

Mesfer Alqahtani

PhD Student - Archaeology

Department of Anthropology - University of Pittsburgh

Heritage Commission – Ministry of Culture KSA

3302 WWPH, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: [4128971755](tel:4128971755); E-mail: mha34@pitt.edu

Research Interests

My primary research interest focuses on the archaeology of prehistoric Arabia, specifically, the early complex societies during the mid-Holocene: the cultural developments, which happened through the end of the Neolithic causing the emergence of settlements (small villages around big wades and basins) during the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze periods.

Education

- 2021- now Starting PhD in Archaeology (Department of Anthropology) – University of Pittsburgh.
- 2018 MA, Applied Archaeology (Department of Anthropology) – Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
Thesis Title: *Geospatial Probability Modeling of Stone Structures in Northern Saudi Arabia.*
Committee: William Chadwick, Sudeshna Ghosh, Benjamin Ford.
- 2015 Program of Intensive Instruction in English as a Second Language, University of Oregon.
- 2012 BA, Archaeology (Department of Archaeology) – King Saud University.

Professional Appointments

- 2021 – now Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellow in the Center for Comparative Archaeology at the Department of Anthropology – University of Pittsburgh.
- 2020 – 2021 Archaeological Researcher at Heritage Commission – Saudi Ministry of Culture.
- 2018 – 2020 Archaeological Researcher at Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH)

Publication

1. Luciani, Marta., **Alqahtani, Mesfer.**, Alsulaimi, Milk., and Abualhassan, Abdurahaman. The long history of Qurayyah's Plateau: Epigraphy, Rock Art and Archaeology. *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*. (In review)
2. Stewart, Mathew., Andrieux, Eric., Clark-Wilson, Richard., Vanwezer, Nils., Blinkhorn, James., Armitage, Simon J., Al Omari, Abdulaziz., Zahrani, Badr., **Alqahtani, Mesfer.**, Al-Shanti, Mahmoud., Zalmout, Iyad., Al-Mufarreah, Yahya., Alsharekh, Abdullah., Boivin, Nicole., Petraglia, Michael., 2021. Taphonomy of an excavated striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) den in Arabia: implications for paleoecology and prehistory *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 13:139.
3. **Alqahtani, Mesfer** and Alsulaimi, Milk. "نتائج مسح النقوش والرسوم الصخرية بهضبة قرية" [Epigraphic and Petroglyphs Survey of Qurayyah's Plateau Report]. *the Journal of Saudi Arabian Archaeology* (under printing).

Conference Presentation and Poster

- 2020 Oral presentation for Saudi Society of Archaeological Studies. Title is "نتائج مسح النقوش والفنون الصخرية بهضبة قرية" [The result of archaeological survey on Qurayyah's Plateau for inscriptions and rock art] (with two of my colleagues at HC: Milk Alsulaimi and Ahmed Abu-Alhassan).
- 2018 Oral presentation for the Seminar of Arabian Studies. Title is "Geospatial Investigation of Circular Stone Structures in Northern Saudi Arabia."
- 2018 Poster presentation for the Society for American Archaeology. Title of the poster is "Geospatial Investigation of Circular Stone Structures in Northern Saudi Arabia."
- 2018 Poster presentation for the Graduate Scholars Forum at IUP (Rewarded by Dean's Award for Excellence). Title of poster is " GIS Investigations on Stone-Circle Structures in the North of Saudi Arabia."
- 2017 Participating in a workshop (Studying archaeology abroad) during the First Saudi Archaeology Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Grants and Awards

- 2021 Archaeological Research Grant from Heritage Commission - Saudi Ministry of Culture.
- 2020/21 Graduate Fellowship in the Center for Comparative Archaeology at Department of Anthropology - University of Pittsburgh.

2018 Dean's Award for Excellence in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences – Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Career Achievements (Selected)

2020 – 2021 Heritage Commission:

- Directed an archaeological survey in Wadi al-U'ayli in Harrat Al-Harrah, north Saudi Arabia for two weeks on June 2021.
- Proposed an archaeological research project to document and study the archaeological sites of stone structures in Saudi Arabia. This project was approved and announced by the minister of Cultural Ministry on January 30, 2021.
- Participated in several workshops to review the strategic plan of the HC.
- Attended several conferences and workshops in general in the field of heritage.
- Directed a salvage excavation within the Qiddiya Project area south-west Riyadh June 2020.

2018 – 2020 Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH):

- Directed an archaeological survey in Wadi Jalil in Taif county for three days.
- Participated with Saudi Arabian-Austrian Archaeological Project at Qurayyah site NW Saudi Arabia for a month – November 2019.
- Represented SCTH to attend "Seminar for Arabian Studies" at the Leiden University in Leiden, Netherlands – July 2019
- Represented SCTH to attend "1st Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names" at the United Nation in New York, US – May 2019
- Represented SCTH in the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the meetings.
- Participated in Archaeological survey in Al-Riyadh region, near the city of Afif for three days – March 2019
- Participated in the Palaeodeserts Project (<https://www.palaeodeserts.com/>) to survey and excavate some caves in Eastern Province and Al Madinah regions for three weeks – January 2019
- Participated in Archaeological survey in Al Madinah and Tabuk regions for two Weeks – December 2018
- Participated in Archaeological survey (Melebid Survey project) in Ad Diriyah, west Riyadh city for one week by cooperating with King Saud University and Diriyah Gate Development Authority – August 2019
- Participated in Archaeological excavation (Abahili project) in Ad Diriyah, west Riyadh city for three weeks by cooperating with King Saud University and Diriyah Gate Development Authority – July 2019
- Participated in Archaeological survey in the Governorate of Al-Ula for one week by cooperating with the Royal Commission for Al-Ula (RCU) – September 2018
- General work:
 - Registering archaeological sites into the national registry system.

- Preparing, designing and producing the archaeological maps by using ArcMap.
- Visiting archaeological sites and preparing a report about them.

Training and Certificates (Selected)

- Diver certifications from Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
 - Divemaster – December 2019
 - Night Diver – September 2017
 - Rescue Diver – September 2017
 - Advanced Open Water Diver – 2017
 - Open Water Diver – 2016
- A course for one month in underwater archaeological fieldwork, provided by Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) at shipwreck site in Florida, US – June & July 2017
 - Archaeological Maritime certification – July 2017
 - Scientific Diver certification – July 2017
 - Diving Emergency Management Provider (DEMP) – June 2017
- A course for 3 days in terrestrial archaeological fieldwork by using metal detectors at Fort Necessity site in Pennsylvania, US for two days – August 2016.
- A course for one month in terrestrial archaeological fieldwork at prehistoric site in Squirrel Hill, a Johnston-phase Monongahela village located on the floodplain of the Conemaugh River near New Florence, PA – 2016
- A course for two months in terrestrial archaeological fieldwork at Pre-Islamic site in Al-Ala city, northwestern Saudi Arabia with Department of Archaeology at KSU – April & May 2012.
- Modern archaeological exploration strategy – 2012

Skills

- **Software** – ArcGIS, ERDAS IMAGINE, Agisoft Photoscan, BaseCamp.
- **Field** – Underwater excavations and surveys, GPS, Drone surveys.
- **Languages** – Arabic and English.