

Edward Paul Stratford

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Academic Positions

- 2019– Associate Professor, Department of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
- 2010-2019 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
- 2009-2010 Instructor, Department of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
- 2007-2009 Research Assistant, Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2006-2007 Visiting Research Associate, Old Assyrian Text Project, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Education

- Ph.D., 2010 Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Defended with Honors. Dissertation: “Archives, Agents, and Risk: An Account of Assyrian Commerce in 1894 B.C.”

Published Works

Monographs

2017. *A Year of Vengeance, vol. 1: Time, Narrative, and the Old Assyrian Trade*. Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records 17/1. Boston: DeGruyter. 409 pages.

Databases

2020. *Old Assyrian Research Environment*. www.oare.byu.edu.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Stratford, E. & McIlFattrick, O. 2017. “Initial Observations on Painted Plaster from a Roman Structure at Boğazköy using portable X-Ray fluorescence.” *Istanbulur Mitteilungen* 67 (in production).
2015. “Intercalation, Successor Eponyms, and Winter in the Old Assyrian Period: A Critical Reappraisal,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 74: 301-24.

2014. “‘Make Them Pay’: Charting the Social Topography of an Old Assyrian Venture,” *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 66: 11-38.

Book chapters in peer-reviewed publications

2015. “Old Assyrian Literacy: Formulating a Method for Graphic Analysis and Some Initial Results” *KIM 1: Proceedings of the 1st Kültepe International Meeting, Kültepe 12-23 September, 2013*, Subartu 35. ed. Kulakoğlu, Fikri and Cécile Michel (Brepols: Turnhout, Belgium, 2015), p. 117-128.

Textbook chapters

2016. “Earliest Civilizations and Cities of the Near East.” In *A Bible Reader’s History of the Ancient World*, ed. Kent P. Jackson. Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies, Brigham Young University, pp. 27-37.

2016. “The Neo-Assyrian Empire.” In *A Bible Reader’s History of the Ancient World*, ed. Kent P. Jackson. Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies, Brigham Young University, pp. 186-197.

2016. “The Neo-Babylonian Empire.” In *A Bible Reader’s History of the Ancient World*, ed. Kent P. Jackson. Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies, Brigham Young University, pp. 250-260.

Encyclopedia Entries

2009. “Old Assyrian Prices,” in *World History Encyclopedia*, ed. Alfred J. Andrea (ABC-Clio).

2009. “Old Assyrian Trade Network,” in *World History Encyclopedia*, ed. Alfred J. Andrea (ABC-Clio).

Current Works in Progress

A Year of Vengeance, vol. 2, Text Editions. Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records 17. Boston: DeGruyter.

This publication is under contract for submission mid-2018. This volume will provide the philological treatments of the documents cited in vol. 1. The majority of work on this volume is to be found within my database. The manuscript is in an intermediate stage, where most documents are already edited, and at this point the writing is focused on commentary and checking.

“Caravans, Cuneiform, and Clay: Beginning a Social Geography of Anatolian Geography during the Old Assyrian period through pXRF Analysis” (in preparation).

This manuscript is in preparation. It will be a first article, explaining to a non-scientific audience the approach of the project, and some preliminary qualitative results from the collection at Charles University in Prague.

“Merchant Letters, Human Time” (in preparation).

In this manuscript, I take up in a more thorough manner the philosophical roots of arguments concerning narrative that I first brought up in my monograph.

“Non-destructive provenance study of Old Assyrian cuneiform tablets using portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF)” (in preparation).

This will represent the first major step in publishing my work using pXRF analysis to source the clay in the tablets. My colleague Lee Drake (University of New Mexico) is currently working on some code in R to streamline our research process. When he finishes, we will review the data in earnest again.

Database Projects

Creator and Director, [The Old Assyrian Research Environment](#) (OARE) a project within the Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE).

Creator and Director, [TabletNinjas.com](#), a project to index photographs of cuneiform tablets down to the sign for use with handwriting analysis through crowdsourcing.

Presentations

Conference Papers Presented

“3-D Printed Tablets as Teaching Aids” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting 2018, New York, NY, January 2018.

“Marketplaces in Middle Bronze Age Anatolia.” The Phenomenology of Places of Exchange within a Diachronic and Multi-cultural Perspective - Weights and Marketplaces Workshop – University of Göttingen, Göttingen, DE, October 2017.

“Placing Historical Evidence in Space and Time: Status Report on the Old Assyrian Research Environment (OARE) and pXRF Analysis of Old Assyrian Tablets” Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, October 2017.

“Crowdsourcing Cuneiform: Leveraging human pattern matching to pave the way toward cuneiform OCR, accomplishments and Challenges” 41st Annual Unicode Conference, Santa Clara, CA, October 2017.

“Anatolian Geography from the viewpoint of Old Assyrian Sources and pXRF” 10th International Congress of Hittitology, University of Chicago (Chicago, IL). 28 August 2017.

“Rendering a Historical Turn on the Old Assyrian Trade: nabrītum, OARE, and what’s at stake.” 2017 Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Marburg, DE, July 2017.

“Death of a Salesman: How we Read Old Assyrian Documents.” 227th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Los Angeles, CA, March 2017.

“The Old Assyrians as the Earliest Historical Individuals,” Hrozný and Hittite: The First Hundred Years, Charles University, Prague, Cz, November 2015.

“Chronology of Commerce: Debt Notes and Intercalation in the Old Assyrian Calendar,” 2nd Kültepe International Meeting, Kültepe, Turkey, July 2015.

“Portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) as Augmentation of Literacy Studies and Social Network Analysis in the Old Assyrian Trade,” Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale 2015, Geneva, CH, July 2015.

“Analyzing the Old Assyrian sources through its Historical Sources: Getting our Assets in Gear,” First Meeting of the Project for the Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, June, 2015.

“Caravans, Cuneiform, and Clay: Beginning a Social Geography of Anatolian Geography during the Old Assyrian period through pXRF Analysis,” 225th Meeting of the American Oriental Society (New Orleans, LA). March, 2015.

“Caravans, Cuneiform, and Clay: Investigation of Second Millennium Anatolian Geography through pXRF Analysis,” American Schools of Oriental Research 2014 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA). November, 2014.

“OCHRE and Texts: Exploring the Old Assyrian Research Environment,” American Schools of Oriental Research 2012 Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL). November 17, 2012.

“Counting the Cost: The Impact of the Old Assyrian Trade with Anatolia on Politics in Northern Syria,” American Schools of Oriental Research 2011 Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA). November 17, 2011.

“Family and Firm: Describing Modes of Cooperation in the Old Assyrian Trade,” 221st Meeting of the American Oriental Society, (Chicago, IL). 11 March 2011.

“Principal and Agent: Coordinating Activity and Competing Interests in the Old Assyrian Trade,” 220th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, (St. Louis, MO). 12 March 2010.

“Pūšu-kēn in and around the House: Exploring Issues of Demography and Prosopography in the Old Assyrian Evidence (1900-1845 B.C.),” Cross-Cultural Approaches to Family and Household Structures in the Ancient World, Annual Symposium for the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University (New York, NY). 9 May 2008.

“A Year in the Life of Pūšu-kēn,” 218th Meeting of the American Oriental Society Conference, (Chicago, IL). 15 March 2008.

“A Year in the Life of Pūšu-kēn, Merchant from the 20th Century B.C.,” Missouri Valley History Conference, (Omaha, NE). 6 March 2008.

“Population and Prosopography at Ugarit,” American Oriental Society Middle West Branch Annual Meeting, (Madison, WI). 12 February 2006.

Invited Talks

“Fifty Shades of Clay: Using pXRF to explore ancient trade,” Linguistics Department Teaching Series, Charles University, Prague, Cz, November 2015.

“Fifty Shades of Clay: Using pXRF to Advance Research on Ancient Assyrian Trade,” Würzburger Cuneiform, University of Würzburg, Würzburg, DE, November 2015.

“Caravans, Cuneiform, Clay Social geography of Anatolia during the Old Assyrian period,” Ancient Orient Seminar, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck Austria, October 2015.

“pXRF and the analysis of painted plaster for conservation preparation,” Meeting at the Excavations at Boğazköy, Turkey, Boğazkale, Turkey, October 2015.

“Caravans, Cuneiform, and Clay: Beginning a Social Geography of Anatolian Geography during the Old Assyrian period through pXRF Analysis,” NINO Seminar on the Ancient Near East, Leiden, NE, September 2015.

“Report on Progress of pXRF Analysis of the Old Assyrian Tablets arising from Kültepe,” Occasional Meeting of Kültepe Excavations, Kültepe, Turkey, July 2015.

“Merchant Letters, Human Time,” Carlos Museum, Emory University Public Lecture in the Program on Mediterranean Archaeology Series, 15 February 2015

“Old Assyrian Literacy: A Case Study Approach,” First Kültepe International Meeting, (Kayseri, Turkey). 22 September 2013.

“The Old Assyrian Trade and pXRF Analysis of Cuneiform Tablets,” Institute of Archaeology of Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, (Prague). December, 2012.

“Landscape of the Old Assyrian Trade in Northern Syria,” Wheaton College, Department of Religion. September 28, 2011.

“Communication as Practice in the Old Assyrian Correspondence,” Communication and Power Session at Annual Conference of the American Society for Oriental Research, (Atlanta, GA). 19 November 2010.

“Desublimating the Materio-Temporal Context of Economic Behavior in the Old Assyrian Textual Record,” Meeting of the Old Assyrian Text Project, Copenhagen, (Copenhagen, Denmark). 23 April 2010.

“Pūšu-kēn in and around the House: Complex Households in an Ancient Urban Setting,” Ancient Societies Workshop, University of Chicago, (Chicago, IL). 13 May 2008.

“Old Assyrian Texts as Fragments of an Irreducible Past: Ian Hodder, OARE, and the Old Assyrian Archives,” Meeting of the Old Assyrian Text Project, Copenhagen, (Copenhagen, Denmark). 9 February 2008.

“The Old Assyrian Research Environment and the Future of Old Assyrian Studies,” Meeting of the Old Assyrian Text project, University of Copenhagen (Copenhagen, Denmark). 10 February 2007.

“Micro-Narrative as an Approach to the Old Assyrian Correspondence,” Assyriology Circle Lecture Series, University of Copenhagen, (Copenhagen, Denmark). 17 April 2007.

“Micro-Narrative and the Pūšu-kēn Correspondence,” University of Leiden, (Leiden, Netherlands). 24 April 2007.

Other Scholarly Activities

Member of Research Team, "Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade: The Case of the Old Assyrian Merchants of the Nineteenth Century BCE Project, receiver of Neubauer Collegium Grant of \$200,000. 2015-2017.

Session Co-Chair. “Political Landscapes of Bronze Age Syro-Mesopotamia” American Schools of Oriental Research 2012 Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL). November 16, 2012.

Session Co-Chair. “Political Landscapes of Middle Bronze Age Syro-Mesopotamia” American Schools of Oriental Research 2011 Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA). November 17, 2011.

Fellowships and Grants

Faculty

Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago

Kennedy Center Research Grant, 2015

FHSS Research Grant, 2015.

Five-Year Stipend from the Committee on Near Eastern Studies for the Old Assyrian Research Environment (OARE), 2009-2014.

Courses Taught

Ancient Near East History to 330 B.C.

Ancient Near East History 330 B.C. – 610 A.D.

Babylon or Bust: Historical Images of a City and Memory

Economic Histories of the Ancient Near East

The Historian’s Craft

History of Ancient Iraq

The Holy Land in its Near Eastern Context

World Civilizations to 1500 A.D.

Professional Memberships

American Schools of Oriental Research
American Oriental Society
British Institute in Ankara
International Association for Assyriology
Old Assyrian Text Project
Oriental Institute
American Research Institute in Turkey.