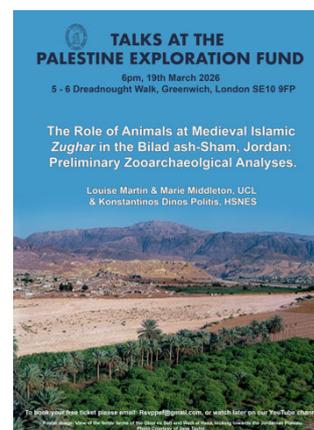


PEF EVENT

Thursday 19th March 2026, 6pm

WITNESSING THROUGH ART: EXPLORING PALESTINIAN HERITAGE WITHIN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PEF.

- Louise Martin & Marie Middleton, UCL, K.D. Politis, HS NES
- 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

Khirbat ash-Sheik 'Isa (KSI) in modern Jordan's Ghor as-Safi was the important market centre (*souk*) known as *Zughar* in Bilad ash-Sham during the Early and Middle Islamic periods (9-10 C AD and 12-14 C AD), based on specialist agricultural production for export (notably indigo in the 9-10 C, and cane sugar in the 12-14 C). This presentation draws on the zooarchaeological study of the animal bones from KSI, to explore whether they reflect wider shifts in animal production seen in rural settlements in southern Jordan between earlier and later Islamic periods, such as increased specialisation of livestock management aimed at creating market surpluses to feed labouring populations. We also discuss whether the market centre shows relative autonomy in livestock production or was more likely provisioned by herds from further afield for consumption. Identifying practices of harnessing animal power is also highly relevant to an agricultural market centre where both intensive ploughing would be needed, but also pack animals – beasts of burden – for regional trade and transport. Also for consideration is the integration of animal and crop management at Medieval *Zughar*.

About the Speaker

Louise Martin is Professor of Zooarchaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. She has over 35 years' experience of fieldwork and researching human-animal interactions in the past, focusing on the Levant, Anatolia and southern Arabia. Specific research areas are the reconstruction of hunting practices in prehistoric western Asia, early animal domestications, and the expansion of Neolithic livestock pastoralism in the wider Middle East. She has led zooarchaeological research teams on many international projects including those in Jordan's eastern deserts, at Neolithic Çatalhöyük and Boncuklu Hoyuk in Central Anatolia, and exploring prehistoric pastoral systems in Yemen and Oman. At UCL she teaches zooarchaeology and environmental archaeology, and supervises a range of PhD topics.

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 and Greenwich Pier (Riverbus). Cutty Sark DLR station is currently closed until Spring 2026.

