

## **PROFESSOR MSO ALAN WALMSLEY, PHD MA (HONS), FSA**

Educated as an archaeologist and historian, my research and teaching centres on the archaeology, art, architecture, and numismatics of the Islamic World. My research identifies social and economic trends in Syria-Palestine in late antique and early medieval times as seen in the material record and textual sources. My field work in the Middle East spans 35 years, leading five major projects. I have built up lasting connections with universities and scholars in the region as well as internationally, and have raised substantial funds to support research and students. Since 2002, I have been investigating the changing urban landscape of Islamic Jarash in Jordan, a period once cast aside to expose Roman and Christian remains. I study and teach new ways of comprehending cultural movements in Islamic society through the application of critical (especially post-colonial) approaches to the analysis of visual culture. In Copenhagen, I head a research cluster under the label of MIRI: *Materiality in Islam Research Initiative* (see: [MIRI.ku.dk](http://MIRI.ku.dk)).

### **Personal Details**

**Birth:** 27 May 1952; Auckland, New Zealand.

**Citizenship:** New Zealand and British by birth, Australian by naturalization.

**Marital:** Divorced. Two children: Emily, born 5 May 1993; Toby, born 4 October 1996.

**Residency:** Denmark (from 2002)

### **Employment**

**Professor mso, Islamic Archaeology and Art;** Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, 2009-present

**Associate Professor in Islamic Archaeology and Art;** Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, 2002-2009

**Australian Research Council Research Fellow;** Universities of Sydney and of Western Australia, 1996-2001

**Research Associate;** Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney, 1994-1996

**Paternity leave** (unpaid), 1993-1994

**Assistant Director;** Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, University of Sydney, 1992

**Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow;** Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney, 1987-1991

**Tutor** in Near Eastern Archaeology; Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney, 1980-1982

**Tutor** (fractional) in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, 1976-1977

### **Education**

1988 PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology/Semitic Studies, University of Sydney, Australia

1980 Pre-doctoral courses in Arabic Language and Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Sydney

1977 Master of Arts (Hons) in Classics (Ancient History major) and Anthropology (Archaeology major), University of Auckland, New Zealand

1975 Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Anthropology, University of Auckland

### **Distinctions, Honours, Awards**

Scientific Committee, International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, 2012-present

The C.L. David Foundation and Collection, Copenhagen; major five-year award, Islamic Jarash Project (research and heritage activities), Jordan, February 2009-January 2014

The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters; Foreign Member, 2009-present

The Society of Antiquaries of London; Fellow, 2008-present

Dumbarton Oaks; Fellow in Byzantine Studies & Dumbarton Oaks Visiting Fellow at Harvard University, Washington DC/Cambridge MA, 2006-2007

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Jordan; Achievement Award, 2004

Australian Research Council; multiple competitive fellowship and research grant awards (individual and collaborative), 1987-2001

### **Projects and Management (major positions)**

**Research Director, *Materiality in Islam Research Initiative***, University of Copenhagen <[miri.ku.dk](http://miri.ku.dk)> MIRI is a research cluster comprising Danish, European, American, and Middle Eastern scholars that builds an understanding of Islam through visual culture interpretations.

*The Qatar Islamic Archaeology and Heritage Project* (joint UCPH and Qatar Museums Authority); Co-Director and Director of Archaeology, 2009-2013

Substantial funding from the Qatar Museums Authority for five extended seasons of archaeological, environmental and heritage work on Islamic sites, including at Al Zubarah, in north Qatar (jointly with Ingolf Thuesen)

Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation; two PhD studentships, 2007-2010

*Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project*, Jordan (UCPH – Department of Antiquities partnership); Founding Director, 2002-2014

*Eighth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan*; Convenor, 2001

Substantial external and internal funding from: the Packard Humanities Institute, USA; Arab Bank Australia; University of Sydney Sesquicentenary Fund

*Zeugma Initial Emergency Rescue Team, Turkey*; Head of Fieldwork, 2000

External funding from the Packard Humanities Institute, USA

*An Archaeological Evaluation of Gharandal in Jordan* (University of Sydney – Department of Antiquities partnership); Director, 1996-1998

Three-year Large Research Grant (competitive award), Australian Research Council

*Numismatics, the Economy, and the Role of the State in the Late Antique and Early Islamic Periods: New Evidence from Palestine and Arabia*; Research Director

Small Research Grant, Australian Research Council, 1997-1998

*Jerash International Project, Jordan*; Team Leader, Australian Unit, 1982-1983

At the invitation of and funded by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan

*The Joint Sydney-Wooster Expedition to Pella in Jordan*; Co-director 1987-1993, Field Director 1980-1982

#### **Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Supervision/examination (current)**

Mentor of a postdoctoral fellow

Supervising three doctoral and two master degree candidates

Member, Dissertation Reading Committee, Stanford University

#### **Editorial and Review (current)**

1. Member, Scientific Committee, Scienze dell' Antichità, Sapienza Università di Roma
2. Reviewer for *Levant* and *Council for British Research in the Levant Monographs*
3. Reviewer for *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
4. Reviewer for the *Journal of Social Archaeology*
5. Reviewer for *GeoJournal*
6. Reviewer for *Medieval Archaeology*
7. International Reader, Australian Research Council
8. Referee, Israel Science Foundation Grants Program
9. Assessor, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

#### **University Administration (summary)**

Various committee positions including Chair, Scientific Resources Committee (2006); Faculty PhD committee (2005-2006); Chair, PhD examination committee (2003-2004); departmental teaching committee; member, IT committee (2005); member, Bibliometrigruppe, Forsknings og Innovationsstyrelsen – Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (2008); and Board member, the Danish Ph.D. School in Archaeology. Comprehensive planning, organisational and budget responsibilities at university level and in the field as director of the Islamic Jarash Project (since 2002) and Director of Archaeology, The Qatar Islamic Archaeology and Heritage Project (since 2008). Research Fellows' representative (by election), University Research Committee, University of Sydney (1997-1999).

**Ten Representative Publications**

- 2012 ‘Regional Exchange and the Role of the Shop in Byzantine and Early Islamic Syria-Palestine: An Archaeological View’. In C. Morrisson (ed.), *Trade and Markets in Byzantium*, 311-330. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Symposia and Colloquia).
- 2011 ‘Trends in the Urban History of Eastern Palaestina Secunda during the Late Antique - Early Islamic Transition’. In A. Borrut, D. Muriel, A. Papaconstantinou, D. Pieri & J-P. Sodini (eds.), *Le Proche-Orient de Justinien aux Abbassides: peuplement et dynamiques spatiales: Actes du colloque “Continuités de l’occupation entre les périodes byzantine et abbasside au Proche-Orient, VIIe-IXe siècles, Paris, 18-20 octobre 2007”*, 271-84. Turnhout: Brepols.
- 2010 ‘Coinage and the Economy of Syria-Palestine in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries’. In J.F. Haldon (ed.), *Money, Power and Politics in Early Islamic Syria: a review of current debates*, 21-44. Farnham: Ashgate.
- 2010 With R.H. Barnes and P. Macumber, ‘Al-Zubarah and its Hinterland, North Qatar: Excavations and survey, spring 2009’. *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 40: 55-68.
- 2008 ‘The Middle Islamic and Crusader Periods’. In R. Adams (ed.), *Jordan: an archaeological reader*, 495-537. London: Equinox (revised edition of *The Archaeology of Jordan*, 2001).
- 2008 ‘Households at Pella, Jordan: the domestic destruction deposits of the mid-eighth century’. In L. Lavan, E. Swift & T. Putzeys (eds), *Objects in Context, Objects in Use. Material Spatiality in Late Antiquity*, 239-72. Late Antique Archaeology, 5. Leiden: Brill.
- 2008 ‘Economic Developments and the Nature of Settlement in the Towns and Countryside of the Levant, ca. 565-800 CE’. *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, vol. 61, 319-52.
- 2007 With S. McPhillips, ‘Fahl during the Early Mamluk Period: archaeological perspectives’. *Mamluk Studies Review* 11.1: 119-56.
- 2005 With K. Damgaard, ‘The Umayyad Congregational Mosque of Jarash in Jordan and its Relationship to Early Mosques’. *Antiquity* 79: 362-78.
- 2004 ‘Archaeology and Islamic Studies: the development of a relationship’. In K. von Folsach, H. Thrane, and I. Thuesen (eds), *From Handaxe to Khan: essays presented to Peder Mortensen on the occasion of his 70th birthday*, 317-29. Århus: Aarhus University Press.

**Research monograph**

- 2007 *Early Islamic Syria: an archaeological assessment*. London: Duckworth.

This book presents a new interpretation of social and economic developments in Syria-Palestine shortly before and for two centuries after the Islamic expansion into the region (around the later 6th to the early 9th century AD). Drawing extensively on archaeological evidence, the study challenges conventional explanations for social change in the period, and argues for considerable cultural and economic continuity.

**Invited presentations (selection)**

- 2012 *Invited paper*. ‘Building and rebuilding early Islamic Jarash: change and transformation of an urban community’. Colloquium on the Archaeology of the Byzantine and Umayyad Levant, organized by Bryan Ward-Perkins. Oxford, Trinity College, 4 February.
- 2011 *Invited Paper*. ‘Rewriting an Urban Landscape: Christianity and the transformation of the city in Syria-Palestine’. International workshop invitation, *The Transformation of Ancient Spaces in Late Antiquity* (Excellenzcluster 264 TOPOI – The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations). Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 10-11 November.
- 2009 *Lecture Invitation*. ‘Amman Citadel, Mushatta, and the Making of Legends’. *The 21st Annual Crystal Bennett Memorial Lecture*. London, British Museum, Council for British Research in the Levant and The Palestine Exploration Society, 6 October.
- 2008 *Opening Keynote address*. ‘Reframing the reading of early Islamic material and visual cultures: archaeology as a catalyst’. *Historians of Islamic Art Association, Biennial Symposium I* (by invitation). University of Pennsylvania, 16-18 October.
- 2008 *Invited Paper*. Regional exchange and the role of the shop in Byzantine and early Islamic Syria-Palestine: an archaeological view. *Trade and Markets in Byzantium*. Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Spring Symposium, Washington DC, 2-4 May.

- 2007 *Invited Paper*. Dirhams as circulating currency in southern Bilād al-Shām in the first Islamic centuries. *Kufic Coins, Damascus 2007. Symposium on Islamic Numismatics, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> century*. Danish Institute, Damascus, 5-7 November.
- 2007 *Invited Paper*. Visualizing the Early Islamic City: new archaeological discoveries at Jarash in Jordan. *Nouvelles données sur l'époque Umayyade: histoire et archéologie*. École pratique des Hautes Études/Sorbonne, Paris, 26 October.
- 2007 *Invited Paper*. Trends in the urban history of eastern *palaestina secunda* during the late antique – early Islamic transition: documenting and explaining continuities and discontinuities in north Jordan in the post-classical period. *Continuités de l'occupation entre les périodes byzantine et abbasside au Proche-Orient (vii<sup>e</sup>-ix<sup>e</sup> siècles), colloque international*. Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris, 18-20 Oct.
- 2007 *Invited Paper*. 'Coinage and the economy of Syria-Palestine in the seventh and eighth centuries CE'. *Money, exchange and the economy in the first century of Islam*. University of Princeton, 20-21 April.
- 2007 *Invited Paper*. 'Economy, society and the transformation of eighth century Syria-Palestine: some archaeological observations'. *Humanities Center Medieval Studies Seminar*. (Dumbarton Oaks Visiting Fellow), Harvard University, 9 April.
- 2007 *Invited Paper*. 'Economy and Society in 7th and 8th-century Syria: recent archaeological perspectives on continuity and change'. *Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium; The Islamic Art & Artifact Workshop*. University of Chicago, 27 February.
- 2005 *Invited Paper*. 'Mosques – Money – Memory: the placement of mosques and their impact on towns in Early Islamic Bilād al-Shām'. *Islamic Cities in the Classical Age*. The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, 6-7 May.
- 2005 *Invited Paper*. 'Economic Developments and the Nature of Settlement in the Towns and Countryside of the Levant ca. 565-800 CE'. *Urban and Rural Settlement in Anatolia and the Levant, 500-1000 AD: New Evidence from Archaeology*. Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Spring Symposium, Washington DC, 22-24 April.
- 2005 *Invited Paper*. 'Pella, Jarash, and 'Ammān: Old and New in the Crossing to Arabia, ca. 550-750 CE'. *Shaping of the Middle East: Cities in Transition*. University of Maryland, 17-18 April.
- 2004 **Opening Keynote Address**. 'Evaluating Cultural Interaction: historical perspectives on conflict, interchange and plurality in pre-modern society'. *The Ninth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan: Cultural Interaction*. Petra, Jordan, 23-27 May.
- 2003 *Invited Paper*. 'Town and Countryside in Seventh Century Syria: archaeological evidence for diverging prosperity'. 'After Rome', *Aspects of the History and Archaeology of the Fifth to Seventh Centuries*. Classics and Modern History seminar series, University of Oxford, 22 May.

#### **Organisation of International conferences (Since 2002)**

- 2012 *Eighth International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, Warsaw, University of Warsaw, 30 April-4 May (Co-organizer, Islamic Archaeology section)
- 2010 *Seventh International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, London, British Museum/University College London, 12-16 April (Co-organizer, Islamic Archaeology section)
- 2009 *Climate and Ancient Societies Conference – Causes and Human Responses*, University of Copenhagen, 21-23 October (Co-Organiser, responsible for Ecological Implications Section)
- 2008 *Sixth International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, Rome, Sapienza – Università di Roma, 5th-10th May (Co-organizer, Islamic Archaeology Section)
- 2007 *Kufic Coins, Damascus 2007: Symposium on Islamic Numismatics, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> century*. Danish Institute, Damascus, 5-7 November. Co-organizer.