

Networks, Migrations, and the Enigma of the Hyksos

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The Subject: The Late Bronze Age is well-known for its so-called 'internationalism', with heightened interactions across North Africa, Western Asia, and the Aegean. But how did this 'internationalism' emerge, especially after the rise and fall of several powers, significant climatic disturbances, and population movements across these regions? To explore this question, we will focus on a community located in Egypt's Eastern Delta that appears to have persisted through many of these shifts. This community has been most recently examined by members of the ERC Advanced Grant Project, 'The Enigma of the Hyksos', directed by Manfred Bietak. The various research areas of the project have revealed fresh insights on the community's rulers, its people, their interactions, and the transformation of their culture across the Middle to the early Late Bronze Age. All strongly point to Egypt's growing ties with an emerging complex network that eventually led to the Late Bronze Age's 'internationalism', or, perhaps more accurately, to one of the earliest known periods of 'globalisation' in the world.



The Speaker: Dr. Anna-Latifa Mourad is a historian and archaeologist exploring the links between cultural encounters and socio-cultural transformations. Her research has focussed on relations between ancient Egypt and the Levant in the late Third and Second Millennia BCE. In 2014, she was awarded a PhD from Macquarie University for her research on the 'Rise of the Hyksos' and Egyptian-Levantine relations from the Middle Kingdom to the early Second Intermediate Period. She later joined the ERC Advanced Grant project, *The Enigma of the Hyksos*, directed by Manfred Bietak at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2017–2020), with her postdoctoral fellowship examining *Multidirectional Cultural Interference Studies* and the influences of Egyptian-Near Eastern relations on Egyptian culture and society. Its research findings have been recently published in a new monograph on Transforming Egypt into the New Kingdom. This led her to question how the Egyptians negotiated and maintained commercial and diplomatic relations in the period leading up to the so-called 'International Age', an inquiry which culminated in her Macquarie University Research Fellowship for her current project on *The Ties that Bind: Negotiating Foreign Relations in the Second Millennium BCE* (2019–2022).

3.00 pm Thursday 20 October, 2022

Australian Institute of Archaeology, Terrace Way, Macleod
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Parking in Ernest Jones Drive)

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