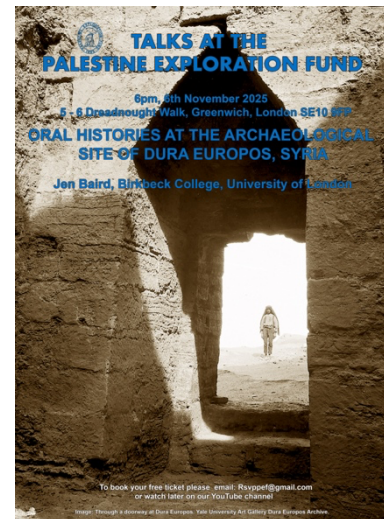


PEF EVENT

Thursday 6th September 2025, 6pm

THE RUINS OF LOCAL MEMORY: ORAL HISTORIES AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF DURA EUROPOS, SYRIA

- Jen Baird, Birkbeck College, University of London
- PEF, 5-6 Dreadnought Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9FP
- Free, please email rsvppef@gmail.com to reserve your ticket/s



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Summary

The history of Salihyeh, the settlement on the Euphrates immediately beneath the plateau on which the Roman-era site of Dura-Europos sits, has always been entangled with that of the ruins. People from the village have long provided the labour for the excavations, and yet their contribution has been all but invisible in accounts of the site. This talk will present results of oral history research, conducted with my colleague Adnan Almohamad, which attempts to address such absences, and examines the ongoing relationship between communities and archaeological heritage in Syria.

About the Speaker

Jen is Professor of archaeology at the School of Historical Studies at Birkbeck College. She focusses on archaeological archives both as sources for previously ignored data and as subjects which can allow the study of the history of archaeology and the formation of archaeological knowledge. She has published extensively on the archaeology of Rome's Eastern provinces and the archaeology of everyday life, with a focus on the site of Dura Europos in Syria. She is a founding Director of the Cerna Institute of Sustainable Archaeologies, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Member of the Academia Europa.

Her most recent book, *Dura Europos*, was published in 2018 by Bloomsbury in their Archaeological Histories series.

She also supports displaced Syrian academics and archaeologists through the Council for At-Risk Academics, and the Threatened Scholars Initiative of the Open Societies University Network. She is a founding member of the Dura-Europos Rehabilitation Archaeological Taskforce which was formed urgently as the Assad regime fell, to bring together an international team, to protect this incredible and unique site.

HOW TO FIND US

THE PEF is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, a short walk away from Greenwich train and DLR station, Greenwich Pier (Riverbus) and Island Gardens DLR and Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Cutty Sark CLR station is currently closed until Spring 2026.

