1, 162–165. A.B. Knapp, *The Archaeology of Cyprus: From the Earliest Prehistory through the Bronze Age*. (Cambridge, 2013).
2014. *American Journal of Archaeology*. 118.2 (April 2014). V. Kassianidou and G. Pappasavvas (eds.), *Eastern Mediterranean Metallurgy in the Second Millennium BC. A conference in honour of James D. Muhly, Nicosia, 10th-11th October 2009*. (Oxford, 2012).
2012. *American Journal of Archaeology* 116.4. P.C. Betancourt and S. C. Ferrence (eds.), *Metallurgy: Understanding How, Learning Why – Studies in Honor of James D. Muhly* (Philadelphia, 2011).
2009. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009.02.18, I. Tzachili (ed.), *Aegean Metallurgy in the Bronze Age: Proceedings of an International Symposium Held at the University of Crete, Rethymon, Greece, on November 19-21, 2004* (Athens, 2008). <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2009/2009-02-18.html>

Research highlighted in magazines and newsletters

2023. Research on Mycenaean-Hittite diplomatic relations highlighted in the September/October 2023 issue of *Archaeology* magazine: "Bronze Age Power Players" by Eric Powell.
2018. Research on the Mycenaean pendulum saw highlighted in the April 28, 2018 issue of [*Science News Magazine*](#): "Making the cut: Swinging blade slices into Bronze Age Mystery."
- 2012/2013. "Metal Implements and Tool Marks from the Levantine Second Millennium BC," *Albright News* 17 (October 2012), 8.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND HONORS

2017- Indiana University, Bloomington

- Career Connections Fellowship Program for Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences (2023)
- David and Cheryl Morley Early Career Award for Outstanding Teaching, College of Arts and Sciences (2022)
- Trustees Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences (2020)
- Courses taught:
 - CLAS-C 205: Classical Mythology
 - CLAS-C 206: Classical Art & Archaeology
 - CLAS-C 211: Ancient Athletics: Greeks, Romans, and Us
 - CLAS-C 212: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
 - CLAS-C 395/503: Greek Sanctuaries: Archaeology of Religious Space
 - CLAS-C 395/503: Ancient Mediterranean Seafaring (Spring 2024)
 - CLAS-C 399/499: Reading for Honors
 - CLAS-C 412/512: Art & Archaeology of the Aegean
 - CLAS-C 413/513: Art & Archaeology of Greece (post-Bronze Age)
 - CLAS-C 420/503: Topography and Monuments of Athens
 - CLAS-X490: Individual Reading in Classics

- 2015-2017 NC State University
- *History 207-001*: Ancient Mediterranean World; *History 400/500*: Civilizations of the Ancient Near East; *History 403/503*: Ancient Greek Civilization
- 2012-2015 American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA)
- Trip leader and lecturer for the ASCSA's Regular Program and Summer Sessions
- Summer 2008 College Year in Athens (CYA)
- Field School Director for Mitrou Archaeological Project (East Locris, Greece)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD AND MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

- 2019– *Cape Gelidonya Metal Cargo Project* (Bodrum, Turkey) Director: Nicolle Hirschfeld
Responsible for studying and publishing the metal tools
- 2016–2018 Research consultant for the North Carolina Museum of Art's collection of Cypriot and Cycladic objects (pottery, terracotta figurines, stone sculpture)
- 2015–present *Experimenting with Mycenaean Tools and Stone Cutting Techniques*
Experimental archaeological project. I have cast several true tin-bronze saws and have started testing various Mycenaean stone-cutting methods.
- 2005–present *Mitrou Archaeological Project (Greece)*
Staff member: responsible for studying and publishing the metal finds (2011-present)
Director of the Basic Field School and assistant area supervisor (2008)
Area Supervisor (2005, 2007)
- 2011–present *Serraglio, Eleona, and Langada Archaeological Project (Kos, Greece)*

- Expert on bronze tools: responsible for re-publishing the bronze tools from the Mycenaean finds at Serraglio, Eleona, and Langada on Kos (Oct. 2011, Nov. 2013)
- 2000–2011 *Athienou Archaeological Project (Cyprus)*
Area supervisor (2002, 2004-2005, 2007, 2011); Study season participant (2003); Undergraduate field school student (2001); Volunteer (2000)
- April 2007 *Corinth Excavations, ASCSA training session (Greece)*
Area supervisor
- Summer 2006 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Curatorial Internship:
Catalogued, photographed and re-organized the Cypriot materials in the Ella Riegel Memorial Museum at Bryn Mawr College.
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PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Invited Lectures/presentations

- “*Building Mycenae: The Strategic Use of Memory and Wonder during the Palatial Period,*”
DePauw University, Classical Studies lecture; November 8, 2023
- “Stoneworking (and Political?) Connections in Mycenaean Greece: Evidence from the Argolid and Boeotia,” University of Toronto, Mediterranean Archaeology Collaborative Specialization (MACS) speaker series, March 30, 2023.
- “Implications of Metal Agricultural Implements from Bronze Age Cyprus and the Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck,” Symposium: Thirty Years at Athienou: Celebrating Michael K. Toumazou and His Impact on Cypriot Archaeology, Davidson College. October 16, 2021.
- “Mycenae, Hatti, and the Rise and Fall of Ahhiyawa,” University of Pisa. Via ZOOM. October 1, 2021.
- “Revisiting Alan Wace’s work on the chronology of Mycenae’s monuments through a stone working Perspective.” International workshop: “Mycenae: Centennial celebration of Alan Wace’s Work,” sponsored by the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge, UK. Via ZOOM. Sept. 30, 2021.
- “The Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck: Old Ship, New Methods,” INA Zoom Webinar. May 26, 2021
N. Hirschfeld, J. Lehner, E. Kuruçayırılı, N. **Blackwell**, S. Martin, L. Bowland, D. Langis-Barsetti.
- “International Diplomacy in the Late Bronze Age: Exploring Hittite, Egyptian, and Mycenaean Connections,” Tufts University; Department of Classics. Via ZOOM. March 24, 2021.
- “A Relative Chronology of Late 14th and 13th-Century Monuments at Mycenae: A Stoneworking Perspective,” New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium. Via ZOOM. March 1, 2021.
- “Using Experimental Archaeology & 3D Modeling to Investigate Monuments from Mycenae,” Friends of Greek Art Public Lecture at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, N.C. October 13, 2019.
- “Assessing Artisan Mobility versus Shared Technology in Mycenaean Stone Working: Regional

- Implications for the Use of the Pendulum Saw and its Modification,” International Workshop at the British School at Athens. Workshop title: “Craftspeople Mobility in the Archaeological, Historical and Ethnographic Record – A Comparative Perspective from the Aegean,” September 27-29, 2019.
- “Tool Traditions and Ashlar Masonry in Late Bronze Age Cyprus and Mycenaean Greece,”
Ashlar: Exploring the Materiality of Cut Stone Masonry in the Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age: International workshop organized by AegIS (UCLouvain-INCAL-CEMA). Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. March 9, 2018.
- “Displaying Power at Mycenae: New Analysis of the Treasury of Atreus,”
Conference in honor of James C. Wright. Bryn Mawr College. March 3, 2018.
- "Monumental Construction at Mycenae: Implications of Late Bronze Age Stone Working,"
AIA public lecture; Milwaukee local AIA society hosted at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. February 11, 2018.
- Understanding the Collapse: Reassessing the Role of Metallurgy, Trade, and the Economy at the End of the Mediterranean Bronze Age" AIA public lecture; Central Indiana society hosted at Purdue University. November 14, 2017.
- “Construction Methods and Political Statements at Mycenae: New Analysis of the Lion Gate Relief and Treasury of Atreus” Haines-Morris Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in Classics; University of Tennessee, Knoxville. January 19, 2017 & Tufts University; Department of Classics. March 9, 2017.
- “Agamemnon’s Masons: Understanding Technological Links Across the Argolid, Boeotia, and Land of Hatti” AIA public lecture; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. February 11, 2016 & Classical Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania. March 3, 2016.
- “The Lion Gate Relief at Mycenae and its Connection to the Hittites,”
Davidson College. Davidson, NC. November 17, 2015.
- “The Collection of Tools in Metal Hoards from the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age,”
University of Zagreb, Croatia. May 7, 2015 (seminar)
- “Regional Connectivity, Technological Exchange and Stone Working in Late Bronze Age Greece,”
University of Zagreb, Croatia. May 6, 2015
- “Competitive and Emulative Mortuary Behavior on Early Iron Age Cyprus,”
The Canadian Institute in Greece (Athens). April 29, 2015
- “Hoarding Metal in the Aegean and Cypriot Late Bronze Age,”
The Norwegian Institute at Athens, Greece. April 30, 2014.
- “Artisan Mobility and Craft Exchange in the Aegean: The Case of the Lion Gate Relief at Mycenae,”
Coe College. Cedar Rapids, IA. April 7, 2014.
- “The date of the Lion Gate relief at Mycenae and a possible reconstruction of its composition,”
Bryn Mawr College. Bryn Mawr, PA. April 5, 2014.

“How the Mycenae Lion Gate Relief Was Made: New Evidence and Implications,”
American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Cotsen Hall Lecture Series. December 12, 2013.

Conference papers and academic presentations

“Evaluating Homogeneity in Mycenaean Palatial Construction: A Stoneworking Perspective,”
Colloquium: The Mycenaean Koine in Context: Disentangling Material Uniformities in the Aegean Late Bronze Age. AIA 125th Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. January 2024.

“New Insights from the Ayia Triadha Sarcophagus: Our First Look at a Mycenaean Sacrificial Headstall,”
N. Blackwell and T. Palaima. AIA 123rd Annual Meeting, Via ZOOM. January 6-8, 2022.

“Recent Research on the Cape Gelidonya Metal Cargo: New Insight into Existing Questions,”
E. Kuruçayırılı, J.W. Lehner, **N.G. Blackwell**, N. Hirschfeld, M. Jansen, S. Martin, and D. Langis-Barsetti. Online Symposium: *Western Anatolia in the Second Millennium BCE (WANAT): Recent Developments and Future Prospects*, 15-16 April 2021.

“Reassessing the bronze objects from the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck in light of recent discoveries,”
N. Blackwell and N. Hirschfeld. AIA 121st Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. January 3, 2020.

“Pylos Ta 716: An Accurate Reading of an Essential Text for Understanding Mycenaean Ritual Practice,”
T. Palaima and **N. Blackwell**. AIA 121st Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. January 4, 2020.

“Viewing the Lion Gate Relief at Mycenae: A 3D Model and New Compositional Observations,”
N. Blackwell and M. Brennan (**POSTER**) AIA 120th Annual Meeting, Poster Session, San Diego, CA. January 4, 2019.

“Remnants of Hittite & Mycenaean Diplomacy: the Lion Gate Relief and Tawagalawa Letter,”
10th International Congress of Hittitology, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. August 28 – September 1, 2017.

“Metal Allotments from the Palace: Tool Sets in Mycenaean Hoards,”
AIA 118th Annual Meeting. Toronto, Canada. January 8, 2017.

“Kos, Italy, and Europe during the Late Mycenaean Period: A Special Connection and Its Significance,”
S. Vitale and **N. Blackwell**. 16th International Aegean Conference: Hesperos: The Aegean seen from the West. University of Ioannina, 18-21 May, 2016.

“The Mycenaean Pendulum Saw: Application, Adaptation, and Reconstruction,”
AIA 117th Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. January 7, 2016.

“Metal Consumption and Production at Mitrou: Diachronic Trends from the Early Helladic through the Proto-Geometric Periods”
N. Blackwell and K. O’Neill. AIA 115th Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. January 4, 2014.

RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Overseas Conference Grant, Office of Vice President for International Affairs, Indiana University (2019)

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Runner-Up Poster Award at the 2019 AIA Annual Meeting (with Matthew Brennan) (2019)

Research grant from the Institute for the Study of Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP); \$3000 grant for *Experimenting with Mycenaean Tools and Stone Cutting Techniques* (2015)

Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Junior Research Fellowship. W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem (Spring 2012)

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Harriet and Leon Pomerance Fellowship (Fall 2011)

Mrs. Giles Whiting Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities, Bryn Mawr College (2009-2011)

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multi-Country Research Fellowship. Funding for dissertation research in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey (2008-2009)

The Danielle Parks Memorial Fellowship: Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (2008)

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Colburn Fellowship, *Declined* (2008-2009)

NEH Curatorial Internship at Bryn Mawr College's Ella Riegel Memorial Museum (2006)

W. Kendrick Pritchett Award in Classics, Davidson College (2002)

SERVICE

Service at Indiana University (2017-)

Director of Undergraduate Studies (Fall 2020-); Supervisor for CLAS-C209, Medical Terms from Greek & Latin (2019-Fall 2021; Fall 2022-); Salary Committee (2019-2020); Undergraduate Committee (2017-); Job Search Committee (2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2021-2022); Ancient Studies, Advisory Board (Fall 2020-)

Advising for senior honors theses:

- C. Armstrong, "Strength in Variation: Paired Animals and the Iconography of Power during the Late Bronze Age" (2021-2022; Art History Honors Thesis)
- A. Relue, "The Impact of Neopalatial Crete on Early Mycenaean Society" (2019-2020)
- E. Roach, "Romano-British Infant Burials in Domestic Contexts" (2019)

External M.A. committee member

- M. McLaughlin (Comparative Literature, IU-B) "Hold your Horses!: Animal Mastery and Overseas Exploration in Iron Age Greek Art and Homer's *Odyssey*"

Other Professional Service

Managing Committee member, American School of Classical Studies at Athens (representative for Indiana University) (2019-); elected to the Committee on Committees (2020-2022)

Vice President, Central Indiana Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (2020-)

Manuscript referee for: *AJA* (2020, 2019, 2017, 2016); *Hesperia* (2020); *SMEA. N.S.* (2022); *ASAtene* (2022); *Oxford Bibliographies* (2023); *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean* (2020); *BASOR* (2014); Grant Reviewer for the National Science Center Poland (Spring 2019)