

## Ann Marie Merkle

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### Present Position

PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis  
 Advisor: Dr. Michael D. Frachetti. Anticipated Ph.D.: 2022

### Research Interests

Archaeology of the Silk Routes; medieval archaeology; Islamic art and archaeology; archaeology of Central Asia; ceramics; material culture analysis; iconography, social identity; photogrammetry, GIS, networks analysis.

**Languages:** Fluent: English; Conversational: Arabic, French; Basic/functional: Russian, German

### Education

2022 (exp)	Ph.D. (Anthropology)	Washington University in St. Louis
2018	M.A. (Anthropology)	Washington University in St. Louis
2015	M.A. (Art History)	The University of Texas at Austin
2011	B.A. (Art History)	The University of Louisville
2004	B.F.A. (Fine Arts)	The University of Washington

### Teaching Experience

Al-Buraimi University College, al-Buraimi, Oman (Instructor of Record)  
 2012-2013 Beginning English Grammar, Beginning English Comprehension

Washington University in St. Louis (Teaching Assistant)

2020 (Spring)	Introduction to GIS for Anthropologists (Anthro 373)
2019 (Spring)	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Anthro 160)
2018 (Fall)	Nomadic Strategies and Extreme Ecologies (Anthro 3053)
2018 (Spring)	Proseminar: Current Issues and Research in Anthropology (Anthro 397)
	Introduction to Archaeology (Anthro 190)
2017 (Fall)	Introduction to Human Evolution (Anthro 150A)

The University of Texas at Austin (Teaching Assistant)

2015 (Spring)	Buddhist Art (ARH 348N)
2015 (Fall)	Arts of Islam (ARH 328J)
2014 (Spring)	Arts of the Ancient Near East (ARH 325)

Charlottesville Methodist Primary School, Tobago (Guest Lecturer)

2012 (Spring) Community Engagement and Public Service

### Professional Appointments

2016	The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Graduate Curatorial Fellow, Art of the Islamic Worlds
2013-2014	The Blanton Museum of Art, the University of Texas at Austin, University Engagement Fellow
2012-2013	Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Oman, Lecturer, English Department
2005-2009	United States Marine Corps, Logistics Officer

### Field and Research Experience

- 2015 – pres. Archaeological Research of the Qarakhanids Project, Uzbekistan. Drs. Michael D. Frachetti and Farhad Maksudov, co-P.I.s, supervisor and project ceramicist.
- 2019 - 2020 Cahokia's Hidden Landscape: The Ramey Field Project, Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville, Illinois. Grant Stauffer (Washington University in St. Louis), P.I., crew chief.
- 2019 Investment Potential of the Sacred Geography of Kazakhstan: Geospatial Monitoring, IT Technology, and Historical-Cultural Analysis in the Production of an Electronic Atlas project, Koken-tau Kazakhstan. Dr. Paula Doumani Dupuy, P.I., supervisor.
- 2017 – 2018 Geoarchaeological Research Project, Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville, Illinois. Caitlin Rankin (Washington University in St. Louis), P.I., field archaeologist.

### Publications

- 2020 Doumani Dupuy, Paula, Z. Aydin Sengalievich, Elissa Bullion, R. Erbolat Zhaksybekovich, Galimjan Kiyasbek, Zhuldyz Tashmanbetova, I. Amantay Isaevich, Ann Merkle, Olga Gumyrova. "O rezul'tatakh arkheologicheskoy issledovaniy 2019 goda v Kokentau (On the results of archaeological research in Kokentau in 2019)." *The Archaeology of Kazakhstan*, 2020.
- 2018 Spengler III, Robert N., Farhad Maksudov, Elissa Bullion, Ann Merkle, Taylor Hermes, and Michael D. Frachetti. "Arboreal Crops on the Medieval Silk Road: Archaeobotanical Studies at Tashbulak." *PloS One* 13(8).
- 2018 Maksudov, Farhad, Elissa Bullion, Edward R. Henry, Taylor Hermes, Ann Merkle, and Michael D. Frachetti. "Nomadic Urbanism at Tashbulak: A New Highland Town of the Karakhanids." In *Urban Cultures of Central Asia from the Bronze Age to the Karakhanids. Learnings and conclusions from new archaeological investigations and discoveries*, by C. Baumer and S. Ecklin, eds. Harrassowitz Verlag: Wiesbaden, 283-306.
- 2013 Merkle, Ann M., Dallas Chaos. Not Even Past blog, <https://notevenpast.org/dallas-chaos/>.

### Publications in Process

- Merkle, Ann and Elissa Bullion. "Sovereign Legitimacy in Regional Terms: Funerary Monuments of the Qarakhanids."
- Bullion, Elissa, Farhad Maksudov, Edward R. Henry, Ann Merkle, Michael Frachetti. "Community Practice and Religion at an Early Islamic Cemetery in Highland Central Asia."
- Frachetti, Michael D., Edward Henry, Elissa Bullion, Ann Merkle, Taylor R. Hermes, Patrick Daly, M. Georgakopoulou, D.E. Giammar, T.R. Kidder, Thilo Rehren, Zhezhen Pan, Irina Panyushkina, Robert S. Spengler, Farhod Maksudov. "Urban planning and sustained political investment among pre-Mongol nomadic polities in highland Central Asia."

### Papers at Meetings and Conferences

- 2021 "Ceramics of the Medieval Central Asian Highlands: Qarakhanids and 'Nomadic' Ideology". Paper presented at the online webinar, Qarakhanids Unearthed, 25 May 2021.
- "Central Asian Nomadic Ceramics in the Early Medieval Islamic Period: Form, Color, and Mountain Corridors". Paper presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in the session Identity, Interpretation, and Innovation: The Worlds of Islamic Archaeology.
- 2020 "Sacred Colors and Nomadic Design: The Hand-formed Slip-painted Pottery of the Medieval (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> c. CE) Central Asian Highlands". Paper presented at the Global Islamic Archaeology Showcase, hosted by the Centre for Islamic Archaeology, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, 26 Sept. 2020
- 2019 Ann Merkle, M. Frachetti. "Mobility and Highland Medieval Urbanism of the Nomadic Qarakhanids (9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> c. CE, Uzbekistan)". Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in the session From Campsite to Capital – Mobility Patterns and Urbanism in Inner Asia.

- Elissa Bullion, M. Frachetti, F. Maksudov, and A. Merkle. "Believers in the Highlands: Burying the Muslim Dead at the Qarakhanid Site of Tashbulak". Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in the session Living and Dying in Mountain and Highland Landscapes.
- 2017 "Sovereign Legitimacy in Regional Terms: Funerary Architecture of the Qarakhanid Khanate". Paper presented at the Fifth Eurasian Archaeology Conference, "Gods on the Grasslands, Myths in the Mountains". Cornell University, Ithaca NY.
- 2014 "A Tall Building, Artistically Considered: Dubai's Burj Khalifa and Louis Sullivan's Vision". Paper presented at the Eleanor Greenhill Symposium, the University of Texas at Austin.
- 2012 "On Leadership and Social Responsibility". Plenary address at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Student Engagement: Developing Social Responsibility, 2012, the University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

### Lectures

- 2020 "Material Culture of the Qarakhanids (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> c. CE): A Bottom-up Approach to Intra-empire Networks". Presentation at Washington University in St. Louis, "Friday Archaeology." St. Louis, MO.
- 2017 "The Materiality of Movement: Archaeological Evidence of Nomadic Ideology and Economy in the Highlands of Medieval Uzbekistan". Invited lecture presented to the Cahokia Archaeological Society, Collinsville, IL.
- "Ceramic Technology and Islamic Burial at Tashbulak: Investigating Nomadic Ideology and Economy in the Highlands of Uzbekistan". Presentation with Elissa Bullion at Washington University in St. Louis, "Friday Archaeology." St. Louis, MO.

### Research Grants and Scholarships

- 2021 The National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award for "Form and Color: Medieval (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> c. CE) Material Culture and Social Identity in the Central Asian Highlands", February 1, 2021 – January 30, 2022; \$15,661.00
- 2017-2018 Frederick Bierman and James E. Spears Endowed Scholarship, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2016-2018 Julia A. Gehm Scholarship, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2017 George R. Throop Endowment Grant, for "Qarakhanid Ceramics: Their Place in Central Asian Ceramics". Washington University in St. Louis
- 2014– 2015 Charles Edwards Endowed Scholarship in Art History, the University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2013-2015 College of Fine Arts Fellowship, the University of Texas at Austin
- 2013-2015 Doty Society Medieval Studies Grant, the University of Texas at Austin
- 2010 Kentucky Institute for International Study, Study Abroad Scholarship

### Other Academic Achievements

- 2021 Session organizer and chair of the session *Identity, Interpretation, and Innovation: The Worlds of Islamic Archaeology*, at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.
- 2017 Organizer and co-chair with Elissa Bullion for the session *Territoriality, Politics, and Religion: Intersections of Meaning in Eurasian Mortuary Practice* at the Fifth Eurasian Archaeology Conference, "Gods on the Grasslands, Myths in the Mountains." Cornell University, Ithaca NY.

### Professional Associations

Historians of Islamic Art (HIAA)

American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)  
Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)  
American Oriental Society (AOS)  
College Arts Association (CAA)  
Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

**References**

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