

ASOR Early Career Scholars 2024–2025 Annual Report

I. Early Career Scholars (ECS) Committee

The committee was formed in 2004 as a subset of ASOR's Program Committee to provide networking and professionalization opportunities for ASOR "Junior Scholars." The name "Junior Scholars" was changed in 2018 to **Early Career Scholars (ECS)** by request of the committee, subsequently formalized by vote of the Board of Trustees.

ECS is defined as an ASOR constituency characterized by a range of traits, including their status as a student (graduate or undergraduate) or their progress in their respective professional tracks. For the purpose of membership and meeting discounts, ASOR defines an Early Career member as anyone who has received a terminal degree in his or her field in the past five years.

II. Activities in 2024-2025

Academic and Professionalization Activities

Virtual Brown Bag Lunch Series, Research in Action Series, Videos and Resource Library

Since 2019, the committee has organized virtual Brown Bag Webinars, Research in Action talks, and focused resource videos on topics related to professionalization towards building a video library for our members. Brown Bag sessions frequently attract large registration numbers and are viewed repeatedly as asynchronous video resources, and Research in Action lectures give ECS members an opportunity to network with a scholar in the field. Video resources and recorded virtual talks are permanently hosted on ASOR's YouTube page, helping to continually increase the accessibility of skill-building, career, and professionalization resources.

Additionally, we continue to maintain a page on the ASOR website, [Early Career Resources](#), with informational links on job hunting, fellowships, grants, and more.


2024-2025 Virtual Lectures and Additions to the Resource Videos and Library:

- [Broaden Your Horizons: Bringing an Interdisciplinary Perspective to Cultural Heritage Work](#), Cultural Heritage Careers resource video, Corrine Muller, Penn Cultural Heritage Center (August 26, 2024)
- [Archaeology Under Fire: The History of Sudan Between War and Water](#) Research in Action Series, Rennan Lemos, Durham University (April 2025)
- [How to Get Involved in Archaeological Fieldwork Projects](#) Fall Virtual Brown Bag, James Osborne, Catherine Kearns, Nicholas Brown (October 17, 2025)

2025 Annual Meeting Events

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, we will host:

- Our annual Brown Bag Lunch, which is an informative lunch event for ECS members. This year, ECS will host “Applying to ASOR & ASOR-Affiliated Scholarships: Understanding Eligibility and Crafting Strong Applications” - an informal session with representatives from the fellowship committees of ASOR, the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), and the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (AIAR) to talk about various funding possibilities offered through these institutions.
- For the first time, ECS will host a First Time at ASOR coffee meet up to welcome new attendees and help them get situated, as well as network with other ECS colleagues.
- ECS will host, with the generous support of ASOR, its annual social reception on Friday night for our constituency.
- For the third year running (with the support of ASOR staff), we will host an Early Career Scholars Hub, a meeting room in the hotel for those in need of a space to prepare for conference obligations, hold meetings, relax and recharge.
- For the second year, ASOR ECS will offer a cash prize for the student paper award.



2025 ASOR Annual Meeting
Early Career Scholars Events

Early Career Scholars First-Time Attendee Meet Up
Thursday, Nov 20, 10:20-10:40am | Boylston Room, Mezzanine Level

Early Career Scholars Brown Bag Panel: “Applying to ASOR & ASOR-Affiliated Scholarships: Understanding Eligibility and Crafting Strong Applications”


- Brita Lorentzen, ASOR's CAP fellowship committee
- James Fraser, Director, W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research
- Kathryn Grossman, CAARI fellowship committee

Thursday, Nov 20, 12:55-1:55pm | Georgian Room, Mezzanine Level.
Bring your own lunch!

The ASOR Early Career Scholars Committee is pleased to host a Brown Bag Lunch event on Thursday Nov. 20, 12:55-1:55 pm in the Georgian Room. Bring your lunch and join us for Applying to ASOR & ASOR-Affiliated Scholarships: Understanding Eligibility and Crafting Strong Applications. The panel will host representatives from the fellowship committees of ASOR, the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), and the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (AIAR) to talk about various funding possibilities offered through these institutions. Funding is available for a range of opportunities, from travel and participation in fieldwork to research and residency in a host country. Panelists will discuss eligibility and application guidance for fellowships available to Early Career Scholars, undergraduate to non-tenured faculty. An open Q&A will follow.

Early Career Scholars' Reception*
Friday, Nov 21, 8:00-10:00pm | Off the Common, Lobby Level
*Tickets are free, but space is limited. Advance sign-up is required. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Early Career Scholars Hub
Available throughout the Annual Meeting for hanging out, connecting, or working | Beacon Hill Room, 4th floor

Join us for these wonderful events! 

III. Expansion of Community Building Efforts

In 2024–2025, an increased focus of the ECS committee has been community building. With the shifting landscape of social media, we have found it difficult to communicate with ECS ASOR members. Much of our attention and resources have thus been recently directed towards this issue in hopes of finding ways to better communicate with our community of ECS ASOR scholars. For this purpose, we started a Community Building sub-committee, composed of primarily new members of the ECS committee who identified this need and expressed their desire to contribute to community building in their applications. Beyond advertising ECS events, the sub-committee has been hard at work devising new ways to foster increased connection among our community. Our main initiatives so far this year have included the following:

ASOR Early Career Scholars 2024–2025 Annual Report

- A Highlight Series, which consists of posts on Instagram and Facebook featuring members of the ECS community. The series gives visibility to ECS ASOR members and their research.
- A Virtual Writing Group, which has been meeting twice a week in fall 2025. This is a virtual space where ECS scholars can meet to work together. We have so far received good feedback.
- With the help of ASOR staff, we recently launched an ECS email listserv. This will facilitate communication with the ECS community, especially with those who do not frequently use social media, and will serve as a space where ECS members can reach out to other members as well.

IV. Needs

How can the ECS committee be supported in 2025-2026?

1. The ECS committee hopes to receive support in the future to supply lunch (pre-ordered or catered) to all attendees of the in-person Annual Meeting Brown Bag Lunch Event. This event is disadvantaged by a short lunch break and lack of affordable lunch options for students in the immediate vicinity. In the past, lunch for this event was ordered in advance and participants charged a small fee to secure a meal. We ask for support in returning to this or a similar model so that students can more easily attend this event in the future.

Report prepared and submitted to the ASOR Board of Trustees by:

Early Career Scholars Committee Members

Vanessa Workman, Co-Chair (until December 31, 2025)

Luiza Osorio G Silva, Co-Chair (until December 31, 2027)

Current Members

Shira Albaz, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2026)

Cecelia Chisdock, Graduate Student Member (until December 31, 2026)

Brooke Norton, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2027)

Mandy Porter, Graduate Student Member (until December 31, 2027)

Avary Taylor, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2027), Liaison to the Growth, Innovation, and Visibility Committee

Savanna Henning Watson, Graduate Student Member (until December 31, 2027)

Sarah Wenner, Early Career Scholar Member, (until December 31, 2026), Liaison to the Program Committee

Regan Baker, ASOR Staff Member (*ex officio, non-voting*)

ASOR Early Career Scholars 2024–2025 Annual Report

2024-2025 Members

Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Co-Chair (until December 31, 2024)

Vanessa Workman, Co-Chair (until December 31, 2025)

Shira Albaz, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2026)

Owen Chesnut, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2024)

Cecelia Chisdock, Graduate Student Member (until December 31, 2026)

Elena De Rosa, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2024)

Maggie Geoga, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2024)

Zachary Thomas, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2024)

Avary Taylor, Early Career Scholar Member (until December 31, 2024), Liaison to the GIV Committee

Sarah Wenner, Early Career Scholar Member, (until December 31, 2024), Liaison to the Program Committee

Marta Ostovich, ASOR Staff Member (*ex officio, non-voting*)

Regan Baker, ASOR Staff Member (*ex officio, non-voting*)