

## Elizabeth A. Knott

Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer, Yale University  
E-mail: elizabeth.knott@yale.edu

### EDUCATION

---

- Ph.D.** Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Studies, New York University.  
2018  
Dissertation: “Mari’s Ištar Rituals and the Politics of Divine Multiplicity in the Age of Warring Kings.” Advisor: Daniel Fleming; Committee: Zainab Bahrani, Beate Pongratz-Leisten, Mark S. Smith, Nele Ziegler.
- 2018 Certificate of Museum Studies, New York University.  
2010 Teaching and Learning Certificate, New York University.
- B.A.** Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies, University of Michigan; Study Abroad  
2006 Program, University of St. Andrews (2003–2004).  
Thesis: “Ritual Processions at Ugarit” (awarded High Honors). Advisor: Robert Hawley.

### PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

---

- Postdoctoral Associate** Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University.  
2020–present Project member of “Digitizing the Yale Babylonian Collection” led by Agnete W. Lassen. Responsible for coordinating and overseeing the photography of c. 4,000 seals and c. 11,000 seal impressions in the Babylonian Collection, with additional database editing and populating. Principal organizer for #ConnectingCollections initiative.
- Lecturer** Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University.  
July 2020– Part-time appointed lecturer, designed and taught graduate-level course on Mari to  
January 2022 students at Yale and Harvard.
- Researcher** Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.  
2018–2020 Contracted researcher for Beate Pongratz-Leisten. Assisting in the creation of a volume of Akkadian ritual texts.
- Curator** Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.  
2019 Contracted co-curator for *A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon’s Ishtar Gate* (Nov. 6, 2019–May 24, 2020). Proposed exhibition, developed loan lists, wrote and edited catalogue essays and exhibition texts. Communicated across institutions and between individuals to arrange collection visits and programming.
- Associate Researcher** Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.  
2014–2017 Hagop Kevorkian Associate Researcher in Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. Involved in daily museum activities, created and edited online content, oversaw planning and production of maps for blockbuster exhibition *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age*, and participated in editing of departmental publications. Conducted individual research projects built around the collection and worked with audiences of all ages in the galleries.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### ***Yale University, New Haven***

Fall 2021 *Mari: Introduction to the City and its Texts*

### ***New York University, New York***

Fall 2020 *Ugaritic I*

Spring 2021 *Ugaritic II*

### **Teaching Assistant Positions:**

#### ***New York University, New York***

Spring 2010 Teaching Assistant for Daniel Fleming, *Ancient Near Eastern Mythology*.

Fall 2009 Teaching Assistant for Ogden Goelet, *World Cultures: Ancient Near East and Egypt*.

Spring 2009 Teaching Assistant for Ann Macy Roth, *Ancient Egyptian Art*.

Fall 2008 Teaching Assistant for Ann Macy Roth, *World Cultures: Ancient Near East and Egypt*.

#### ***Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, New York***

Fall 2018 Assisting Beate Pongratz-Leisten for *Ritual Text and Ritual Performance in the Ancient Near East*.

### **Guest Lectures:**

#### ***Colby College, Waterville, Maine***

Spring 2021 "Babylon's Ishtar Gate" for *History of Architecture* (Undergraduate Course; co-presenter: Anastasia Amrhein).

#### ***Fashion Institute of Technology, New York***

Fall 2019 ISAW Exhibition Tour for *Earth Matters* (Undergraduate Course).

Fall 2019 "Clay Matters" for *Earth Matters* (Undergraduate Course; co-presenter: Anastasia Amrhein).

Fall 2019 "Glass Matters" for *Earth Matters* (Undergraduate Course; co-presenter: Anastasia Amrhein).

Fall 2019 "Babylon's Ishtar Gate" for *Cities and Civilizations: The Eastern Mediterranean World, c. 3000 BC–1000 CE* (Undergraduate Course).

#### ***Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore***

Fall 2019 ISAW Exhibition Tour for *Approaches to Ancient Art* (Graduate Course; co-presenter: Anastasia Amrhein).

#### ***New York University, New York***

Spring 2020 "Curating Babylon's Ishtar Gate" for *Ancient Israel* (Undergraduate Course).

Spring 2017 "Inanna/Ishtar's Descent" for *Ancient Near Eastern Mythology* (Undergraduate Course).

Spring 2015 "Inanna/Ishtar's Descent" for *Ancient Near Eastern Mythology* (Undergraduate Course).

#### ***St. John's University, New York***

Spring 2020 "The Yale Babylonian Collection and Ancient Near Eastern Seals for *Ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian Art* (Undergraduate Course).

Fall 2019 "Babylon's Ishtar Gate" for *Introduction to Art History I* (2 Undergraduate Courses).

#### ***University of Oxford, Oxford***

Fall 2020 "Minor Arts for Online Audiences: Digitizing Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the Yale Babylonian Collection" for Oxford Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Research Seminars (Seminar with faculty and students, co-presenter: Agnete W. Lassen).

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Books

- In progress *Beyond Religious Practice: The Politics of Ishtar Worship During the Reign of Samsi-Addu.*
- 2019 *A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon's Ishtar Gate*, co-edited by Anastasia Amrhein, Clare Fitzgerald, and Elizabeth Knott. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

### Articles

- In progress "Mari's Ritual Texts and the Textualization of Ritual in the Old Babylonian Period." To be submitted to *Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale*.
- Submitted "The Old Babylonian Ritual Text BM 29638, *Enūma eliš*, and Developments in Marduk's Cult," Beate Pongratz-Leisten and Elizabeth Knott. *NABU*.
- 2017 "Localized Ištar Goddesses and the Making of Socio-Political Communities: Samsi-Addu's Eštar Irradan at Mari." *Ash-sharq: Bulletin of the Ancient Near East: Archaeological, Historical and Societal Studies* 1/1: 55-61.

### Book Chapters

- Requested "Experiencing Royal Power: Glyptic Imagery, Mari's Investiture Scene, and the Code of Hammurabi." In *Handbook of Seals and Seal Studies in the Ancient World*, edited by Sarah Scott and Oya Topcuoglu. Routledge/Taylor and Francis.
- Submitted "Mari's Investiture Scene and the Visualization of Kingship in the Old Babylonian Period." In *As Above, So Below: Religion and Geography—Proceedings following a Workshop Conducted during the 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Philadelphia, July 11–12, 2016*, edited by Gina Konstantopoulos and Shana Zaia. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.
- 2019 "Eyestones, Natural and Man-Made." In *A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon's Ishtar Gate*, edited by Anastasia Amrhein, Clare Fitzgerald, and Elizabeth Knott. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 104–111.
- 2019 "Conclusion: Beholding Babylon's Ishtar Gate," Anastasia Amrhein and Elizabeth Knott. In *A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon's Ishtar Gate*, edited by Anastasia Amrhein, Clare Fitzgerald, and Elizabeth Knott. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 144–153.
- 2019 "Introduction: Sacred Skills, Sacred Materials," Anastasia Amrhein and Elizabeth Knott. In *A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon's Ishtar Gate*, edited by Anastasia Amrhein, Clare Fitzgerald, and Elizabeth Knott. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 24–39.

### Reviews

- Submitted Review of Steve Tinney and Karen Sonik, eds., *Journey to the city: a companion to the Middle East galleries at the Penn Museum*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.
- 2020 Review of Mehmet-Ali Ataç, *Art and Immortality in the Ancient Near East*. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 384: 246–248.

- 2019 Review of Spencer Allen, *The Splintered Divine: A Study of Ištar, Baal, and Yahweh Divine Names and Divine Multiplicity in the ancient Near East*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 139/3: 698–701.
- 2016 “Imagining Mari: Jean-Claude Margueron and the Archaeology of Tell-Hariri.” Review of Jean-Claude Margueron, *MARI: Capital of Northern Mesopotamia in the Third Millennium*. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79/1: 36–43.

### Encyclopedia Entries

- 2016 “Ishtar (Inanna).” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 13. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 385–387.
- 2016 “Ishtar’s (Inanna’s) Descent into the Netherworld.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 13. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 387–390.
- 2014 “Feasts and Festivals: Syria.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 8. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1050–1053.

### Blog Posts, Newsletters, & Online Entries

- 2020 Anastasia Amrhein, Clare Fitzgerald, and Elizabeth Knott. “A Wonder to Behold: Former Fellows Collaborate on Current Exhibition.” *The Met Fellowship Program Newsletter*. Winter 2019–20.
- 2019 “A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon’s Ishtar Gate: An exhibition at New York University’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.” Anastasia Amrhein and Elizabeth Knott. *Mar Shiprim*. <https://iaassyriology.com/a-wonder-to-behold-craftsmanship-and-the-creation-of-babylons-ishtar-gate-in-new-york/>
- 2017 “Ancient Near Eastern Openwork Bronzes.” *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 2017 “The Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian Periods.” *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 2016 “Amarna Letters.” *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 2016 “The Middle Babylonian/ Kassite Period (ca. 1595-1155 B.C.) in Mesopotamia.” *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 2014 “Alphabet Origins: From Kipling to Sinai.” *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age: Exhibition Blog*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, December 22, 2014.
- 2014 “New Perspectives on Phoenician Sailing.” *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age: Exhibition Blog*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, November 10, 2014.

### PAPERS

---

- Nov. 20, 2020 “Scribal Hands and Scribal Logic in the Mari Ritual Texts.” ASOR Meeting, virtual.
- Nov. 13, 2020 “5 for 5: Yale Babylonian Collection Seal Digitization Project” CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium, virtual.

- Aug. 13, 2020 "Babylon's Brick Lions during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II." University of Misan, Iraq; online talk.
- Nov. 20–23, 2019 "The Power of 'Presentation' Scenes in the Old Babylonian Period," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- July 8–12, 2019 "All the King's Deities: Samsi-Addu and the Statues of Ishtar Irradan and Ishtar Radan(a)," 65th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Paris.
- Feb. 13–16, 2019 "Experiencing Royal Power: Mari's Investiture Scene as an Affective Image of Kingship," 107th Annual College Art Association Conference, New York.
- Nov. 15–18, 2017 "What's in a Name? Ištar as Common Noun and Divine Name," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Boston.
- Feb. 15–18, 2017 "Between Politics and Religion: Mesopotamian Antiquarianism and an Archaizing Votive Stele" (with Helen Malko), 105th Annual College Art Association Conference, New York.
- July 11–15, 2016 "Mari's Investiture Scene and the Ideology of Conquest in the Time of Samsi-Addu, 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Philadelphia. Invited Speaker for the workshop "As Above, So Below: Religion and Geography."
- Mar. 18–21, 2016 "The Scribal Settings of Mari's Eštar Rituals," 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston.
- Mar. 21, 2014 "Looking Ahead: New Directions in the Study of Ancient Near Eastern Eye-Stones," Materials and Meaning: The Metropolitan Museum of Art 2014 Fellows Colloquia, New York.
- Mar. 12, 2013 "Setting up House in the Temple of Ishtar: Ashur Stepped Structures as Mesopotamian Cultic Equipment," The Metropolitan Museum of Art 2013 Fellows Colloquia, New York.
- Mar. 6, 2012 "Ancient Near Eastern 'Architectural Models': Form, Function, and Typology," The Metropolitan Museum of Art 2012 Fellows Colloquia, New York.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

---

### Sessions and Workshops Organized

- 2021 "Style and Identity in Ancient Near Eastern Art," ASOR. With Kate Justement.
- 2021 "ArtiBites: Approaches to Digitizing Seals and Tablets," AOSR. With Agnete W. Lassen and Klaus Wagensonner.
- 2021 "Monuments in Space, Thought, and Representation: Reconstructing Ancient Near Eastern Experiences of the Built Environment," CAA. With Anastasia Amrhein.
- 2020 "Monuments in Space and Thought: Reconsidering Architecture in the Ancient Near East," Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York. With Anastasia Amrhein and Clare Fitzgerald.  
*Symposium in conjunction with ISAW exhibition A Wonder to Behold: Craftsmanship and the Creation of Babylon's Ishtar Gate* (cancelled, pandemic)

2017–2019 “Ambiguity in the Ancient Near East,” American Schools of Oriental Research. With Lauren McCormick.  
*Multi-session section combining archaeological, art historical, and text-based papers*

2016 “Divine Multiplicity,” New York University, New York.  
*Closed workshop for dissertation students*

### **Sessions Moderated**

2019 “Melting Bowl or Salad Pot?: Identity Dynamics of Migrants to State/Imperial Heartlands Through the Ages,” Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York. Organized by David Danzig.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

---

2020 Travel Grant for “Naming and Mapping the Gods in the Ancient Mediterranean: Spaces, Mobilities, Imaginaries.” (cancelled, pandemic)  
2015–2018 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund.  
2011–2014 Hagop Kevorkian Curatorial Fellowship, Metropolitan Museum of Art.  
2006–2011 Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University.

### **LANGUAGES**

---

#### **Ancient**

Advanced Akkadian and Ugaritic  
Basic Sumerian, Middle Egyptian, Biblical and Inscriptional Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, and Phoenician

#### **Modern**

Reading French and German

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

Member of the American Oriental Society  
Member of ASOR  
Member of College Art Association  
Member of the International Association for Assyriology