



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Tracing Women's Contributions to Near Eastern Archaeology during the 20th century: Memory and Archival Challenges

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Abstract

Since the 1970s, research has increasingly focused on the contributions of women in archaeology, particularly in relation to gendered inequalities and labor distributions. These studies have often highlighted overlooked figures, typically categorized by nationality.

This presentation examines the methods used to research and write the history of archaeology, specifically in terms of the roles of women, from amateurs accompanying their husbands on excavation sites to professional archaeologists, academics, and museum staff. The ongoing PhD research takes a quantitative and comparative approach, analyzing the contributions of women to the development of Ancient Near Eastern archaeology across different European countries. It addresses how these women can be traced within institutional and museum archives, the types of records they left behind, and how personal documents provide insights not available in official archives. By analyzing writings by women, institutional archives, correspondence, and press, the research investigates how gender can influence the archival history of archaeology. It also examines the significance of preserving this history through oral history interviews, with a focus on the creation of oral archives to contribute to the broader historiography of Near Eastern archaeology, gender studies, social and cultural history, and the professionalization of the discipline.

Keywords

History of archaeology, Women, Gender, History of science, Legacy

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