

THE CONSTRUCTION OF VALUE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD
The Cotsen Institute, UCLA – November 13-15, 2009
Co-Organizers: Gary Urton (Harvard University) and John Papadopoulos (UCLA)

The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology is proud to sponsor the Advanced Seminar on *The Construction of Value in the Ancient World*. This symposium seeks to bring together an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural group of scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences (anthropologists, archaeologists, art historians, economic historians, historians, linguists, philologists, sociologists) to investigate the meaning and construction of value in the ancient world. The concept of value lies at the intersection of individual and collective tastes, desires, sentiments, and attitudes that inform the ways people select, or give priority to, one thing over another. How did past societies, and how do we in the present, place value on anything? What, for example, is it that we value in particular places or monuments, objects, materials, human bodies, or in art? To what extent are taste, trade, and desire regulated by social and political mechanisms, however complex or specific?

The structure of the symposium will be loosely based on five over-arching but closely related themes, which will serve as a focus for discussion: place-value, body-value, object-value, number-value, art-value. Running through each of these categories of value are issues of memory, nostalgia, identity, biography, ideology, style, symbolism, exchange.

The seminar will take place over three days (Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 15) on the campus of UCLA. Faculty, students, research associates and friends of archaeology who wish to take part for all or part of the seminar need to register for the event. Please note that registration, which is free of charge, ensures that there is adequate space for those wishing to attend. To register, please email Shauna Mecarrea (shaunam@ioa.ucla.edu).

Below is a preliminary schedule of papers to be given. Those who register will receive an updated schedule closer to the event.

Friday, November 13

Location: Kerckhoff Grand Salon

8:30-9:00am Coffee and Welcome

Session 1 - *Place-value*:

- 9:00-9:30 John Chapman (Durham University)
“The Construction of Place-Value in Settlements, Cemeteries and Landscapes”
- 9:30-10:00 Chris Scarre (Durham University)
“Significant stones, significant places: monumentality and landscape in Neolithic Western Europe”
- 10:00-10:30 Charles Stanish (UCLA)
“The political construction of valued space in imperial expansion”

10:30-10:45: Coffee Break

- 10:45-11:15 Susan Alcock (Brown University)
 “Spare values: the decision not to destroy”
- 11:15-11:45 Steven Kosiba (University of Chicago)
 “Emplacing Value: Conversion and Commemoration throughout Early Inka
 State Formation (Cusco, Perú)”
- 11:45-12:15 *Discussion of Place-value*

Session 2 - ***Body-value:***

- 1:30-2:00 Leslie Kurke, Classics (UC Berkeley)
 “The Value of Choralities in Ancient Greece”
- 2:00-2:30 Chris Donnan (UCLA)
 “Dressing the Body in Splendor: Expression of Value by the Moche of
 Ancient Peru”
- 2:30-3:00 Lisa DeLeonardis (Johns Hopkins)
 “Interpreting Body Value in Ancient Peru: Essentials and Extremes”

3:00-3:15: Coffee Break

- 3:15-3:45 Patrick Geary (UCLA)
 “Bodies and their Values in the Early Medieval West”
- 3:45-4:15 Kara Cooney (UCLA)
 “Changing Values in the Egyptian Burial at the End of the Late Bronze Age”
- 4:15-5:00 *Discussion of Body-value*

Saturday, November 14

Location: Royce 314

Session 3 - ***Object-value:***

- 9:00-9:30 Sofia Voutsaki (University of Groningen)
 “From value to meaning, from things to persons”
- 9:30-10:00 Richard Burger (Yale University)
 “The Construction of Value in the Peruvian Formative”
- 10:00-10:30 Rowan Flad (Harvard University)
 “Bronze, Jade, Gold, and Ivory: Valuable Objects in Ancient Sichuan”

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

- 11:00-11:30 Tamara Bray (Wayne State University)
 “From Rational to Relational: Re-Configuring Value”
- 11:30-12:00 Stephen Houston (Brown University)
 “Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: Aesthetics and Value among the Classic Maya”
- 12:00-12:30 *Discussion of Object-value*

Session 4 - *Number-value*

- 2:00-2:30 Robert K. Englund (UCLA)
“Equivalency Values and the Command Economy of the Ur III Period”
- 2:30-3:00 Gary Urton (Harvard University)
“String Values: Color and Place-Value in the Inka Khipus”
- 3:00-3:30 David Stuart (University of Texas at Austin)
“Ancient Maya Numeration and Value”

3:30-3:45 Coffee Break

- 3:45-4:15 Karine Chemla (CNRS – Université Paris)
“Constructing Value with Instruments Versus Constructing Value with Mathematics”
- 4:15-4:45 Melissa Bailey (Stanford University)
“Calculative Objects”
- 4:45-5:15 *Discussion of Number-value*

Sunday, November 15

Location: Royce 314

Session 5 - *Art-value*

- 9:00-9:30 Colin Renfrew (Cambridge University)
“The Factuality of Material Things”
- 9:30-10:00 Tom Cummins (Harvard University)
TBA
- 10:00-10:30 Richard Lesure (UCLA)
“The Referential Significance of Stylistic Variation among Figurines in Formative Period Mesoamerica”

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

- 10:45-11:15 James Porter, Classics (UC Irvine)
“The Value of Aesthetic Value”
- 11:15-11:45 John Papadopoulos (UCLA)
“The Origins of Coinage and the Value of Money in the Mediterranean”
- 11:45-12:15 *Discussion of Art-value*

Session 6 – *Summary: Constructions of Value in the Ancient World*

- 1:30-3:30 Closing Discussion

Parking for the Conference

Parking is available at UCLA in Lot 4. Day parking is \$10. Pay stations are available in Lot 4.