

Sara Morrisset

Assistant Professor of History

Westmont College

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Education

University of Cambridge, Ph.D. in Archaeology 2016–2022

Thesis Title: *Memory, Identity, and the Role of Revival: Tracing Changes in Material Culture of the Ica Society on the Peruvian South Coast (c. 1000–1600 CE)*

Supervisors: Elizabeth DeMarrais and David Beresford-Jones

Examiners: George Lau and Bill Sillar

University of Cambridge, M.Phil. in Archaeology with Distinction (Honors) 2015–2016

Thesis Title: *Conduits of Power: Ritualized Displays of Water at the Inca Site of Saqsaywaman*

Supervisor: Elizabeth DeMarrais

University of California, Los Angeles, B.A. in Art History and B.A. in Anthropology (Art History Departmental Honors, Anthropology Departmental Honors, College Honors, *summa cum laude*) 2011–2015
GPA: 3.95

Anthropology Thesis Title: *Patterns of Destruction: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of the Deliberate Defacement of Ancient Statuary from Mesoamerica and Mesopotamia*

Supervisor: Richard Lesure

Art History Thesis Title: *The Persistence of Inca Power: Imperial Inca Architecture at Vitcos*

Supervisor: Stella Nair

Teaching Appointments

Assistant Professor of History, Westmont College 2024–Present

Teaches courses on Latin American history and world history

Adjunct Professor, California State University Long Beach Art History 457C: Pre-Columbian Art Spring 2024

Taught upper division course on the art of the Pre-Columbian Americas

Adjunct Professor, California State University Long Beach Art History 460: Art of Mexico <i>Taught upper division course on the art of Mexico (from ancient to modern)</i>	Fall 2023
Adjunct Professor, California State University Fullerton Anthropology 103: Introduction to Archaeology <i>Taught lower division course on methods, theories, and practices of archaeology</i>	Fall 2023
Adjunct Professor, Concordia University Irvine Anthropology 210: Cultural Anthropology <i>Taught lower division courses on cultural anthropology</i>	2023–2024
Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Teaching Academy <i>Certified through the Teaching Associates Program at the University of Cambridge</i>	2019–Present
Supervisor/Teaching Assistant at the University of Cambridge <i>Undergraduate course in World Archaeology</i>	2018–2019
Archaeology and Ontology Workshop at the University of Cambridge <i>Interactive workshop for archaeology undergraduate students</i>	2017
Peer Learning Facilitator at UCLA <i>Seminars, lectures, and supervisions in English composition, world history, sociocultural anthropology, art of the ancient world, and South Asian art history</i>	2013–2014

Awards, Honors, and Residencies

Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined) <i>Declined due to tenure-track Assistant Professor position offer</i>	2024–2025
Gates Cambridge Scholarship (c. £42,000 per annum) <i>Competitive scholarship for full Ph.D. funding based upon supporting future leaders committed to improving the lives of others</i>	2016–2022
Lifetime Scholar of St John's College, University of Cambridge <i>Awarded for distinction (honors) on M.Phil. thesis</i>	2016–Present
Pre-Doctoral Residency at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections	2019
National Geographic Society Early Career Grant (\$7,000) <i>Archaeological fieldwork in the Ica Valley, Peru</i>	2018
University of Cambridge Fieldwork Fund Award (£3,800) <i>Archaeological fieldwork in the Ica Valley, Peru</i>	2016–2018
Anthony Wilkins Trust Award (£2,100) <i>Archaeological fieldwork in the Ica Valley, Peru</i>	2016–2018

Dorothy Garrod Fund (£1,100) <i>Archaeological fieldwork in the Ica Valley, Peru</i>	2016–2018
Eugene Wurzel Memorial Art Scholarship (\$2,000) <i>Awarded to one senior student majoring in art history based upon research and exceptional grade point average at UCLA</i>	2015
Rose Gilbert Honors Research Scholarship (\$2,000) <i>Awarded to one student based upon research and exceptional grade point average</i>	2014
Lemelson Honors Research Award (\$5,000) <i>Awarded in competition for an anthropological research proposal at UCLA</i>	2014–2015
Guy T. Ellis Scholarship (\$44,000) <i>Awarded in competition to a high achieving college honors student to fund undergraduate education</i>	2012–2015

Publications

Morrisset, Sara. “The Role of Revival in the Ancient Americas: Tracing Changes in Ica Material Culture on the Andean Coast (c. 1000–1600 CE).” (Article in Prep).

Morrisset, Sara. “The Problem with Pachacamac: An Analysis of the Pachacamac and Ica-Pachacamac Styles of the Middle Horizon (c. 600–1000 CE).” (Article in Prep).

Morrisset, Sara, and Stephen Berquist. “Saqsaywaman: Inka Acropolis.” In *Cusco*, edited by Bill Sillar and Alexei Vranich (Under Review).

Morrisset, Sara, and Richard Miksad. “The Waterworks of the Muyuqmarca.” In *Saqsaywaman: House of the Sun*, edited by Gordon McEwan and Richard Miksad. (Under Review).

Morrisset, Sara. “Inca Cosmology and the Design of Saqsaywaman.” In *Saqsaywaman: House of the Sun*, edited by Gordon McEwan and Richard Miksad. (Under Review).

Alday, Camila, and **Sara Morrisset**, Eds. Desert Archaeology. *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* 34, no. 1 (2019).

Chauca, George, **Sara Morrisset**, Jorge Rodríguez, Susana Arce, Charles French, and David Beresford-Jones. “Excavaciones en el Sitio Arqueológico Cerro Huamán, Valle de Ica.” In *Actas del I Congreso Internacional de Arqueología del Área Centro-Sur Andina*, edited by C.C. Arce. (Lima: Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura de Arequipa y Arqueosystems, 2018), 76–85.

Selected Talks and Conference Presentations

College Art Association of America Annual Conference <i>The Art of Recalling the Past: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Artistic Revivals in the Ancient Americas</i>	2024
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Bruin Belles Service Association Annual Women’s Leadership Conference at UCLA <i>Women’s Leadership in Higher Education</i>	2023
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College Art Association of America Annual Conference 2022

The Role of Revival in the Ancient Americas: Tracing Changes in Ica Artistic Expression on the Andean Coast (c. 1000–1600 CE)

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting 2021

New Perspectives on the Ica Society: Tracing Changes in Material Culture in the Lower Ica Valley on the Peruvian South Coast from the Middle Horizon to Early Colonial Period (c. 1000–1600 CE)

College Art Association of America Annual Conference 2020

*Material Emulations and the Arts of the Ancient Americas:
A Study of Ica Visual Culture (c. 1000–1600 CE)*

Universities Art Association of Canada Annual Conference 2020

Art and Distinction in the Ica Society: A Study of the Art of Early Colonial Peru (c. 1532–1600 CE)

St John's College Michaelmas Graduate Seminar 2019

The Sands of Time: New Discoveries from Archaeological Excavations in the Ica Valley, Peru

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting 2018

Echoes in the Wake of Collapse: Cultural Connectivity during the Middle Horizon to Late Intermediate Period in the Lower Ica Valley, Peru

Arts and Humanities Research Council Conference 2018

Transforming Tradition: Material Culture and Identity in the Ica Valley, Peru

University College London Annual Andean Meeting 2017

Conduits of Power: Ritualized Displays of Water at Saqsaywaman

University of California Berkeley Institute of Andean Studies 2017

Annual Meeting

Conduits of Power: Ritualized Displays of Water at Saqsaywaman

Field Research and Internships

Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru

July 2024

Excavation in the Ica Valley

PI: David Beresford-Jones, Co-director George Chauca

Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru

June–July 2018

Excavation in the Ica Valley for Ph.D. research

PI: Sara Morrisset, Co-director George Chauca

Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru <i>Excavation in the Ica Valley for Ph.D. research</i> <i>PI: Sara Morrisset, Co-director George Chauca</i>	June–July 2017
Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru <i>Research conducted at the site of Saqsaywaman for M.Phil. research</i> <i>(PI: Richard Miksad). Survey work also conducted for Ph.D. in Ica Valley</i> <i>(PI: David Beresford-Jones, Co-director George Chauca)</i>	July 2016
Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru <i>Mapping Inca architectural remains in Cusco. PI: Bill Sillar and Alexei Vranich</i>	July 2015
Intern at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art <i>Assisted with exhibition “Ancient Colombia: A Journey through the Cauca Valley”</i> <i>PI: Julia Burtenshaw</i>	2014–2015
Archaeological Field school, Belize <i>Excavated a Maya site of Cahal Pech in Northern of Belize (BVAR) PI: Jaime Awe</i>	July 2014
Archaeological Field School, Spain <i>Excavated a Roman Basilica on the Island of Menorca. PI: Fernando Contreas</i>	July 2013
Archaeological Egyptian Lab at UCLA <i>Helped organize material from the field and database input. PI: Willeke Wendrich</i>	2012–2013
Archaeological Fieldwork, Peru <i>Assistant to a project in Cusco funded by the Smithsonian/UCLA</i> <i>PI: Alexei Vranich, Jose Beltrán- Caballero, and Ricardo Mar</i>	July 2012

Academic Service and Outreach

Invited Speaker for History Hit Ancients Podcast <i>Guest lecture on the Nazca Lines: https://podfollow.com/the-ancients/episode/a4fa1a8d7712010c3b75484561343878fd63eac6/view</i>	2023
President and Lead Organizer, University of Cambridge Archaeology of the Americas Seminar Group <i>Organized seminars given by invited researchers throughout the academic year</i>	2015–2020
Publicity Chair, Archaeology Review from Cambridge Committee <i>Elected position with the responsibility of managing and publishing the biannual academic journal of Archaeology</i>	2017–2019
Social Chair, Gates Cambridge Scholar Committee <i>Elected position with the responsibility to organize community outreach and social events throughout the year culminating in the Gates Gala</i>	2017–2018
Social Chair, St John’s College Samuel Butler Room Committee <i>Elected position with the responsibility to organize community outreach and social events throughout the year for the graduate community of St John’s College</i>	2016–2018

Event Organizer, UCLA Bruin Belles Service Association

2013–2014

Elected position with the responsibility to organize fundraisers and social events for the Bruin Belles (society based on community service and women's leadership)

Language and Other Skills

English (Native Speaker)

Spanish (Professional Working Proficiency)

French (Limited Working Proficiency)

Experience with Maya Epigraphy

Experience with computer programs such as *Adobe InDesign*, *AutoCad*, and *Sketch up*

Updated August 13, 2025