Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 3 February 2025, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Professor James Osborne

Title: 'The Discovery of a New Bronze and Iron Age Kingdom in Turkey: The Site of Türkmen-Karahöyük'

The Konya Plain in south-central Anatolia has long been famous for some of the ancient Near East's earliest settlements, like the World Heritage Site of Çatalhöyük. As it turns out, the plain is littered with equally impressive and important sites from the historical Bronze and Iron Age periods - they just haven't been explored yet. That's been changing in the past several years, as Bilkent University professor Michele Massa and University of Chicago Professor James Osborne have been collaborating with scholars from around the world to survey and excavate the massive site of Türkmen-Karahöyük, the largest mound in the plain. Researchers are now confident this site was the regional capital city during the Iron Age, and likely during the Late Bronze Age as well, the heyday of the Hittite Empire. Partially this is thanks to remarkable archaeological and epigraphic discoveries at the site made over the past three years, including hieroglyphic royal inscriptions. In this talk, James will present recent findings from the Türkmen-Karahöyük survey, explain why this site might be one of the most dramatic new discoveries in Anatolia in decades, and outline long-term plans for excavations that began in summer, 2024.

Booking essential: https://james-osborne-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

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Türkmen-Karahöyük from NW



James Osborne is an archaeologist who works in the eastern Mediterranean and ancient Near East during the Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 3500-500 BCE). He focuses especially on Anatolia, a region that is today within the Republic of Turkey, during the late second and early first millennium BC. Most of Osborne's publications have concentrated on the intersection of space and power, using analysis of Anatolian monumental buildings, cities, and settlement patterns during the Iron Age as his primary subject matter. His recent monograph, *The Syro-Anatolian City-States: An Iron Age Culture,* examines the nature and organization of an Iron Age culture in southern Turkey and northern Syria that existed from roughly 1200 to 700 BC.