

SUZANNE L. DAVIS

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology | 434 South State Street | Ann Arbor, MI 48109

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EDUCATION

- 1998 M.A. History of Art, Advanced Certificate in Conservation, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
- Graduate level conservation internships held as part of this degree:
 - the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
 - the Cloisters Museum, New York
- 1994 B.A., *magna cum laude*, History of Art, Chemistry minor, National Merit Scholar, Florida State University, Tallahassee

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current

- 2001 – present Associate Curator and Head of Conservation, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
- Responsibilities:
- Direct the conservation and preservation programs for the Museum's 100,000+ artifacts and historic building
 - Manage the conservation laboratory and budget
 - Supervise full-time staff, contract conservators, student interns, and volunteers
 - Provide conservation for exhibitions, loans, and archaeological field projects
 - Undertake research and technical studies
 - Write and direct grants to fund conservation in the Museum and for field projects
 - Serve as affiliated faculty for the University of Michigan Museum Studies Program

Previous

- 1998 – 2001 Conservator, Naval Museum and Underwater Archaeology Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 – 1998 Conservation fellow, Smithsonian Institution Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington, DC

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION FIELDWORK

Current

- 2019 – present Jebel Barkal Archaeological Project, Sudan
- 2016 – present Notion Archaeological Survey, Turkey
- 2013 – present International Kurru Archaeological Project, Sudan
- 2001 – present Abydos Middle Cemetery Project, Egypt

Previous

- 2001 – 2012 Tel Kedesh, Israel
- 1997 Mugello Valley Archaeological Project, Poggio Colla, Italy
- 1996 Homol'ovi State Park, Winslow, AZ
- 1995 Sanctuary of the Great Gods, Samothrace, Greece

GRANTS AWARDED

- 2017 African Heritage Initiative (University of Michigan, 6.5K)
- 2016 Antiquities Endowment Fund (United States Agency for International Development) administered by the American Research Center in Egypt (50K)
- 2014 Samuel H. Kress Conservation Fellowship (32K)
- 2012 Antiquities Endowment Fund (United States Agency for International Development) administered by the American Research Center in Egypt (42K)

- 2011 Samuel H. Kress Conservation Fellowship (32K)
 2008 Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Project Support Grant (150K)
 2007 National Endowment for the Humanities Conservation and Stabilization Grant, co-author with Dr. Sharon C. Herbert (300K)
 2004 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, co-author with Dr. Sharon C. Herbert (685K)

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

- 2019 Emberling, Geoff and **Suzanne Davis**, eds. [*Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*](#). Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
 2015 Davis, Suzanne, ed. [*Proceedings of the Objects Specialty Group Sessions, Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation \(21\)*](#). May 29-June 1, 2014. San Francisco, CA. The American Institute for Conservation.

Articles

- In preparation Davis, Suzanne L., Caroline Roberts, and Andrea Poli. "B-72/B-48N 1:1 as an adhesive for use in high ambient temperatures: literature review, lab testing, and observational field study," *Studies in Conservation*.
 2019 Davis, Suzanne L. "Understanding and Improving Gender Equity in Conservation," *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*.
 2019 Ahmed M. Abdel-Azeem, Benjamin W. Held, Janet E. Richards, **Suzanne L. Davis**, Mohamed H. Hussein, and Robert A. Blanchette. "[Assessment of Biodegradation in Ancient Archaeological Wood from the Middle Cemetery at Abydos, Egypt](#)," *PLOS One*.
 2018 Roberts, Caroline, **Suzanne L. Davis**, LeeAnn Barnes Gordon, & Cathy Selvius-DeRoo. "Investigating approaches to the treatment and preservation of a collection of Egyptian limestone funerary stelae," *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*.
 2018 Suzanne L. Davis, Caroline Roberts & Janelle Batkin-Hall. "A comprehensive approach to conservation of ancient graffiti at El Kurru, Sudan," *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*.
 2015 Davis, Suzanne. "Objects of Potential: Commentary on Objects Conservation," in *AIC News*, 40:2. American Institute for Conservation.
 2014 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "CSI Abydos: Conservation and Scientific Investigation of Wood Funerary Artifacts at the Abydos Middle Cemetery," in *Bulletin of the American Research in Egypt*, no. 204 – Summer 2014.
 2013 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology," in *AIC News*, 38:1. American Institute for Conservation.

Book Chapters

- 2019 Davis, Suzanne. "Conservation and Documentation of Graffiti at El-Kurru," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
 2019 Davis, Suzanne and Geoff Emberling. "Graffiti at El-Kurru: The Funerary Temple," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
 2019 Davis, Suzanne. "Meroitic Graffiti in the Great Enclosure at Musawwarat es-Sufra," in *Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile and Beyond*, eds. G. Emberling and S. Davis. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
 2014 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "The Conservation and Preservation of Glass," in C. Smith, Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer.
 2014 Chemello, Claudia and **Suzanne Davis**. "Preservation and Conservation in Dry Desert Conditions," in C. Smith, Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer.
 2013 Davis, Suzanne. "Connecting to Conservation at the Kelsey Museum," in E. Williams, Editor, *The Public Face of Conservation*. Archetype.

- 2013 Williams, Emily and **Suzanne Davis**. "Discussion from Exhibiting Ourselves: Presenting Conservation," in E. Williams, Editor, *The Public Face of Conservation*. Archetype.
- 2012 Davis, Suzanne. "Achieving Preservation and Access in an Academic Museum," in S. Jandl and M. Gold, Editors, *A Handbook for Academic Museums: Exhibitions and Education*. Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc.
- 2012 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology," in post-prints of the Objects Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation.
- 2011 Davis, Suzanne and Claudia Chemello. "Get Your Field Work for Nothin' and Your Sherds for Free: Compensation for Archaeological Field Conservators," in post-prints of the Objects Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation.
- 2010 Jamison, Jamye, **Suzanne Davis**, Claudia Chemello, and Wendy Partridge. "A Dionysian Dilemma: The Conservation and Display of Oversized Pompeian Watercolors at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology," in *The Book and Paper Group Annual (29)*. The American Institute of Conservation.
- 2005 Davis, Kathleen and **Suzanne Davis**. "Appendix on Materials Analysis," in M.C. Root, Editor, *This Fertile Land: Signs + Symbols in the Early Arts of Iran and Iraq*. Pp. 137-138. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.

Book Reviews

- 2017 Davis, Suzanne. "Review of Alice Boccia Paterakis. Volatile Organic Compounds and the Conservation of Inorganic Materials," *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 56(2).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED LECTURES

- 2019 "Community Engagement and Field Archaeology: Ideology, Methodology, and Three Case Studies," annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), May 13 – 17, Uncasville, Connecticut.
- 2019 "Conservation of Severely Deteriorated, Archaeological Painted Wood at Abydos, Egypt," annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), April 12-14, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 2018 "Loves Me like a Rock: Care and Preservation of Ancient Graffiti in a Rock-cut Kushite Temple," annual meeting of the AIC, May 30 – June 2, Houston, Texas.
- 2017 "Conservation and Documentation Strategies for Preserving Ancient Graffiti on a Sandstone Funerary Temple at El Kurru, Sudan," American Institute of Archaeology Annual Meeting, January 5 – 8, Toronto, Canada.
- 2016 "Archaeological Conservation Today: Two Case Studies in North Africa," Randolph College, VA; invited lecturer for Archaeological Institute of America 2016/17
- 2016 "Emergency Preparedness for Academic Museums." Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the AIC, May 14 – 17, Montreal, Canada.
- 2015 "Making Conservation Work Onsite: Practice Problem Solving at El Kurru, Sudan and Abydos, Egypt." Presentation for the General (plenary) Session at the annual meeting of the AIC, May 13 – 16, Miami, FL.
- 2014 "Conservation Research and Technical Study of Funerary Artifacts at Abydos, Egypt," American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 2013 "Beyond the Portfolio." Invited presentation at the annual meeting of the AIC, *The Contemporary in Conservation*, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2012 "Getting what you came for: Conservation and Research at Tel Kedesh, Israel." Presentation at the ASOR annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 "Balancing Preservation and Access at the Kelsey Museum." Presentation at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Regional Conservation Guild (MRCG), Bloomington, IN
- 2012 "So Far Away From Me? Conservation and Archaeology." Presentation at the AIC annual meeting, *Connecting to Conservation: Outreach and Advocacy*, Albuquerque, NM
- 2012 "Learning in Museums: Conservation." Invited lecture at the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Center in Giza, Egypt

- 2011 "Connecting to Conservation at the Kelsey Museum." Presentation at *Playing to the Galleries and Engaging New Audiences: The Public Face of Conservation*, Williamsburg, VA
- 2011 "Get Your Field Work for Nothin' and Your Sherds for Free: Compensation for Archaeological Field Conservators." Presentation at the AIC annual meeting, *Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation*, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 "Beyond the Artifact: Redefining Archaeological Field Conservation at Tel Kedesh, Israel." Presentation at the MRCG annual meeting, *Shifting Sands: Changes in the Perception of Ethics in the Implementation of Conservation Treatments*, Detroit, MI

PUBLIC INTEREST PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, and LECTURES

Exhibitions Curated

- 2019-2020 "[Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile](#)" co-curated with Geoff Emberling. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.
- 2012-2013 "[Conserving Antiquity](#)," co-curated with Claudia Chemello. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.

Kelsey Museum Newsletter articles

- 2019 [Curator Interview for "Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile,"](#) Fall
- 2013 "Symposium on Abydos Conservation," Spring
- 2012 "[Conserving Antiquity Offers Insider's View](#)," Fall
- 2009 "Conserving Maria Barosso's Watercolors," Spring
- 2008 "Tel Kedesh 2008: Conservation Update," Fall
- 2008 "Conservators Prepare for Moving (but not Shaking)," Spring
- 2005 "To Abydos and Back: A Conservator's Travelogue," Spring
- 2003 "Behind the Scenes at the Kelsey: Exhibition Conservation," Spring

Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter articles

- 2014 Davis, Suzanne. "Notes from the Field: El Kurru, Sudan," in *The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter*, XXXIII:1, MRCG.
- 2013 Davis, Suzanne. "Foreign Correspondence: Conservation in the Field," in *The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Newsletter*, XXXII:1, MRCG.

Events, Lectures, and Public Education Activities

- 2018 "Conservation and Archaeology in Ann Arbor, Egypt, and Sudan," for Oberlin University
- 2017 "The Museum Further Afield: Conservation, Art, and Archaeology," University of Michigan Museum Studies brown-bag lecture series
- 2016 "Archaeological conservation today: two cases studies in North Africa," for the Archaeological Institute of American lecture program
- 2014 "Kelsey Museum Conservation in the Field: Recent Work at El Kurru, Sudan, and Abydos, Egypt" as part of the lecture series *FAST: Field Archaeology Series on Thursday*, sponsored by the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (KMA) and the University of Michigan's Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, KMA, December
- 2013 Organizer and moderator of, "Discovery! Conservation and Science in Action at Abydos, Egypt," lightning round presentation and discussion with 6 speakers, KMA, September
- 2012 Curator of, "Conserving Antiquity," special exhibition on conservation, KMA, and primary author for the associated website
- 2012 "Conserving Antiquity: the remarkable story of conservation and stewardship at the Kelsey Museum," opening lecture for the special exhibition *Conserving Antiquity*, KMA, November
- 2012 Associates Exhibition Preview: *Conserving Antiquity*, KMA, November
- 2012 Behind the Scenes Champagne Tour: Conservation, November

- 2008 - 2012 Creator and primary author for, "Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Dig Diaries," a website and notes-from-the-field style blog highlighting conservation and preservation activities at KMA excavations
- 2011 "Conservation in the Museum and in the Field," for *An Evening of Magic: experts speak on the conservation and preservation of art and artifacts*, University of Michigan Museum of Art, March
- 2010 "A Day at the Museum: Conservation," panel discussant for the 2009-2010 University of Michigan academic theme year, *Meaningful Objects: Museums in the Academy*, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, May
- 2010 "Conservation Challenges in the Field: Tel Kedesh," as part of the lecture series *FAST: Field Archaeology Series on Thursday*, sponsored by the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and the University of Michigan's Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, March
- 2010 "Kelsey Museum Conservation: Ann Arbor, Israel, Egypt," University Commons, Ann Arbor, MI, January

CONFERENCE SESSIONS CHAIRED

- 2016 - 2019 "Cultural Heritage Management: Methods, Practices, and Case Studies," Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). Co-chair Glenn Corbett.
- 2013 - 2015 "Conservation and Site Preservation in the Near East," ASOR. Co-chair LeeAnn Barnes Gordon.
- 2014 Objects Specialty Group Sessions (3), Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), San Francisco, CA, May.
- 2013 "Engaging with Allied Fields: Teaching Conservation in Allied Academic Departments and Degree Programs," Annual Meeting of AIC, Indianapolis, IN. Co-chair with Emily Williams.
- 2012 "Archaeological Conservation Strategies in the Near East," Annual Meeting of ASOR, Chicago, IL. Co-chair with LeeAnn Barnes Gordon.
- 2012 "Exhibiting Ourselves: Presenting Conservation," Annual Meeting of AIC, Albuquerque, NM. Co-chair with Emily Williams.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Education & Teaching

- 2003 – present Affiliated faculty for University of Michigan Museum Studies Program (UMMSP)
- Lecture and provide directed reading for undergraduate and graduate classes
 - Advise UMMSP students
 - Supervise UMMSP interns
- 2001 – present Kelsey Museum Collections Team member (for facilitating teaching and learning with Museum collections)
- 2001 – present Invited lecturer for classes in the following departments: Classical Studies, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Studies
- 2006 – present Creator and instructor for a series of workshops on field conservation for graduate students in Classics and Anthropology departments

Committee Service

- 2013/2014 Search Committee Chair, Conservator
- 2001 – present Exhibitions Committee
- 2001 – present Building Committee (environmental control; building hygiene, preservation, and renovation; security; emergency response)
- 2012 Search Committee, Associate Director
- 2012 Search Committee, Office Manager

2006 Search Committee Chair, Conservator
2006 Search Committee, Registrar
2005 Search Committee, Registrar

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017 – 2021 Vice President and Annual Meeting Program Chair, American Institute for Conservation (AIC)
2017 – 2021 Board of Directors, Foundation for Advancement in Conservation
2019 – 2022 Site Preservation Committee, Archaeological Institute of America
2016 – 2017 Program Committee, Annual Meeting of the AIC
2016 – 2018 Outreach Committee Chair, Objects Specialty Group, AIC
2015 – 2016 Chair Emerita, AIC Objects Specialty Group
2014 – 2015 Consultant, U.S. State Department and American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)
Collaborative Syrian Heritage Initiative
2014 – 2015 Chair, AIC Objects Specialty Group (1,000+ members)
2013 – 2014 Vice Chair & Program Chair, AIC Objects Specialty Group
2012 – 2016 Education and Training Committee, AIC
2012 – 2015 Secretary, Midwest Regional Conservation Guild (MRCG)
2012 – 2015 Chair, MRCG Membership Committee
2007 – present Mentor, Emerging Conservation Professionals Network, AIC
2005 – present Archaeological Discussion Group, AIC

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

Arabic elementary reading, writing, and speaking (modern standard Arabic, Egyptian and Levantine dialects)
French intermediate reading and writing, elementary speaking
Turkish elementary reading, writing, and speaking

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

2014 Conservation Advocacy Award, American Institute for Conservation
1994-1998 Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow
1997 Etruscan Foundation Fellow in Archaeological Conservation
1997 Leon Levy and Shelby White Fellow
1996-1997 Women's International Leadership Council Fellow
1995 Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow in Classical Studies
1990-1994 National Merit Scholar

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow (senior peer-reviewed member) of the American Institute for Conservation
- Midwest Regional Conservation Guild
- American Alliance of Museums
- American Schools of Oriental Research
- American Research Center in Egypt
- Archaeological Institute of America