

# ANNA-LATIFA MOURAD-CIZEK



## “SAILING TO JBEIL: EGYPT, LEBANON AND THE BRONZE AGE TIMBER TRADE”

Around 3,800 years ago, the Egyptian Pharaoh Senwosret III sent an expedition of sailors to the ancient harbour of Jbeil, or Byblos. Their mission was to retrieve timber. This was not the first time that the Egyptians had sailed to Byblos, nor would it be the last. Instead, mounting evidence from Egypt, Lebanon and elsewhere points to a transformative network of exchange between Egyptian and Levantine communities from the Third to the Second Millennium BCE. This network grew in complexity during periods of heightened connectivity, and endured through periods of state collapse. It offered the Egyptians, and others, the continued access to the precious conifer woods of today's Lebanon that were highly sought after by the elites of the region. Drawing on both archaeological and historical material, this lecture explores why these woods were prized and how their exchange was sustained across political and cultural divides from the late Third to Second Millennium BCE. It sheds light on the collaborative efforts and roles of various individuals and groups, to consider the lasting legacy of the thriving Bronze Age timber trade.



Dr. Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek is an archaeologist and historian who explores the links between cultural encounters and socio-cultural transformations. Her research focusses on relations between ancient Egypt and Western Asia during the Third and Second Millennium BCE.

She was awarded her PhD from Macquarie University, Australia, for a thesis on the 'Rise of the Hyksos' and Egyptian-Levantine relations in the first half of the Second Millennium BCE (2014). She later joined the project, 'The Enigma of the Hyksos', funded by the European Research Council and hosted at the

Austrian Academy of Sciences (2017-2020) before leading her own project on Second Millennium BCE networks of contact and exchange at Macquarie University (2019-2022). Dr Mourad-Cizek has worked with archaeological expeditions in Australia and Egypt. She teaches archaeology at the University of Sydney, and holds honorary research fellowships at Macquarie University and the Australian Institute of Archaeology.

**Date and Time: Friday March 15, 2024 / 11:00 AM EET**

**Location: Gezairi Building Chafica Balaa Lecture Hall 403**

**Via Webex: [link](#)**