

ASHWINI LAKSHMINARAYANAN

Orcid: 0000-0003-4077-5110

POSTDOCTORAL EXPERIENCE

École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Paris, France Feb 2023 - Current
Researcher
Project MADGA : Music and Dance in Gandhāran Art

My postdoctoral project focuses on the depictions of dance and musical festivity scenes in Gandhara that were previously classified as 'Dionysiac' images. In order to understand how motifs of dance and musical forms were embedded in the Buddhist religious landscape, my project analyses forms of choreography and musical instruments across the Silk Roads and how they are used in the decoration of Gandharan monuments.

EDUCATION

PhD Archaeology, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy May 2022
Title: Gender in Gandhāran art (1st – 4th centuries CE)
Supervisor: Dr Marco Galli
Grade: Ottimo con Lode (defended on 11/05/2022)

MA Classical Archaeology, International Hellenic University, Greece May 2018
Title: Monumental Architecture in Hellenistic Bactria
Supervisor: Dr Kurush Dalal
Grade: Distinction

BA Archaeology, University of Kent, United Kingdom May 2016
Title : Coinage and Royal Ideology in the Hellenistic Far East
Supervisor: Dr Sofia Labadi
Grade: First Class

BA Ancient Indian Culture, St Xaviers College, India Mar 2014
Title: Catalogue of Buddhist reliefs in the Heras' Institute
Grade : Distinction

Dipl. Archaeology, University of Mumbai, India Mar 2014

TEACHING

Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy Dec 2019 - May 2020
Seminar Assistant, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità

CONFERENCES

- 10/08/2023 *Sinification, Globalization or Glocalization?: Paradigm Shifts in the Study of Transmission and Transformation of Buddhism in Asia and Beyond*, Glorisun Global Buddhist Network, Hong Kong, China (Musical Journeys Across the Ancient Silk Roads: From Gandhāra to Kuca)
- 03/08/2022 *European Association of Archaeologists*, Budapest, Hongrie (Ritual Music and Dancing in Gandhāran Art)
- 7/02/2022 – 8/02/2022 *Digitization of Gandharan Artefacts* Kick-Off Workshop, Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany. (Heuristic value of digital strategies)
- 02/07/2021 *UK Association for Buddhist Studies: Word, Image, Object, Performance*, Edinburgh Buddhist Studies, University of Edinburgh United Kingdom, (Female Donors in Gandhāra)
- 28/06/2021 – 29/06/2021 *Dynamic encounters between Buddhism and the West*, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (Hellenistic Motifs in the Story of Aṅgulimāla in Gandhāran Art)
- 16/01/2021 *Diversity in Archaeology: Cambridge Annual Student Archaeology Conference*, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, (Female Donors in Gandharan Buddhist Landscape)
- 12/01/2021 *Colloquium WiSe, Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia*, Heidelberg University, Germany (Female Figures and Abstract Concepts in Gandhāran art)
- 05/09/2019 *European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting 2019*, Bern, Switzerland, (Some Theoretical Approaches to Studying Gender in Gandhāra)
- 27/06/2019 *12th Celtic Conferences in Classics*, Coimbra, Portugal, (Envisioning the Dream of Queen Maya in Gandhara Art)

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

- 31/08/2022 – 3/09/2022 *European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting 2022*, Budapest, Hungary (Control the Divine: Integrating Sacred Spaces and Rituals at the ‘Fringes’ in Ancient Central and South Asia)

21/09/2017 – 24/09/2017 *8th International Symposium on Ancient Macedonia from the death of Philip II until August's rise to power*, International Hellenic University & Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Globalization and Gandhāran art. In: S. Autiero & M. Cobb (eds.), *Globalisation and Transculturality from Antiquity to the Pre-Modern World*, pp. 226–244. London: Routledge. [PDF](#)
- 2021 Dynamic Encounters: The Use of a Hellenistic Motif in the story of Aṅgulimāla in Gandhāran art, *Parthica: incontri di culture nel mondo Antico* 23, 97–109. [PDF](#)
- 2020 Review: The Greek Experience of India from Alexander to the Indo-Greeks by Richard Stoneman, *American Journal of Philology* 141(1), 133–135. [PDF](#)
- 2018 Indo-Roman Trade at Arikamedu: A contextual analysis of finds from the UCL Institute of Archaeology Collection, *University of Oxford: International Journal of Student Research in Archaeology* 3, 91–108. [PDF](#)

Forthcoming monograph

- 2023 **Lakshminarayanan A.**, Gender in Gandhāran art: Representations and Interactions in the Buddhist Context (1st – 4th centuries CE).

Forthcoming edited volume

- 2024 **Lakshminarayanan A. & Mendoza M.**, (eds.), *Multicultural Religious Interactions in Ancient Central and South Asia*. Springer.

FUNDING

Postdoctoral Fellowship 2024-2026
European Commission Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Postdoctoral Fellowship 2023
École française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris, France

Sapienza PhD Fellowship 2018-2022
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Academic Excellence Scholarship 2016-2018
E1 Hellenic Ministry of External Affairs, Athens, Greece

PRIZES AND GRANTS

- 10/05/2023 Awarded *FROGBEAR (From The Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions)* grant to participate in the 2023 Glorisun International and Intensive Program (09/08 – 22/08/2023, Mount Kuaji, China)
- 20/04/2022 Awarded the *Oscar Montelius Foundation (OMF)* grant to organise a session for the *European Association for Archaeologists Annual Meeting* on 03/09/2022.
- 01/07/2016 – 31/07/2016 Winner of the ‘Partners’ Universities Summer School Fund’ prize in collaboration with the *National University of Ireland, Galway* for participating in a Megalithic period excavation at *Cromlech Tumulus, Achill*.
- 16/01/2016 – 28/04/2016 Winner of the ‘Career and Employability’ prize by University of Kent
- 04/04/2016 Winner of the ‘Best CV’ prize for the Division of Arts and Humanities, University of Kent, United Kingdom.
- 18/04/2014 Winner of the ‘Best Research Paper’ Award by the Heras’ Institute, Mumbai, India

RESEARCH VISITS

University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany Aug 2021 - Dec 2021
Visiting PhD Researcher, Institute for Classical Archaeology

I conducted bibliographic research to study the narrative content of Gandhāran art and compare it to the Graeco-Roman narrative models.

University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany Sept 2020 - Dec 2020
Visiting PhD Student, South Asia Institute

I completed a comparative review of Buddhist biographical texts (Chinese, Tibetan, and Pāli) and Gandhāran visual narratives to identify differences and similarities. This enabled me to identify the role of a previously unstudied/unidentified figure and presented the research during a guest seminar at the Department of Classical Indology on 12/01/2021.

École française d'Athènes, Athens, Greece

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

I conducted bibliographic research on ancient architectural styles (Roman, Greek, and Persian) and attended seminars. My stay was supported by the El Directorate of Educational and Cultural Affairs (Athens, Greece).

RESEARCH EXPEDITION

- 8/08/2019 - 10/10/2019 Fieldwork in Indian museums: *the National Museum of Delhi; Indian Museum, Kolkata; Albert Hall Museum, Jaipur; Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh* to build an image database on Gandhāran art.
- 18/03/2019 - 19/03/2019 Collected data from *the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the United Kingdom* for the image database on Gandhāran art.

EXCAVATIONS

- 01/07/2022 - 22/07/2022 *Keezadi-Kundagai, Tamil Nadu, India*
Main Tasks: Cataloguing, dissemination, interpretation
- 22/07/2019 - 27/08/2019 *Closos de Can Gaià, Mallorca, Spain*
Main task: excavation, stratigraphic interpretation, dissemination
- 01/06/2019 - 04/07/2019 *Horrea Piperataria, Roman Forum, Rome, Italy*
Main tasks: cleaned, classified, and catalogued amphorae fragments, mentoring
- 15/09/2018 - 29/10/2018 *Domus Augusti, Roman Forum, Rome, Italie*
Main tasks: cleaned, classified, and catalogued amphorae fragments, mentoring
- 04/07/2017 - 18/08/2017 *Poikili Stoa, Agora of Athens, Greece*
Main tasks: site surveys, catalogued architectural fragments
- 02/06/2017 - 30/06/2017 *Ancient Agora of Pella, Greece*
Main tasks: excavation of a necropolis, plan and section drawings, outreach
- 02/11/2016 - 22/05/2017 *Neo-Rysio Kardias, Thessaloniki, Greece*
Main tasks: excavation of fortification, maintaining pottery archive, mentoring
- 01/07/2016 - 31/07/2016 *Cromlech Tumulus, Achill Island, Ireland*
Main tasks: excavation of a necropolis, plan and section drawings

- 01/09/2015 - 21/09/2015 *Brookenby, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom*
Main tasks: excavation of a late Roman settlement, plan and section drawings, mentoring
- 18/05/2013 - 15/03/2014 *Chandore, Maharashtra, India*
Main tasks: excavation of a step well, sieving and cleaning finds, dissemination

PUBLIC DISSEMINATION EXPERIENCE

- 14/11/2016 - 02/02/2017 English Language Assistant Volunteer for classes at the *Oreocastro refugee camp* in Thessaloniki.
- 22/07/2019 - 27/08/2019 Curatorial Assistant for the ‘*Command of the Oceans*’ exhibition at the *Chatham Historic Dockyard*. I conducted tours and workshops on submarines.
- 16/01/2016 - 28/04/2016 Research Assistant at the *Canterbury Cathedral: Library & Archives*, Kent, United Kingdom. I conducted tours for school students (ages 10-17 years) on rare books the collection.
- 02/10/2013 Public outreach member at *Archaeology Day, University of Mumbai*, India. My main duties were to present the Chandore excavation collection to visitors.
- 04/07/2013 - 18/08/2013 Education Department Assistant at the *Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)* for the exhibition ‘*Mummy: the Inside Story*’ in collaboration with the *British Museum*. I conducted tours and workshops to explain ancient Egyptian burial practices.

LANGUAGES

1. Tamil (Native)
2. English (C2)
3. French (B2)
4. Italian (B2)
5. German (A2.1)
6. Greek (A2.1)

ANCIENT LANGUAGES

1. Gandhari
2. Sanskrit
3. Greek
4. Latin