

# Avary R. Taylor

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Yale University  
HQ 443, 320 York Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
Email: [avary.taylor@yale.edu](mailto:avary.taylor@yale.edu)  
Phone: (917) 536-0687

## EMPLOYMENT

---

- 2025– **Postdoctoral Associate**  
*Archaia*: the Yale Program for the Study of Global Antiquity, Yale University
- 2025– **Lecturer**  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University
- 2023–2025 **Postdoctoral Associate, Joint Appointment**  
Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Yale University  
Yale Babylonian Collection, Yale University

## EDUCATION

---

- 2023 **Ph.D. Near Eastern Studies**, Johns Hopkins University  
Dissertation: “The Lives of Things in the Northwest Palace at Nimrud, Iraq.”
- 2021 **M.A. Near Eastern Studies**, Johns Hopkins University
- 2015 **B.A. Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology**, Bryn Mawr College, *cum laude*  
with major honors

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Monographs

- In-progress Taylor, Avary Rhys. *The Lives of Assyrian Things*. Currently 61,000 words.

### Peer-reviewed Articles

- Submitted Taylor, Avary Rhys. “The Banquet Stele of Ashurnasirpal II: Memorializing and Re-Presenting the Past.”
- Submitted Taylor, Avary Rhys. “Intimacy, Danger, and Miniature Encounters with the Sculpted Garments of the Northwest Palace, Nimrud.”
- 2018 Sivitskis, A.J., M.J. Harrower, H. David-Cuny, I.A. Dumitru, S. Nathan, F. Wiig, D.R. Viete, K.W. Lewis, **A. R. Taylor**, E.N. Dollarhide, B. Zaitchick, S. Al-Jabri, K. J.T. Livi, and A. Brain. “Hyperspectral satellite imagery detection of ancient raw material sources: Soft-stone vessel production at Aqir al-Shamoos (Oman).” *Archaeological Prospection* 25: 363–374.
- In progress Taylor, Avary Rhys. “Color, Care, and Power in Ancient Assyrian Palaces: New Research on Northwest Palace Reliefs in Northeastern U.S. Collections.” 9,263 words.

- In progress **Taylor, Avary Rhys**, Marcie Wiggins, Agnete W. Lassen, and Anikó Bezur. “Pigmented and Gilded Ancient Middle Eastern Cylinder Seals: Preliminary Results and Future Directions.”
- In progress **Taylor, Avary Rhys**, and Marcie Wiggins. “Multianalytical Research on Pigments and Metals on the Assyrian Reliefs of Ashurnasirpal II: New Insights into Color and Gilding.”

### Book Chapters

- Forthcoming Taylor, Avary Rhys. “Digital Unwrapping: A Survey Tool for Multi-analytical Analysis of Painted and Gilded Cylinder Seals.” To appear in *Digital Unwrapping*. Edited by Elizabeth Knott and Lara Bampfield.
- 2024 **Taylor, Avary Rhys**, and Glenn M. Schwartz. “Clay Figurines.” In *Animals, Ancestors, and Ritual in Early Bronze Age Syria: An Elite Mortuary Complex from Umm el-Marra*. Edited by Glenn M. Schwartz. California: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press. *Winner of the 2024 ASOR G. Ernest Wright Book Award*.
- 2024 Schwartz, Glenn M., and **Avary Rhys Taylor**. “Stone Objects.” In *Animals, Ancestors, and Ritual in Early Bronze Age Syria: An Elite Mortuary Complex from Umm el-Marra*. Edited by Glenn M. Schwartz. California: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press. *Winner of the 2024 ASOR G. Ernest Wright Book Award*.
- In progress Taylor, Avary Rhys. “KU.KU for the Past: A Third Millennium Seal in a Hellenistic Grave at Nimrud.” To appear in *Festschrift for Dr. Holly Pittman*.

### Book Reviews

- Forthcoming Review of Alexander Nagel, *Color and Meaning in the Art of Achaemenid Persia*. *American Journal of Archaeology*.

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2024 Franke Interdisciplinary Research Award, Yale University, to conduct art historical and scientific analyses on Assyrian reliefs in local small museums and college collections
- 2022–2023 The Alexander Grass Humanities Institute Graduate Research Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, to complete dissertation
- 2022–2023 Provost’s Office COVID Relief Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, *declined*
- 2021 Graduate Representative Organization Travel Grant, Johns Hopkins University
- 2021 The Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, to teach “The Archaeology of Gender in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean,” Johns Hopkins University
- 2021 Provost’s Travel and Research Fellowship Grant, Johns Hopkins University, to conduct dissertation research at The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- 2021 Instructor Fellowship in Expository Writing, to teach “Museums as Political Battlegrounds,” Johns Hopkins University, *declined*
- 2021 The Dean’s Prize Fellowship, to teach “Freshman Seminar: The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia,” Johns Hopkins University
- 2020 TARI Research Fellowship, The Academic Research Institute of Iraq (TARI), to conduct dissertation research at the British Museum

- 2020 The Dean's Prize Fellowship, to teach "Freshman Seminar: The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia," Johns Hopkins University
- 2019 The Dean's Teaching Fellowship, to teach "The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia," Johns Hopkins University
- 2019 Graduate Representative Organization Travel Grant, Johns Hopkins University
- 2019 P. E. MacAllister Excavation Fellowship, American Society of Overseas Research
- 2018 Graduate Representative Organization Travel Grant, Johns Hopkins University
- 2017 American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting Travel Grant
- 2016–2017 Technology Fellowship, "Teaching Mesopotamian Art Through OERs," Center for Educational Resources, Johns Hopkins University
- 2016 The Cornelia G. Harcum Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University
- 2016 Hall Curatorial Fellowship, The Department of Ancient Art, The Walters Art Museum
- 2014 Anna Lerah Keys Memorial Prize, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College
- 2011–2015 Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll, Bryn Mawr College
- 2011–2015 125th Anniversary Scholarship, Bryn Mawr College

## CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

---

### Papers Presented

- 2026 "Between Myth and Manufacture: The Visual Disenchantment of Apotropaic Colossi in Sennacherib's Southwest Palace," College Arts Association Annual Conference, Chicago, February 18–21. *Accepted*.
- 2024 "Color and Care on the Northwest Palace Reliefs," American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, November 20–23.
- 2024 "The Use of Pigment and Metal on Cylinder Seals in Ancient Mesopotamia," American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, November 20–23. *Authors: Avary R. Taylor and Agnete W. Lassen (Yale University)*.
- 2023 "Exploring Yale's Collection: XRF Scanning at Scale," Eastern Analytical Symposium, Plainsboro, November 13–15. *Authors: Marcie Wiggins (Yale University), Richard Hark (Yale University), Anikó Bezur (Yale University), and Avary R. Taylor*.
- 2021 "The Banquet Stele of Ashurnasirpal II, Material Duration, and the Experience of Temporality," American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, November 17–20.
- 2019 "The Colossus 'I Caused to be Born': The Earthly Construction of Mythological Bull Colossi in the Southwest Palace of Sennacherib," The Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Paris, July 8–11.
- 2018 "Dressing the Palace: The Garment Details in the Northwest Palace at Nimrud," Annual History of Art Graduate Student Symposium, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, March 2.

- 2017 “Experiencing ‘Embroidered’ Spaces: The Garment Details in the Bas-Reliefs at The Northwest Palace of Nimrud,” American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Boston, November 15–18.

### **Sessions Chaired**

- 2025–2028 “Gender in the Ancient Near East,” at the American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, co-chaired with Kelsie Ehalt.

### **INVITED TALKS**

---

- 2026 “Materiality and Visuality of Surface Modifications to Seals in the Yale Babylonian Collection,” The Ancient Near East Seminar, Columbia University, May 4. *Authors: Avary R. Taylor and Agnete W. Lassen (Yale University).*
- 2025 “Intimacy, Danger, and Miniature Encounters with the Sculpted Garments of the Northwest Palace, Nimrud,” Ancient Societies Workshop, Yale University, December 5.
- 2025 “Approaching Stone Dress in the Late Assyrian Period,” Interdisciplinary Textile Roundtable, College of the Holy Cross, November 17.
- 2022 “Slow Art and Material Interactions,” The Department of Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, April 7.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

#### **Yale University, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department**

- “Materiality and Power in Ancient Assyria,” graduate-level seminar course (Spring 2026)
- “The Materiality of the Ancient Assyrian and Aztec Empires,” graduate-level seminar course (scheduled for Fall 2026)

#### **Johns Hopkins University, Near Eastern Studies & Art History Departments**

- “Art and the Environment in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean,” upper-level undergraduate and graduate lecture/seminar course (Fall 2022)
- “Introduction to Akkadian,” undergraduate and graduate language course (temporary substitute instructor) (September 2022)
- “The Archaeology of Gender in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean,” upper-level undergraduate seminar (Spring 2022)
- “Freshman Seminar: The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia,” first-year lecture course (Fall 2021; Fall 2020 [virtual])
- “Introduction to Art History,” undergraduate lecture course (Provost Graduate Assistant) (Fall 2020)
- “The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia,” upper-level undergraduate lecture/seminar (Fall 2019)

#### **Loyola University, Maryland, Fine Arts Department**

- “Near Eastern Art and Architecture,” upper-level undergraduate lecture/seminar course (Fall 2021)

**California State University, Long Beach, Art History Department**

“Cultural Interactions of the Near East, Egypt, and the Aegean,” undergraduate survey course  
(Spring 2021) [virtual]

**EXCAVATION EXPERIENCE**

- 2019–2023 Senior Field Excavator, Lagash Archaeology Project (LAP), al-Hiba, Iraq: Director Holly Pittman, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2017 Object Registrar and Site Supervisor, Kurd Qaburstan, Iraq: Director Glenn Schwartz, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2016–2017 Survey Archaeologist and Artifact Analyst, Archaeological Water Histories of Oman (ArWHO), Oman: Director Michael Harrower, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2013 Unit Supervisor, Proyecto Arqueologico Pukaras De Colca, Peru: Director Lauren Kohut, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2012–2013 Excavation Assistant, Archaeological Project in the Emirate of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates: Director Peter Magee, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

**MUSEUM EXPERIENCE**

- 2023–2024 Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, Postdoctoral Associate
- 2017–2018 Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, Baltimore, Graduate Student Assistant
- 2016 The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, Hall Curatorial Fellow

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- 2025–present Archaia Steering Committee, Committee Member, Archaia: the Yale Program for the Study of Global Antiquity
- 2025–present Graduate Certification Program Coordinator, Archaia: the Yale Program for the Study of Global Antiquity
- 2019–2020 Graduate Student Lecture Coordinator, Near Eastern Studies Department, Johns Hopkins University

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- 2025–present Ancient Societies Workshop Series Coordinator, Yale University
- 2021–2023 Transgender Awareness Task Force, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Johns Hopkins University
- 2019–2023 Graduate Student Peer Mentor, LGBTQ Life Mentorship Program, Johns Hopkins University

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2025–present Co-Chair, American Society of Overseas Research Early Career Scholars Committee

2022–present	Committee Member, American Society of Overseas Research Committee on Growth, Innovation, and Visibility (Formerly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee)
2022–2025	Growth, Innovation, and Visibility Committee Liaison, American Society of Overseas Research Early Career Scholars Committee
2021–2022	Chair, American Society of Overseas Research Early Career Scholars Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee
2020–2021	Committee Member, American Society of Overseas Research Early Career Scholars Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee

## **LANGUAGES**

---

### **Modern**

Arabic (Iraqi)	Basic conversational ability
French	Advanced reading
German	Advanced reading, conversational ability

### **Ancient**

Akkadian	Advanced
Greek	Advanced
Sumerian	Advanced

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)  
 Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)  
 American Institute for Conservation (AIC)  
 Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS)  
 College Art Association (CAA)

## **REFERENCES**

---

Dr. Marian H. Feldman  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Professor of History of Art & Near Eastern Studies  
 W.H. Collins Vickers Chair in Archaeology  
 Gilman 174, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218  
 mfeldm20@jhu.edu

Dr. Holly Pittman  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 Professor of History of Art  
 Bok Family Professor in the Humanities  
 302 Jaffe Building, University of Pennsylvania, 3405 Woodland Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
 hpittman@sas.upenn.edu

Dr. Emily S. K. Anderson

Johns Hopkins University  
Associate Professor of Classics  
Director of the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum  
Gilman 190, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218  
[emily.anderson@jhu.edu](mailto:emily.anderson@jhu.edu)

Dr. Agnete W. Lassen  
Yale University  
Associate Curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection  
120 High Street, SML, Babylonian Collection, New Haven, CT 06511  
[agnete.lassen@yale.edu](mailto:agnete.lassen@yale.edu)