

Curriculum Vitae

Sören Stark

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Current Research Focus

My research broadly concerns the complexity of socio-political, economic and cultural interrelations between pastoral nomads in Central and Inner Asia and their sedentary neighbors, particularly in the Eastern Iranian borderlands and during the 5th to 8th centuries CE ('Hunnic' and 'Turkic' periods). My approach to this multi-faceted topic is characterized by making full use of both archaeological and art-historical data and methods.

Appointments

2010 – Present	Assistant Professor, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
2008 – 2010	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Excellence-Cluster 264 TOPOI, Freie Universität Berlin
2004 – 2008	Research Associate at the Seminar for Oriental Archaeology and Art History, Universität Halle-Wittenberg
2001 – 2004	PhD Research Fellow at the Collaborative Research Centre 586 »Interactions between Nomadic and Settled Forms of Life in the Civilizations of the Old World« at the Universities Halle-Wittenberg and Leipzig
2001 – 2003	Teaching position at the Seminar for Oriental Archaeology and Art History, Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Education

2005	PhD (Dr. phil.) in »Central Asian Art and Archaeology«, Universität Halle-Wittenberg. Doctoral Dissertation »Art and Archaeology of the Early Turkic period in Central and Inner Asia«; published as a monograph in Germany in 2008.
1999	<i>Magister artium</i> in Ancient History, Oriental Art and Archaeology, and Art History, Universität Halle-Wittenberg. M.A. thesis on with a thesis »Eastern Iran and Central Asia between Achaemenid and Early Seleucid rule« (in German; unpublished)

Academic Grants and Awards

2014	Grant awarded by the Society for the Exploration of EurAsia (\$ 5,000)
2004 – 2008	Grant of the German Research Foundation for a project in the Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 586
2000 – 2004	Doctoral Fellowship of the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)
1995 – 1999	Scholarship of the German National Academic Foundation

Archaeological and Art Historical Field Research

2011 – Present	Co-Director (with Dj. Mirzaakhmedov) of the Uzbek-American Archaeological Project in Bukhara (fieldwork seasons investigating the oasis wall of Bukhara and excavating the sites of Gantchtepa and Hodja-Adjvandi-tepa in June-August 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014)
08/2014	UAV-based survey of archaeological sites in Novoi Province (Uzbekistan) in cooperation with the Project “Archaeocopter” at the FU Berlin and HWT Dresden, Germany
6/2014	Archival Studies at the Oriental Museum in Moscow
1/2014	Museum studies at various museums in Shandong province (PR China)
11/2013	Museum and archive studies at the Abegg-Stiftung, Riggisberg (Switzerland)
10/2013	Archive studies at the Department for Central Asia at the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg
9/2013	Archive studies at the Institute of Archaeology at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Samarkand
6-7/2013	Museum studies in Southern Siberia (Novosibirsk, Barnaul, Biisk, Gorno-Altai, Minusinsk, Abakan, Kyzyl)
6/2012	Museum studies and field trips in Southern Kazakhstan (Djimkent, Sayram/Isfijab, Taraz, Merke, Zhaysan).
6/2012	Museum studies in Northern China (Xi’an, Qianling and Zhaoling)
8/2011	Museum studies in the State Hermitage, St. Petersburg
9-10/2009	Archaeological pilot investigations in Bukhara Excellence-Cluster 264 TOPOI, Freie Universität Berlin
7-10/2008	Museum studies and field trips in Northern China, Xinjiang and Mongolia
8/2005	Museum studies in Xinjiang
2005-2007	Co-Field director (with N. Rakhimov): Tajik-German Archaeological Project in Northern-Tajikistan (Highland Ustrushana) Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg/Institute of Archaeology, and Ethnography at the Academy of Sciences of Tadjikistan, Dushanbe
5-6/2003	PhD research in Tajikistan (Dushanbe, Pendjikent, Shakhristan, Uratapa, Khudjand)
6-10/2000	PhD research in Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran

Invited Lectures, Conferences and Workshops (since appointment at ISAW)

- 2/2015 Workshop Meeting “Sogdian art and culture” at the Freer and Sackler Galleries/Smithsonian Institution
- 10/2014 John E. Sawyer Seminar "Critical Silk Road Studies"
“Archaeology of the Türkic Steppes”
- 2/2014 Workshop “News in Central Asian Archaeology and Art”, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
“Bukhara in the early Islamic period: New insights from recent investigation along the oasis wall of Bukhara”
- 1/2014 Workshop “Sogdians in China”, co-organized by the Free and Sackler Gallery and the National Silk Museum in Hangzhou, Hangzhou (PR China)
- 11/2013 Basel, Society for the Exploration of EurAsia
“Das Grossreich der frühen Türken Zentralasiens. Politik, Bräuche und Archäologie (6. bis 8. Jh. n. Chr.)”
- 10/2013 Conference “Pre-Islamic Past of Middle Asia and Eastern Iran” at the State Hermitage, St. Petersburg
“New insights of the Divar-i Kanpirak: results of the seasons 2011–2013”
- 7/2013 Conference “Old-Turkic Runic Inscriptions in Southern Siberian and Central Asia”, co-organized by the Society for Turkic Language and the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Tuva
“Аспекты репрезентации элит Тюрков (по археологическим данным)”
- 5/2013 Conference “Worlds in Motion: Rome, China, and the Eurasian Steppe in Late Antiquity, ca. 250-650,” May 29-June 1, 2013” at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton
“Aspects of elite Representation among the Early Türks (before ca. A.D. 630)”
- 3/2013 Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
“Between Orkhon and Oxus: the archaeology of the Early Turks in Inner Asia” (distinguished lecture for the exhibition “Das Antlitz des Fremden”)
- 1/2013 Colloquium “Art and Archaeology of Central Asia: Works in Progress” at Hofstra University.
“Investigation on the Oasis Wall of Bukhara. Preliminary results of the first two field seasons”
- 11/2012 Columbia University Seminar on the Ancient Near East
“Some new observations on ‘Sasanian’ (Bosi) embassies to the court of the Tang (639-771 CE)”

- 11/2012 Washington, Smithsonian Institution.
Panel discussion on “Nomads and Networks: Elites and their connections to the outside world” related to the Nomads and Networks Exhibition at the Freer Gallery
- 4/2012 Course on Archaeology, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU
“Mountain settlements, kurgans and rock art: archaeology of the Highland of Inner Asia”
- 2/2012 Conference “The Complexity of Interaction along the Eurasian Steppe zone in the first Millennium AD. Empires, Cities, Nomads and Farmers” at the Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn.
“Between Hephthalites, Sogdians and Tang. Some Observations on the Royal Iconography of the Ashina Turks”
- 12/2011 Workshop at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (co-organized by the *Centre de recherche sur les civilisations de l'Asie orientale* on “Sedentary answers to nomadic policies between China and Iran, 1st Millennium AD”
“Building Long Wall in Western Central Asia: Why, When, and by Whom?”
- 11/2011 Conference “From Nomadic Empires to Neoliberal Conquests (Völkerkundemuseum Hamburg, DFG Sonderforschungsbereich 586).
“Art at the Ordu: Accumulation and Redistribution of Prestige Goods at the Turkic Residences (6-8th cent. CE)”
- 8/2011 Conference «История и культура Бухарского оазиса в древности и средневековье» (Bukhara)
«Об изваяниях согдийцев в комплексе Цянь-лин (погребение императоров Гао-цзун и У Цзе-тянь)» (in Russian)
- 4/2011 Course on Islamic Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania
- 4/2011 Workshop «Otages et captifs dans l'histoire politique et sociale des mondes arabe, iranien et centre-asiatique» at the CNRS, Mondes iranien et indien.
“The Statues of the ‘61 foreign chieftains’ at Qianling: Foreign Guards and hostages at the High Tang Court”
- 12/2010 Conference “From Ötüken to Istanbul, 1290 Years of Turkish (720-2010) Symposium” at Fatih Ali Emiri Efendi Culture Center and Yıldız Technical University
“Aspects of accumulation and production of luxury commodities in Inner Asia between Byzantium, Iran and China (ca. 550-750)”
- 10/2010 Conference «Город Средней Азии в системе средневековых городов Востока» at the State-Hermitage, St. Petersburg
“The Archaeology of Oasis Walls and *limites* in Middle Asia: Problems and Perspectives”

Conferences, workshops, and panels organized

- 2/2014 Workshop “News in Central Asian Archaeology and Art”. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, February 8, 2014
- 12/2011 Workshop “Sedentary Answers to Nomadic Policies in Central Asia, 1st millennium AD” (in cooperation with the *Centre de recherche sur les civilisations de l'Asie Orientale* (CRCAO). Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, December 16, 2011)

Exhibitions curated

- 2010 – 2012 Co-curator of the exhibition “Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and culture of Kazakhstan” at ISAW (March 7–June 3, 2012).

Courses taught (for ISAW courses see complete syllabi attached)

- Spring 2015 Research-Seminar: Mobile Pastoralists in Late Iron Age Central Eurasia (3rd cent. BCE – 3rd cent. CE)
- Fall 2014 Core-UA 500, Session 1/Section 1: Cultures and Contexts: The “Silk Road” and Central Asia
- Spring 2014 Research Seminar “Central Asian Wall Paintings” (co-taught with F. Kidd)
- Spring 2013 Research Seminar “Sogdians in their Homeland – the Archaeology of Sogdiana from ca. 600 BCE to ca. 750 CE”
- Fall 2012 Research Seminar “Conceptions of Ethnicity in the Ancient World” (co-taught with L. d’Alfonso)
- Spring 2012 Directed Studies “Key Sites of Central Asian Archaeology”
Research Seminar “Cultural Interactions in Eurasian Art & Archaeology” (co-taught with L. Tseng)
Directed Studies “Introduction into the history and archaeology of Central Asia (from the Prehistoric period to the pre-Muslim Middle Ages)”
Directed Studies “Art and Archaeology of Mesopotamia and the Iranian Plateau during the Arsacid and Sasanian Period/Hydraulic Management in Greater Iran from Ancient Times to the Medieval Period”
- Fall 2011 Directed Studies “History, Archaeology and Art History of the Iranian Plateau from the pre-Achaemenid Iron Age to the Sāsānians”
Directed Studies “Irrigation projects in the context of imperial policies” (co-taught with B. Pongratz-Leisten)
- Spring 2011 Research Seminar “Territorial Fortifications in the Old World”
- Fall 2010 Central Asia and the Mediterranean from the 6th c. BC to 8th c. AD
- Spring 2010 Seminar “Der östliche Mittelmeerraum II – Hellenismus in Zentralasien”, Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin

Fall 2002	Übung “Ausgewählte Denkmäler der zentralasiatischen Seidenstraßen”, Seminar für Orientalische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte, Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Spring 2002	Übung “Frühmittelalterliche Archäologie Mittelasiens”, Seminar für Orientalische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte, Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Fall 2001	Übung “Ausgewählte Quellen zur antiken- und frühmittelalterlichen Geschichte Mittel- und Zentralasiens”, Seminar für Orientalische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte, Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Graduate Student Supervision/PhD Reviews

2014 – Present	External member of the PhD committee of Dj. Djalmaganbetov (Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan). Topic of thesis: Burial and Memorial Customs of the Early Turks in the Kazakh Altai
2014 – Present	Lorenzo Castellano, Member of the Supervisory Committee
2013 – Present	Shujing Wang, Chair of the Supervisory Committee
6/2012	External reviewer for the PhD thesis of Andrei Khazbulatov, “Toreutics of the Saka period in Central Asia” (Kazakh National Academy of Arts, Almaty, Kazakhstan)
2011 – Present	Fan Zhang, Member of the Supervisory Committee
2010 – 2014	Randolph Ford, Member of the Supervisory Committee
2010 – Present	Mehrnoush Soroush Member of the Supervisory Committee since 2010 (chair from 6/2012 – 1/2013)

Departmental Services

Fall 2014/Spring 2015	Member of the VRS Selection Committee
Fall 2012/Spring 2013	Director of Graduate Studies
Fall 2011/Spring 2012	Member of the VRS Selection Committee
Fall 2011	Member of the Search Committee “Professor (Open Rank), Near Eastern Art & Archaeology, Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Periods”
Fall 2010/Spring 2011	Member of the Search Committee “Assistant Professor of Early Chinese Art and Archaeology”
Fall 2010/Spring 2011	Member of the Search Committee “Professor (Open Rank) of Ancient Western Asian Archaeology and History”

Public program

- Numerous gallery tours and interviews in connection with the exhibition “Nomads and Networks” (e.g. The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal)
- Participation in cultivation dinners with potential donors