

Miriam Müller

Miriam Müller joined the Oriental Institute in September 2012 as the first two-year postdoctoral fellow. After organizing the Ninth Annual Oriental Institute Postdoctoral Seminar with the title Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches, in March 2013, she started working on the proceedings of the conference in summer and fall 2013. The volume with twenty articles on household studies in Mesopotamia, the Levant and Anatolia, Egypt including ancient Nubia (Sudan), the Mediterranean with Greece, the Aegean, and Italy, as well as an overview on recent developments in New World archaeology, is currently being reviewed and will be ready for print in late fall. In addition to the completion of the seminar's proceedings, Miriam taught a graduate course in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in fall 2013 on the ancient capital of the Hyksos, Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris in Egypt where Miriam has been involved in fieldwork for the last couple of years. The seminar had the aim to introduce students to a multifaceted site with a complex stratigraphy in order to understand its importance for Egyptian chronology and history of urbanization, as well as the application of a variety of new techniques such as magnetometry surveying to cope with the extensive settlement. As part of her two-year program, Miriam introduced a new seminar series to the Oriental Institute Voting Members to further cross-cultural discussions and potentially stimulate interdisciplinary collaborations among the faculty. The quarterly meetings were held in the Director's Office with an informal presentation by one of the Voting Members on new research, ideas, and thoughts about an individual topic. With two postdoctoral fellows in their respective first and second year, Miriam was furthermore able to support the new fellow in organizing the Annual Oriental Institute Seminar in March 2014. In April Miriam traveled to New Haven for a symposium on household identity and domestic cult in the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, where she had been invited as a keynote speaker, and to Basel in June 2014 for the Ninth International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. She also participated as a panel speaker in the public symposium of the new Oriental Institute exhibit *In Remembrance of Me: Feasting with the Dead in the Ancient Middle East*, curated by Virginia Rimmer Herrmann and J. David Schloen. Articles on household archaeology in Egypt and domestic cults and ancestor veneration as important elements in the formation of household identity are submitted for publication in an edited volume on Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period Egypt and the *Archaeological Review* from Cambridge. In completion of her program at the Oriental Institute in August 2014, Miriam will take up a position as postdoctoral fellow at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University.