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RICHMOND
School of Arts & Sciences™

Ruined Gardens of Babylon

Dark Ecology and Heritage Politics in the Middle East



THURS. 10/3 - 6 PM - GOTTWALD AUD. (A001)



Dr. Ömür Harmanşah
Associate Professor of Art History
University of Illinois, Chicago

What does it mean to practice archaeology in the new age of the Anthropocene? In this lecture, Dr. Harmanşah will discuss his current research on the politics, ethics, and methodologies of doing archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East today, at the very critical moment of global ecological crisis, climate change, military conflict, mass immigration, and heritage violence. Recent military violence in the Middle East has led to unprecedented destruction of cultural heritage along with local settlements and habitats, and the displacement of their communities. The ecological-military crisis has a direct impact on how archaeology is practiced as a field science. The destruction of heritage sites, landscapes, and institutions demands archaeologists either work remotely or perform salvage work, as opposed to more conventional methods of working with scientific research questions.

*Co-sponsored by the **Richmond Society of the Archaeological Institute of America**
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