

## NICOLA ARAVECCHIA

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Classics  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1050, Umrath Hall 249  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899  
Tel.: (314) 935-3342

Department of Art History & Archaeology  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1189, Kemper 217  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899  
Tel.: (314) 935-5225

E-mail: [nicola.aravecchia@wustl.edu](mailto:nicola.aravecchia@wustl.edu)

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Art History, University of Minnesota (2009). Dissertation title: “*Christians of the Western Desert in Late Antiquity: The Fourth-Century Church Complex of ‘Ain el-Gedida, Upper Egypt’*” (Thesis Advisor: Professor Roger Bagnall, New York University).
- M.A. in Ancient and Medieval Art & Archaeology, University of Minnesota (2000).
- B.A. (Magna cum Laude) in Classical Studies, University of Bologna (1997).

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Roman history and archaeology with a specialization in the Eastern Mediterranean region.
- Early Christian architecture.
- Early Egyptian monasticism.
- Construction and use of space in domestic and public architecture of late antique Egypt.

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- August–December 2020 (pre-tenure leave): Visiting Fellow at the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University.
- June–August 2020 (pre-tenure leave): Research Affiliate at the Center for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia, University of Sydney.
- January 2018—: Assistant Professor, Departments of Classics and of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis.
- January–May 2016: Chair of Coptic Studies, The American University in Cairo.
- February–November 2014: Teaching Associate, Monash University.
- September 2011–August 2013: Clinical Assistant Professor of Archaeology, ISAW, NYU.
- September 2010–August 2011: Visiting Research Associate, ISAW, NYU.
- August 2009–July 2010: Visiting Research Scholar, ISAW, NYU.

### GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- January–May 2021: Research Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC.
- Awarded for Spring 2021: “Building Capacity for Early Career Humanities Scholars in Africa (BECHS-Africa) Project” Fellowship at The American University in Cairo.
- Awarded for Spring 2021: Faculty Fellowship at the Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis.

- Fall 2010; Fall 2008; Fall 2007: Visiting scholar at the University of Sydney (with fellowships from New York University).
- Fall 2006–Spring 2007: Visiting graduate student at Columbia University (with fellowship).
- Spring 2010; Spring 2009; Spring 2008; Spring 2007; Spring 2006; Spring 2005: Columbia University and New York University fellowships to conduct archaeological excavations in Egypt.
- Summer 2000; Summer 1999: fellowships (from the Classical and Near Eastern Studies Department of the University of Minnesota) to conduct archaeological excavations in Israel.
- Fall 1998–Spring 1999: graduate student fellowship (Classical and Near Eastern Studies Department, University of Minnesota).

## PUBLICATIONS

### a) Books

- 2018: *‘Ain el-Gedida: 2006–2008 Excavations at a Late Roman Site in Dakhla Oasis, Egypt*. New York: ISAW/NYU Press. (335 pages, plus contributions by R. S. Bagnall *et al.*)
- 2015: *An Oasis City* (co-authored with R. S. Bagnall *et al.*). New York: ISAW/NYU Press.

### b) Articles

- In Press (2022): “Christian Identity in the Archaeological Record: Evidence from Egypt’s Western Desert.” In *Studies in Coptic Culture and Community: Ordinary Lives, Changing Times*, ed. by Mariam Ayad. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press.
- “Catechumens, Women, and Agricultural Laborers: Who Used the Fourth-Century Hall at the Church of ‘Ain el-Gedida, Egypt?” Accepted for publication in the *Journal of Late Antiquity* 15/1 (Spring 2022).
- “The Hamlet of ‘Ain el-Gedida in Dakhla Oasis: A Late Roman *Epoikion*?” Accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 57 (2021).
- 2020: “Geometric Painting in Late-Antique Egypt: The Ceiling of a 4th-c. Church at Amheida (Dakhla Oasis),” *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 33.1: 449–66.
- 2020: “The Changing Sacred Landscape of Egypt’s Western Desert in Late Antiquity: The Case of ‘Ain el-Gedida,” *American Journal of Archaeology* 124.2: 301–20. Available on-line at: <https://www.ajaonline.org/article/4084>
- 2015: “The Church at Amheida (Ancient Trimithis) in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt: A Bioarchaeological Perspective on an Early Christian Mortuary Complex” (with T. Dupras *et al.*). *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* 9: 21–43. Available on-line at: <http://www.anthropology.uw.edu.pl/09/bne-09-02.pdf>
- 2012: “The Church Complex of ‘Ain el-Gedida, Dakhleh Oasis,” in *Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference of the Dakhleh Oasis Project*. Ed. by R. S. Bagnall, P. Davoli, and C. Hope. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 391–408.
- 2005: “Magia Copta: I Rapporti tra le Pratiche Magiche dei Primi Cristiani d’Egitto e la Religione Faraonica,” *Pharaon Magazine* I.1, 53–60.
- 2001: “Hermitages and Spatial Analysis,” in *Shaping Community: The Archaeology and Architecture of Monasticism*. Ed. by S. McNally. Oxford: Archaeopress, 29–38.

### c) Book Reviews

–2020: Review of G. R. Ruffini, *Life in an Egyptian Village in Late Antiquity: Aphrodito Before and After the Islamic Conquest* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018), *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 56: 245–47.

–2010: Review of G. Hadji-Minaglou, *Les Habitations à l'est du Temple de Soknebtynis (Tebtynis IV)* (Cairo: Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, 2007), *American Journal of Archaeology* 114.1. Available on-line at: <http://www.ajaonline.org/online-review-book/665>

#### **d) Works in Progress**

–Book project: *Early Christianity in Egypt's Western Desert: The Fourth-Century Church at Amheida*. Approved for publication in early 2023 (ISAW/NYU Press).

#### **e) On-Line Archaeological Reports**

– 'Ain el-Gedida 2010 – <http://www.amheida.org/inc/pdf/Report2010AG.pdf>

– 'Ain el-Gedida 2009 – <http://www.amheida.org/inc/pdf/Report2009AG.pdf>

– 'Ain el-Gedida 2008 – <http://www.amheida.org/inc/pdf/Report2008AG.pdf>

– 'Ain el-Gedida 2007 – <http://www.amheida.org/inc/pdf/Report2007AG.pdf>

– 'Ain el-Gedida 2006 – <http://www.amheida.org/inc/pdf/Report2006AG.pdf>

#### **f) On-line Database Articles**

–2012: 'Ain el-Gedida, *Pleiades*. <http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/861854258>

–2012: 'Ain el-Sabil, *Pleiades*. <http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/551781152>

–2012: Deir Abu Matta, *Pleiades*. <http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/667956220>

–2012: Kellis, *Pleiades*. <http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/776189>

–2012: Marea, *Pleiades*. <http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/727153>

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

- Deputy Field Director at Amheida, Dakhla Oasis (Upper Egypt). NYU Archaeological Mission. (January–February 2013; January–February 2012; January 2011).
- Field Director at 'Ain el-Gedida, Dakhla Oasis. Columbia University Archaeological Mission (New York University since 2008). (January–February 2010; January 2009; January–February 2008; January–February 2007; January 2006).
- Area Supervisor at Amheida. Columbia University Archaeological Mission (February 2006; January–February 2005).
- Area Supervisor at Tel Kedesh, Israel. University of Minnesota and University of Michigan Joint Archaeological Mission. (May–July 2000; June–July 1999).
- Volunteer at Tel Yarmouth, Israel. CNRS de France Archaeological Mission. (June–July 1993).

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- **Washington University in St. Louis** (2018—)
  - Art of the Egypt of the Pharaohs (Instructor);
  - Art and Archaeology of Cleopatra's Egypt (Instructor);
  - Beginning Latin I and II (Instructor);
  - Cities and Towns of the Ancient World (Instructor).

- **The American University in Cairo** (2016)
  - Religion in Roman Egypt (Graduate Seminar, Instructor) (Evaluation average: 5.0/5.0);
  - Classical Greek (Instructor) (Not for credit).
  
- **Monash University** (2014)
  - Intermediate Latin (Lecturer) (Evaluation average: 5.0/5.0);
  - Introductory Latin (Tutor) (Evaluation average: 5.0/5.0);
  - Introductory Ancient Greek (Lecturer) (Evaluation average: 5.0/5.0);
  - The Golden Age of Athens (Tutor) (Evaluation average: 4.83/5.00; Outstanding Teaching Award);
  - Kleopatra’s Egypt (Tutor) (Evaluation average: 4.91/5.00; Outstanding Teaching Award).
  
- **New York University** (2012–2013)
  - Cultures and Contexts: Greco-Roman Egypt (Instructor);
  - Pagans and Christians in Roman Egypt (Freshman Honors, Instructor);
  - The Archaeology of Egypt: From the Great Oasis to Alexandria (NYU Semester Abroad Program, Instructor);
  - The Oases of Egypt from the Old Kingdom to Late Antiquity (NYU Semester Abroad Program, Instructor).
  
- **University of Minnesota** (1998–2004)
  - Art of India (Teaching Assistant, 2004);
  - Introduction to Art History (Teaching Assistant, 2003);
  - Introductory Latin (Instructor, 1999–2000, 2002–2003);
  - Latin (Center for Medieval Studies, Tutor, 1998–1999).

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED LECTURES, AND SEMINARS**

- “A Space for Whom? The Gathering Hall of a Fourth-Century Church in Dakhla.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, April 22–25, 2021.
- “Early Christianity in Egypt’s Western Desert: The Fourth-Century Church at Amheida.” Research Report presented at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C.), March 29, 2021.
- “Excavations at a Late Roman *Polis* in Egypt’s Western Desert.” Honours and HDR Workshop organized by the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia, The University of Sydney, February 17, 2021.
- “Polychrome Decoration in a Fourth-Century Church from Amheida (Dakhla Oasis).” Lecture presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Old Town Alexandria, VA, April 12–14, 2019.
- “From Paganism to Christianity: Changes in the Landscape of a Late Antique Hamlet.” Paper presented at the SCS/AIA Joint Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 4, 2019.
- “A Late Roman Settlement in Egypt’s Western Desert.” Lecture delivered to the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, October 26, 2018.
- “Early Christianity in Egypt’s Western Desert: Excavations at ‘Ain el-Gedida, Dakhla Oasis.” First Missouri Egyptological Symposium, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, October 10, 2018.

- “‘Ain el-Gedida: An *Epoikion* in Late Roman Dakhla?” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Tucson, AZ, April 20–22, 2018.
- “Life and Death in Egypt’s Western Desert during Late Antiquity: Archaeological Data from Dakhla Oasis.” Lecture presented at the University of Tartu, Estonia (Department of Archaeology), September 21, 2017.
- “Christian Identity in the Archaeological Record: A Case Study from Egypt’s Western Desert.” Fourth International Symposium on Coptic Culture, Stevenage, UK, June 29–July 2, 2017.
- “Fourth-Century Christianity in Egypt’s *Oasis Magna*: Recent Archaeological Evidence from Dakhla.” Lecture presented at Washington University in St. Louis (Departments of Classics and Art History & Archaeology), April 25, 2017.
- “Early Christianity in Egypt’s Western Desert: Recent Archaeological Evidence from ‘Ain el-Gedida and Amheida (Dakhla Oasis).” Research Seminar, Department of Studies in Religion, The University of Sydney, April 11, 2017.
- Seminar on Early Egyptian Christianity (Presidential Internship Program), The American University in Cairo, May 16, 2016.
- “Live, Pray, and Die: Early Christians of the Western Desert.” Coptic Chair Public Lecture, The American University in Cairo, April 11, 2016.
- “The Funerary Crypt and Other Burials inside the Church of Amheida” (with Tosha Dupras *et al.*). Eighth International Dakhleh Oasis Project Conference, Krakow, July 8, 2015.
- “The Church at Amheida (Dakhleh Oasis).” HDR Seminar Series, Centre for Ancient Cultures, Monash University, Melbourne, October 24, 2014.
- “Early Christianity at ‘Ain el-Gedida and Amheida (Dakhleh Oasis).” Invited speaker for the closing address at the ‘Ancient Cultures at Monash University’ Conference, Melbourne, October 20, 2013.
- “A Church at Amheida.” Seventh International Dakhleh Oasis Project Conference, Leiden, June 21, 2012.
- “Christians of the Desert in Late Antique Egypt: New Evidence from the 2006-2008 Excavations at ‘Ain el-Gedida, Dakhla Oasis.” Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, March 5, 2010.
- “Early Christianity in the Western Desert of Egypt.” Visiting Research Scholar Lecture Series, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, March 2, 2010.
- “The Church Complex of ‘Ain el-Gedida in the Dakhla Oasis (Upper Egypt).” APA/AIA Joint Annual Meeting, Anaheim, January 8, 2010.
- “The Church Complex of ‘Ain el-Gedida, Dakhleh Oasis.” Sixth International Dakhleh Oasis Project Conference, Lecce, September 23, 2009.
- Seminar on the archaeological excavations at ‘Ain el-Gedida. University of St. Thomas, Houston, May 11, 2009.
- “Excavations at ‘Ain el-Gedida in the Dakhla Oasis, Upper Egypt.” Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University, Sydney (Australia), December 6, 2007.
- Seminar on the 2007 archaeological campaign at ‘Ain el-Gedida. Department of Classics, Columbia University, New York, April 17, 2007.
- “The New Excavation Project at the Site of ‘Ain el-Gedida: Results of the 2006 Field Season.” Dakhleh Oasis Project Fifth International Conference, Cairo, June 6, 2006.
- Seminar on the 2006 archaeological campaign at ‘Ain el-Gedida. Department of Classics, Columbia University, New York, April 12, 2006.

- “Hermitages and Spatial Analysis.” Symposium “Shaping Community: The Archaeology and Architecture of Monasticism,” F.R. Weisman Museum at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, March 11, 2000.
- “The Architecture of Kellia: A Comparative Study on the Use of Space.” Twenty-fifth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, November 6, 1999.
- “Representations of Cities in the Mosaics of Jordan: Examples from Churches of Umayyad Age.” Fourth Annual UCLA Graduate Student Conference on Late Antiquity, University of California at Los Angeles, April 10, 1999.

## SERVICE

### • University and Departmental:

- Biggs Residency Committee Member (2018—).
- Graduate Admissions Committee Member (Department of Classics, 2018—; Department of Art History and Archaeology, 2019—).
- Graduate Modern Language Exam Committee Member (Department of Classics, 2018—).
- Graduate Reading List Exam Committee Member (Department of Classics, 2019—).
- MA Qualifying Papers–Second Reader (2 students, Department of Art History and Archaeology, 2018—).
- MA Thesis Advisor (2 students, Department of Classics, 2018—).
- PhD Defense Committee Member:
  - April, 30, 2020: Alexander Ernesto Rivas, Department of Anthropology. Dissertation’s title: *Landesque Capital and Community Organization in a Maya Economic Center: A Case Study at Salinas de los Nueve Cerros, Guatemala*.
  - August 28, 2019: Juan Carlos Meléndez, Department of Anthropology. Dissertation’s title: *A Contextual and Technological Study of Ancient Maya Greenstone Mosaic Masks*.
- Post-Doctoral Search Committee Member (Department of Classics, 2019).
- Undergraduate Advisor (13 majors and minors, Department of Classics, 2018—).
- Throop Fund Committee Member (2018—).
- WashU/Marshall Scholarship Committee Member (WashU, 2018).

### • Extra-Mural:

- Book Reviewer for the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* (2020).
- Peer Reviewer for *ISAW Papers* (2019).
- Peer Reviewer for the Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale (2018).
- Peer Reviewer of a research proposal submitted to the Executive Government Agency of the National Science Centre, Poland (Narodowe Centrum Nauki – NCN) (2017).
- Peer Reviewer for the *American Journal of Archaeology* (2010 and 2020).
- Mylonas Lecture in Classical Art and Archaeology, Committee Member (2018—).

### • Outreach:

- Interview to Dumbarton Oaks (June 2021): <https://www.doaks.org/newsletter/fourth-century-churches-in-egypt>
- Interview to the Italian Community of St. Louis (September 2020): <https://www.stlouisitalians.com/news/esclusivo-intervista-a-nicola-aravecchia-un-archeologo-italiano-a-st-louis.html>

- “Cristianizzazione del Deserto Occidentale egiziano: Testimonianze archeologiche da un villaggio dell'Oasi di Dakhla.” Lecture delivered to the Italian community of St. Louis (April 3, 2019).
- “Life in a Late Roman Village of Egypt’s *Oasis Magna*.” Lecture delivered to the St. Louis Classical Club (John Burroughs School, November 11, 2018).
- Interview to The American University in Cairo (April 2016):  
<https://www.aucegypt.edu/news/stories/coptic-chair-nicola-aravecchia-archaeology-early-christians-egypt%25E2%2580%2599s-western-desert>

## **TRANSLATIONS**

- 2005: Italian translation of *Reading Papyri, Writing Ancient History*, by R. S. Bagnall (London; New York: Routledge, 1995). Published as *Papiri e Storia Antica* (Rome: Bardi Editore, 2007).
- 2004: Review of the English translation of *Il Meccanismo del Tempo*, by C. Bisi (Piacenza: Edizioni Pontegobbo, 2004). Published as *The Mechanism of Time* (same publisher).
- 1998: Italian translation of a section of the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*, ed. by P. J. Achtemeier (New York: HarperCollins, 1996). Published as *Il Dizionario della Bibbia* (Bologna: Zanichelli, 2003).

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- January–February 2017: Italian Lecturer/Tutor, Australian Catholic University (Sydney, Australia).
- April–June 2005: English Instructor, Wall Street Institute (Sassuolo, Italy).
- July–October 2004: Instructional Technology Fellow, University of Minnesota.
- Summer 2003: Digital Content Library Fellow, Visual Resources Center, University of Minnesota.
- May 2001–June 2002: Assistant Editor, Art Publishing House (Bologna, Italy).
- March–April 2001: Intern, “LogosArt” Publishing House (Modena, Italy).
- January–June 1998: Assistant Archivist, John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies (Bologna, Italy).
- March–December 1997: Assistant Librarian, John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies (Bologna, Italy).

## **LANGUAGES**

- Italian: native speaker.
- English: fluent.
- French, Spanish, and German: reading knowledge.
- Latin and Ancient Greek: excellent.
- Coptic: good.

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

- E-Learning Software: Adobe Connect; Moodle; Blackboard; Canvas.
- Microsoft Office; Illustrator; Photoshop; AutoCAD.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Research Center in Egypt (Member of the Board of Governors, 2020—);
- Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University;
- Archaeological Institute of America;
- College Art Association;

- The Australasian Society for Classical Studies.

## REFERENCES

### **Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides**

Associate Professor, Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University  
Address: Level 2 South Australian Hearing Hub Macquarie University, NSW 2019 Australia  
Phone: +61 2 9850 8778 E-mail: [eva.anagnostou-laoutides@mq.edu.au](mailto:eva.anagnostou-laoutides@mq.edu.au)

### **Roger S. Bagnall**

Emeritus Professor, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University  
Address: 15 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St. | New York, NY 10028 USA  
Phone: +1 (212) 992-7833 E-mail: [roger.bagnall@nyu.edu](mailto:roger.bagnall@nyu.edu)

### **Elizabeth Bolman**

Elsie B. Smith Professor in the Liberal Arts, Department of Art History and Art, Case Western Reserve University  
Address: Mather House 103 | 11201 Euclid Ave. | Cleveland, OH 44106-7110 USA  
Phone: +1 (216) 368-4039 E-mail: [elizabeth.bolman@case.edu](mailto:elizabeth.bolman@case.edu)

### **Darlene Brooks Hedstrom**

Myra and Robert Kraft and Jacob Hiatt Associate Professor of Christian Studies, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University  
Address: Brandeis University | MS 054 | 415 South Street | Waltham, MA 02453 USA  
E-mail: [brookshedstrom@brandeis.edu](mailto:brookshedstrom@brandeis.edu)

### **Tosha Dupras**

Professor and Associate Dean, Department of Anthropology and College of Sciences, University of Central Florida  
Address: Howard Phillips Hall 309 | 4000 Central Florida Blvd. | Orlando, FL 32816-1361 USA  
Phone: +1 (407) 823-6725 E-mail: [Tosha.Dupras@ucf.edu](mailto:Tosha.Dupras@ucf.edu)

### **Dorota Dzierzbicka**

Assistant Professor, Department of Archaeology of Egypt and Nubia, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw  
Address: Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927 Warsaw Poland  
Phone: +48 5522825 E-mail: [d.dzierzbicka@uw.edu.pl](mailto:d.dzierzbicka@uw.edu.pl)

### **Timothy J. Moore**

John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Classics, Washington University in St. Louis  
Address: CB 1050 | One Brookings Dr. | St. Louis, MO 63130 USA  
Phone: +1 (314) 935-5198 E-mail: [tmoore26@wustl.edu](mailto:tmoore26@wustl.edu)