



RFG Discussion:

“Backwater Puritans”? Racism, Egyptological Stereotype, and the Intersection of Local and International at Kushite Tombos

MAY
12
THU

2:00 – 3:30 PM
6056 HSSB and Zoom
Learn more: bit.ly/Crossing-Borderlands-RFG

STUART TYSON SMITH

UC Santa Barbara

Egyptological and more popular perceptions of Nubia and the Kushite Dynasty (c. 747-654 BCE) have framed Kush as a periphery to civilized Egypt. To what extent was Nubia a “backwater” to “effete and sophisticated” Egypt? In this discussion, Stuart Tyson Smith will explore how recent archaeological work at Tombos and elsewhere demonstrates that Nubia was not an unsophisticated backwater, but instead part of an international elite culture that spanned Nubia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean. The Kushite civilization adapted features from Egypt and the Mediterranean world and integrated them with local practices and belief systems to create a new and vibrant African tradition.

Stuart Tyson Smith is Professor of Anthropology at UC Santa Barbara, specializing in the archaeology of Egypt and Nubia [the Sudan], ethnicity, culture contact and imperialism.

Sponsored by the IHC's Crossing Borderlands Research Focus Group

