



British
International
Research
Institutes

Manifesto

BIRI

Contents

Introduction	5
Our institutes	7
Purpose and values	10
BIRI in numbers	12
Our history in research	14
Forging local and international partnerships	19
Promoting and protecting cultural heritage	22
Supporting the next generation	26
Transforming careers	28
Sharing knowledge	31
With support from the British Academy	34

Introduction

Welcome to the British International Research Institutes. For more than a century, we have been global research partners in the arts, humanities and social sciences – discovering new knowledge, promoting cultural heritage and supporting international engagement.

The BIRI comprise eight institutes that are hubs in a network of regional contacts and activities that covers the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and southern Europe, Africa, Turkey, the Middle East, Iran and Central Asia. We offer a unique and unparalleled resource for furthering understanding of humanity, past and present.

Our institutes play a vital role in supporting and sustaining world-leading research, connecting researchers in the UK with academic and non-academic communities across the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa, and supporting the next generation of academic scholars through a broad range of grant and funding opportunities.

We support research projects and researchers with academic, logistical, and financial assistance as well as training and facilities. All BIRI activities are based on international partnerships which foster deep connections for the shared benefit of the UK and its associates. Research projects, grounded in long local experience but with trans-regional significance and impact, are the basis of a better understanding of Britain's place in the world.

The BIRI are renowned centres for the study of archaeology and historic societies, and conduct ground-breaking research relating to the development of human social organisation. Many of our current projects are focused on management of cultural heritage and the role that the past plays in contemporary social and economic development.

We manage projects relating to climate change, migration, the organisation of water resources, digital archiving and international relations, which are aligned to the urgent and evolving priorities of the twenty-first century. We promote cultural creativity and interdisciplinary academic research across the spectrum of the arts, humanities and social sciences, and have important links to researchers in the natural sciences and engineering.

We draw strength from doctoral and post-doctoral researchers who have seized the opportunities provided by our extensive grant and fellowship schemes. The experience of working in the environment that our institutes provide has had a career-defining impact on countless academic careers and gives continuous fresh impetus and new direction to BIRI activities.

The support of the British Academy – the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences – and core funding from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy underpins our contribution to UK research and its worldwide impact.



Fresco workshop in the British School at Rome's courtyard.

“The BIRI are greatly valued for the work they do and for the connections they bring us. We hold regular meetings and forums together, and look forward to working more closely with them.”

Professor Sir David Cannadine
British Academy Presidential Address

Our institutes

BIAA

British Institute at Ankara

The BIAA supports research and collaboration in Turkey and the Black Sea region in the arts, humanities and social and political sciences as well as in the fields of climate and environmental science and heritage management. It provides post-doctoral fellowships and research grants to scholars affiliated with British higher education institutes, facilitates British-led research in Turkey and the Black Sea region, supports scholars from the region to travel to the UK for study, and promotes collaboration between British and Turkish researchers and institutions. It also hosts a varied programme of academic lectures, workshops and conferences, and provides residential accommodation and world-class research facilities for scholars and students in Ankara.

biaa.ac.uk



British Institute in Eastern Africa

The BIEA conducts and supports innovative humanities and social science research within the wider region of eastern Africa and beyond. Active since 1960, the BIEA is renowned for pioneering a collaborative, inter-disciplinary and engaged approach to international research. With an extensive library and research facilities at its hub in Nairobi, two high-impact peer-reviewed journals, two book series, and an active programme of in-house and on-line events, the BIEA is unparalleled in the region. The BIEA runs diverse training and capacity building programmes, offers grants and logistical assistance to research projects, and provides forums to discuss everything from research design to results, publications and future collaborations.

biea.ac.uk



British Institute of Persian Studies

BIPS is dedicated to promoting and supporting scholarship and research excellence on all aspects of Iran and the wider Persianate world, and to increasing public understanding and knowledge of the region. Founded in the UK in 1961 and in Iran in 1963, BIPS is one of the few overseas international institutes that continues to work in Tehran and it provides a potential venue for academic and intellectual exchange with Iranian scholars. BIPS plays a key role in sustaining the academic vitality and increasing the visibility of Persian Studies, promoting it to the public and campaigning for greater provision for its study in higher education. Its activities include an extensive programme of seminars, lectures, symposia, and publications.

bips.ac.uk



British Institute for the Study of Iraq

For more than 80 years, BISI has been dedicated to advancing research and public education on the history, societies, and cultures of Iraq. BISI plays a vital role in supporting and facilitating academic exchange and collaboration between the UK and Iraq; and in enabling and developing partnerships with the region's cultural heritage professionals. BISI offers a range of grants for research and conferences, and organises lectures, study days, and other public events in the UK and Iraq that further the public's understanding of the nation's history, society and culture. In addition, BISI provides expertise and specialist knowledge on Iraq's heritage and culture to government bodies, journalists and others.

bisi.ac.uk



British School at Athens

Founded in 1886, the BSA conducts, facilitates and promotes research of international excellence, exploring the impact of Hellenism worldwide, from the Palaeolithic to the present, and from archaeology to fine arts. The BSA has a long and distinguished tradition of archaeological research in many periods and is the sole body recognised by the Greek authorities for the issuing of archaeological fieldwork and study permits to UK institutions and scholars. The BSA has pioneered science-based archaeology in Greece and maintains a research centre at Knossos on Crete. Its projects make significant original contributions to knowledge and offer long-term perspectives on contemporary questions. Throughout its history the BSA has engaged with a wide range of disciplines including anthropology, linguistics, political science, art history and philosophy.

bsa.ac.uk

B S R

British School at Rome

The BSR fosters academic research and creative practice in the arts, humanities and social sciences at the highest level. The BSR's history dates from 1901, when it was founded as a school for research in archaeology and Italian studies. For over 100 years the School has housed and nurtured world-class researchers on the art, history and culture of the western Mediterranean. The BSR is a key bridge with the intellectual and cultural heart of Italy and Europe, and creative and academic researchers from the UK and the Commonwealth. The School is a catalyst for academic research and creative practice through engagement with Mediterranean, Italian and Rome-based international agencies to enhance connectivity, partnership and collaboration for UK and Commonwealth researchers and creative artists.

bsr.ac.uk



Council for British Research in the Levant

CBRL advances public education on the Levant through promoting and disseminating research in the humanities, social sciences and related subjects. It works on and in the Middle Eastern countries of Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. With over 100 years of experience in the region, CBRL produces and disseminates original, rigorous and independent scholarship and invests in the most promising emerging scholars. Through institutes in Jerusalem (the Kenyon Institute) and Jordan (the British Institute in Amman), it facilitates UK-Levantine academic collaborations and partnerships. CBRL's libraries and research collections represent important academic resources and include the only library in East Jerusalem open to the public.

cbrl.ac.uk



Society for Libyan Studies

SLS, founded in 1969, advances scholarship on Libya and North Africa across the humanities and social sciences, and fosters relations between regional and UK-based scholars. It supports UK research across the broader North African and Saharan region (Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Chad, Niger, Sudan and Mali) and delivers training in preventative conservation and management of heritage sites in Libya. SLS publishes an annual journal, monographs on its field projects, and a popular series of books, which serve to enhance public knowledge of North African history, and supports a programme of Arabic translations of its publications. SLS runs a series of public lectures and other events in London on a wide range of topics relating to North African culture and heritage. The SLS Archive (at the University of Leicester) and Library (at SOAS) are important national resources for research on Libya.

societyforlibyanstudies.org

Advancing the arts, humanities and social sciences through international research

The BIRI are independent, multi-disciplinary research centres, deeply embedded in their regions. Each has its own distinctive history and research profile, based on locally and regionally focused expertise and experience.

Values

Academic excellence

The BIRI are global leaders in the arts, humanities and social sciences, and are committed to identifying and supporting the next generation of leading scholars. We support careers and enable research projects which promote outstanding, innovative scholarship, cultural dialogue and understanding.

Partnership

The BIRI bring diverse voices together to exchange knowledge and develop expertise. We maintain long-standing relationships with international partners that build capacity for the shared benefit of people in the UK and worldwide.

Independence

Our history of academic independence is the foundation for our institutes' enduring relevance. We draw on deep experience of local contexts to focus relevant and urgent research according to opportunity and need. We develop ideas and share resources for the mutual advancement of our disciplines.

Understanding

Our research brings people closer together through a deeper understanding of both our shared humanity and what makes societies and people unique. We contribute insight into the arts, humanities and social sciences and enhance on-line accessibility to archival resources to enable everyone to discover, learn and prosper.

Creativity

Original work, based on interdisciplinary understanding, is an essential part of the finest academic research and artistic production. The BIRI offer close engagement with local environments and regional practices to foster the expression of individual ideas.

BIRI in numbers

700+

700+ combined years of international academic partnership and front-line research in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

40+

The BIRI are active in more than 40 countries around the world.

8

The BIRI comprise 8 international research institutes.

In 2019–20

45+

45+ new partnerships with UK-based organisations and institutions.

60+

60+ new partnerships with overseas organisations and institutions.

20k+

20k+ people attended a range of research and networking activities, including almost 100 training events, 120 lectures, over 40 workshops, and over 25 conferences.

42

Research partnerships with 42 of the World Top 100 Universities (QS 2021).

From human origins to the global challenges of the 21st century

Below: Building 80 in the South Area excavations. Part of the BIAA-supported 'Çatalhöyük Research Project'. Photograph Jason Quinlan ©



The BIRI have been a driving force for excellence in arts, humanities and social sciences research around the world for more than a century.

In that time, our institutes have contributed to some of the most important discoveries about the history of humanity, and to understanding their relevance to the world today. The impact of the BIRI can be found at the intersections between history and science, environmental studies, artistic and cultural heritage and the knowledge economy.

The BIRI have all contributed to our knowledge of the earliest civilisations in human history.

Across Northern Africa, the SLS has supported research at the Fazzan oases, one of the greatest cross-roads of the Saharan desert routes that linked Africa with Europe. Spanning the 'Out of Africa' theory of human evolution to the nineteenth-century overland slave trade—interdisciplinary research has shaped understanding of the historic relationships between people and the environment in one of the most challenging locales for human life.

For more than 25 years the BIAA was a funder and key partner in investigating the 9,000-year-old settlement at Çatalhöyük, which marked humanity's first steps toward urban life. The BIAA-funded team created a Site Management Plan for long-term excavation and conservation at the site—a first for Turkey—which has since been adopted as a model and shaped government policy regarding excavation and conservation practice.

From pioneering innovative survey techniques in the 1950s to using state-of-the-art technology to investigate the ports of Rome and the wider Roman Empire in the last decade, the BSR has been at the forefront of developing our understanding of the material culture of the Roman world.

The BSA maintains a Research Centre on Crete dedicated to the study of the site of Knossos in its local, regional and east Mediterranean contexts across all periods since it was first occupied approximately 9,000 years ago.

BIPS also continues a long tradition of archaeological work in Iran dating back to 1963, having funded many collaborative archaeological projects with excavations of sites with early human occupation.

Our institutes have contributed to some of the most important discoveries about the history of humanity, and to understanding their relevance to the world today.

As well as studying the past, the BIRI help to shape more prosperous futures in the regions where they operate.

The BSA and the BIAA have collaborated to work on 'Balkan Futures', a major programme examining the bilateral relations of Turkey and Greece and their political and economic engagement in south-east Europe. Participants included prominent stakeholders during a challenging time for the European Union.

In the face of global challenges, the BIRI are committed to embedded, collaborative research. The BIEA is working closely with the Institute for Global Prosperity (University College London) and local partners on 'PROCOL Kenya', an innovative programme seeking to broaden the discussion of what constitutes prosperity in Africa. The project harnesses cutting-edge science, community knowledge, astute policy development and participatory research methods to develop smarter, localised understandings of prosperity. The outcomes will include creative and sustainable solutions to problems such as climate change, urbanisation and the future of work.

Harnessing collective knowledge and experience, the BIRI are uniquely positioned to address the major contemporary issues highlighted in the UK's Global Challenge agenda, including human migration, the protection and understanding of cultural heritage, and water management. The 'BIRI Sustainable Water Management Initiative' is developing a multi-disciplinary, inter-regional approach to sustainable water-management, which draws on rich local knowledge and historical experience.

Case study

Balkan Futures

Partners: BIAA & BSA

'Balkan Futures' examined the interests of Turkey and Greece in inter-regional development and cooperation in the Balkans. The programme was jointly run by the British School at Athens, the British Institute at Ankara, the École Française d'Athènes, and the London School of Economics with participation including diplomatic representation from more than 20 countries. The workshops brought together research partners from the region and the UK, and was one of the first to consider Turkey's contemporary engagement with its Balkan neighbours. It attracted a high level of positive media attention, including TV and radio coverage. Working sessions dealt with the nature of state formation in recent Balkan history, contemporary mobility, and changing regional stereotypes. The participants included key actors during a period of crisis within the European Union (EU). The results were widely published in open-access journals and collective volumes, helping to foster greater understanding of several of the major challenges facing the region.

Case study

BIRI Sustainable Water Management Initiative

Partners: BIAA, BIEA, BIPS, BISI, BSA, BSR, CBRL & SLS

The BIRI operate in regions where new approaches to water management are urgent. Water scarcity is one of the world's greatest challenges, as climate-induced variation in weather patterns, poor water management practices, overuse of diminishing resources, and the exponential growth of cities are confronting the world with an unprecedented crisis. In response, scholars from all the BIRI formed a group to define parameters for action and develop large-scale research projects to investigate these critical issues.

Initial workshops involving scholars from all eight BIRI highlighted the benefits of a multi-disciplinary, inter-regional approach to evaluate current and past practices, assess their relevance to contemporary challenges, and steer their application towards environmentally sustainable water-management solutions.

Future projects will focus on raising awareness of the unsustainable ways in which available water resources are squandered around the Mediterranean, the Middle East and in eastern Africa and on demonstrating ways of addressing these issues. Through research we will seek solutions based on local experience and historical and traditional practices with a view to ensuring sustainability, economic viability and knowledge transfer.

The BIRI are uniquely positioned to address the major contemporary issues highlighted in the UK's Global Challenge agenda.

Forging local and international partnerships

Our extensive network of local and international partners is vital to ensuring research excellence. Each BIRI has a unique regional focus and works closely with local institutions. The BIRI sustain long-standing relationships that build capacity to benefit research and knowledge exchange in the UK and overseas. Relationships are built on the highest standards of research practice and the principles of academic freedom, openness and trust.

The BSR acts as a bridgehead to Italy and Europe by working with international organisations based in Rome, such as the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). The School partners with Italian national cultural agencies and is a lead member of the consortium of 39 international research institutions with a presence in Rome. The BSR has taken measures to ensure access for UK and Commonwealth scholars to European research infrastructure and to extend the visibility and international presence of the UK's academic and cultural sectors post-Brexit.

The BSA is one of the most prominent research institutions based in Athens. In 2020-21 it maintained 24 research partnerships with UK and 62 with overseas organisations. The Fitch Laboratory for science-based archaeology has a particularly rich set of partners, and recently joined a €3.9m EU-funded Innovative Training Network (PlaCe), with eight other academic institutions (in Cyprus, Greece, the UK, Belgium and the Czech Republic) and twelve academic and commercial organisations.

Relationships are built on the highest standards of research practice, freedom, openness and trust

The BIEA, with active partnerships in 15 eastern African countries, puts into practice the UK's commitment to multidisciplinary and global challenges-focused research on the African continent. The BIEA brings international research partners together with practitioners from business and NGO communities to investigate pertinent topics such as ancient and modern water management in Kenya and Ethiopia, elections in Uganda and Zambia, and the mapping of endangered heritage in Sudan and Kenya. The BIEA's reputation, track record and extensive networks sustain its unique capacity to facilitate partnerships between African and UK institutions.

In challenging contexts, the BIRI foster and maintain relationships with regional specialists and in-country partners. BIPS continues to work in Tehran, providing a unique venue for academic and intellectual exchange. This Institute has established recent partnerships with the National Museum of Iran, the Archaeological Research Centre of the Cultural Heritage Organisation, and the University of Tehran. BIPS has also made its Tehran Institute available to an Iranian team transferring excavation material to the National Museum to ensure the upkeep, accessibility, and safeguarding of an important part of Iran's cultural heritage.

The impact of the BIRI can also be seen when our institutes come together. As active regional partners in the Nahrein Network, BISI, BIAA and CBRL have facilitated the visits of scholars to develop an integrated approach to the understanding and protection of the region's natural and cultural heritage.

Case study

The Nahrein Network

Partners: BISI, BIAA and CBRL

Since 2014, the destruction of heritage sites throughout Syria and Iraq has received widespread publicity. The Nahrein Network based at University College London, Sulaimani Polytechnic University, Al-Qadisiyah University, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, brings together international partners to foster the sustainable development of antiquity, cultural heritage and the humanities in Iraq and its neighbours.

BISI, BIAA and CBRL are supporting research to enable universities, museums, and community groups to contribute to their countries' economic, cultural and social development. The BIRI have supported visiting scholars from across the region, with the aim of enabling people to reclaim their ancient heritage as local history and put it to constructive use for their communities.

Promoting and protecting cultural heritage

Below: Excavation of a unique and threatened Late Medieval Nubian church (c. AD 1150–1500) on the island of Kurta in the Middle Nile Valley, supported by an SLS Research Award.



The BIRI play leading roles in developing understanding of the cultural heritage of the regions where they operate, drawing on a reservoir of acknowledged UK expertise.

BISI has awarded more than 30 Visiting Iraqi Scholarships to enhance the capacity of Iraqi researchers to participate in the rebuilding of the country. Scholarships have enabled academics, cultural heritage professionals, and NGO workers from Iraq to visit the UK for training and research in areas including digital archiving, stratigraphy, climate change records and the destruction of cultural heritage. In partnership with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, BISI scholars have designed explanatory materials and a learning centre for the new Basrah Museum.

The BIEA participated in 'Cultural Rights and Kenya's New Constitution', an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded multi-disciplinary project examining how Kenyans have exercised the cultural rights enshrined in their 2010 Constitution. The engagement of citizens, media, civil society groups and county governments with cultural rights has caused 'culture' to play a growing role in mobilisation and lobbying by forest peoples, pastoralists and other minorities. The new constitutional measures encourage commercial considerations linked to heritage tourism, while guarding against the threats posed by land-grabbing and large-scale construction.

The curation and preservation of cultural heritage is one of the BSR's main research pathways, conducted on the ground and achieved through regular conferences, targeted workshops and roundtable discussions. Building upon the success of the 'Herculaneum Conservation Project', the BSR works with leading practitioners in Italy, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Association for Research into Crimes against Art (ARCA) as well as the Carabinieri and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure the protection of this UNESCO World Heritage site. The BSR has collaborated with UK and Italian partners at the site of Portus, the imperial port of Rome, for over two decades, conducting primary research and promoting understanding of the site through on-line courses, TV documentaries, training schools and conservation activities.

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) has awarded more than 30 Visiting Iraqi Scholarships to enhance the capacity of Iraqi researchers.

In Turkey, the BIAA led the 'Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey' (SARAT) project, partnering with the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) and the International Council of Museums in the UK (ICOM UK). The project conducted the first public opinion poll on archaeological assets in Turkey, providing a vital new resource for cultural heritage professionals, authorities and other stakeholders, and highlighting many prejudices about public perceptions. The results informed six workshops, encouraging local influencers to build economic and social capital in their communities around archaeological assets. More than a hundred journalists attended five workshops to encourage more accurate and informed press reporting and over 5,500 people have so far completed a 20-session on-line certificate programme on Safeguarding and Rescuing Archaeological Assets.

Based on thirty years of archaeological research in the region, CBRL recently completed the long-running major 'Wadi Faynan' project in southern Jordan, involving UK and Jordanian researchers. This initiative developed understanding and promoted knowledge of the region's archaeological sites, monuments, and historical landscapes, creating important relationships, heritage assets and economic opportunities for the area. Beginning in 2019, CBRL has been a partner on the UK-Jordanian 'Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan' (MaDiH) project, contributing to the long-term sustainable development of Jordan's digital cultural heritage.

Access to Libya and adjacent regions is severely restricted by conflict and security concerns, placing the region's cultural heritage at acute risk. Since 2011, antiquities trafficking in Libya has risen sharply. In response, SLS has implemented 'Libyan Antiquities at Risk' (LAaR), a long-term digital programme incorporating an illustrated reference website and database for customs officials, the police, international agencies in the cultural heritage sector, and museum curators that helps to trace Libyan antiquities which are being stolen and sold on the illegal art market.

Case study

Public Archaeology: Theoretical Approaches and Current Practices

Partners: BIAA, BSA, BSR and CBRL

The fruits of cross-fertilisation and partnership between the BIRI on the management of cultural heritage can be seen in the recent volume *Public Archaeology: Theoretical Approaches and Current Practices*. This derives from a workshop staged in Istanbul to examine the relationship between archaeology and contemporary society and the challenges facing Public Archaeology and was part of the BIAA's 'Cultural Heritage Management in Southern Turkey' project. The presentations highlighted the contributions of Heritage Management to social and community development, based on current case studies in Greece, Italy, Jordan and Turkey.



Site preservation following detailed excavation of an Early Bronze Age settlement on Dhaskalio, Greece.

Supporting the next generation of scholars and pioneering scholarship

The BIRI provide opportunities to scholars at every stage of their careers, from undergraduate through to senior academic. Each BIRI is home to communities of scholars and students working across many disciplines focused on a specific geographical region, with most offering in-country accommodation for non-local scholars. Our regional bases provide an extraordinary seedbed for interdisciplinary work and exchange of ideas among the resident researchers. Opportunities provided by the BIRI have often been transformative for individuals' careers.

Below: Participants making Linear B tablets during a residential short course at the BSA.



Undergraduate students

6+ opportunities for undergraduate students:

- Awards
- Engagement grants
- Research funds
- Scholarships
- Travel grants
- Volunteer programmes

Postgraduate students

25+ opportunities for postgraduate students:

- Awards and prizes
- Bursaries
- Fellowships
- Graduate attachment schemes
- Research funds and grants
- Scholarships
- Travel grants

Early career researchers

30+ opportunities for early career researchers:

- Awards and prizes
- Bursaries
- Fellowships
- Research funds and grants
- Study grants
- Travel grants

Mid-career researchers

20+ opportunities for mid-career researchers:

- Awards and prizes
- Bursaries
- Engagement grants
- Fellowships
- Research funds and grants
- Residencies
- Scholarships
- Study grants
- Travel grants

Senior academics

15+ opportunities for senior academics:

- Awards and prizes
- Fellowships
- Research funds
- Residencies
- Scholarships
- Travel grants

Transformative impact on careers

Dr Leonidas Karakatsanis
Department of
International
Relations, University
of Macedonia,
Thessaloniki

“When I first joined the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) after completing my PhD, I never thought that my relationship to the Institute would turn to a life-long one. Since the moment I first walked into the BIAA premises, the Institute not only offered me the opportunities for a blooming career within the BIAA itself, it also provided me with all the opportunities to thrive as a scholar and secure a tenure-track academic position. Even from afar, the BIAA will always be my hub for understanding and connecting with Turkey.”

Dr Claire Burridge
Leverhulme Early
Career Fellow at
University of Sheffield

“My research was enhanced by the British School at Rome (BSR) community, from casual conversations with scholars and artists to research-focused discussions with other medievalists. The BSR provides a wonderfully enriching environment: talking with people who bring a completely different perspective is immensely valuable.”

Dr Jane Moon
Co-director of the
'Ur Region Archaeology
Project

“The British Institute for the Study of Iraq’s (BISI) support has been pivotal in setting up a multi-disciplinary exploration into the everyday lives of the people of southern Iraq thousands of years ago. It has not only funded research but enabled a new generation of Iraqi and international practitioners to engage with Iraq’s incomparable ancient heritage.”

Dr Philip Proudfoot
Research Fellow, Institute
of Development Studies

“I owe my career to the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL). Without the knowledge and experience I gained as Assistant Director at the British Institute in Amman, I would not be at the point I am now - engaging in critical research programmes on global challenges at the Institute of Development Studies. CBRL and the BIRI are exceptional British institutions that punch well above their weight.”

Dr Samuel Derbyshire
Junior Research Fellow
in Anthropology at
St John's College,
University of Oxford

“The BIEA’s support has been critical for my research throughout all stages of my academic career. It has made it possible to undertake logistically challenging research in regions across eastern Africa on numerous occasions, and it has enabled me to develop and refine the ideas, arguments and hypotheses that arise from this research, through my attendance of various cutting-edge seminars, workshops and events. Without the BIEA, my work in eastern Africa would be far more difficult and far less productive.”

Prof. Michael Scott
Professor in Classics and
Ancient History at the
University of Warwick

“Without doubt, working with and at the British School at Athens (BSA) for the first time as a Master’s student made me realise I wanted to be an academic and pursue research in this field. Ever since then the institution - and its wonderful team - have been a constant support and encouragement at every stage of my career. The BIRI are an invaluable addition to the UK research landscape.”

Sharing knowledge

Publications

All BIRI publish highly regarded peer-reviewed academic journals distributed worldwide by Cambridge University Press and Taylor & Francis. *Anatolian Studies*, the *Annual of the British School at Athens*, *Archaeological Reports* (jointly with the SPHS), *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa, Iraq, Levant, Libyan Studies* and the *Papers of the British School at Rome* are mostly devoted to archaeology, antiquities and ancient civilisations, while *Contemporary Levant*, the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* and *Iran* cover humanities and social sciences with a regional emphasis.

The BIRI also produce peer-reviewed book-length publications – including single-authored monographs by leading UK scholars and researchers, conference proceedings, and other customised collections of papers – overseen by their academic editors and publication committees. Production and distribution are based on partnerships with leading international publishing houses including Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, I. B. Tauris, Gingko, Oxbow Books, and Taylor & Francis.

The knowledge dissemination strategies of all the BIRI are evolving to adapt to the changing landscape of academic publication by developing open access strategies and extensive on-line publication programmes.

Libraries, Archives and Digitisation

The BIRI maintain important research libraries in Nairobi, Tehran, Ankara, Athens, Rome, Amman and Jerusalem, which are used by visiting scholars from all over the world as well as locally based students and academics. All can be consulted through on-line catalogues and contain specialised material not available in the UK. The SLS holds its library at SOAS and its important archaeological archive at the University of Leicester.

In recent years, the BIRI have been working on digitising their archival material and making it accessible to a wider public. The BSR and SLS have worked closely together to develop research tools for cataloguing archives, and are preparing a new on-line corpus of Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania discovered during the first British archaeological expeditions in Libya after WWII. These efforts form part of a wider digital strategy to preserve and disseminate archival materials to make them more visible and widely used.



Events

The BIRI deliver an academic programme of seminars, lectures, and conferences, in the UK and around the world. Several of the BIRI also offer well-equipped lecture theatres and facilities for hosting events in their regions. Events are often run in partnership with local universities, government agencies, think tanks and NGOs. The programme helps to shape debate and understanding, and to engage new audiences with research practice. In 2019–20, BIRI events engaged over 20,000 people with critical, independent academic discussion, while digital delivery of events during the pandemic has significantly increased the audience and reach.

The BSA's Knossos Research Centre collaborated with the Thrapsano Cultural Association, the Psarapoulos Foundation, the Region of Crete, the Heraklion Ephorate of Antiquities and the potters of Thrapsano in co-organising a four-day series of cultural events on Cretan pottery. These included lectures on Cretan pottery from prehistoric times to Late Antiquity and from the medieval period to the present day. Over 1,000 people attended these events.

The BIAA's 'From Enemies to Allies' programme convened four workshops dealing with Turkish-British political and diplomatic relationship 1914–1952. The workshops, organised in partnership with Turkish and UK Higher Education Institutions and the British Association for Turkish Area Studies, brought different national perspectives to the study of the foreign policy of the early Turkish republic, British-Turkish relations, and their place in the world order.

The BSR showcased the AHRC Beacon Project, 'Transnationalizing Modern Languages', through a three-day conference. This study of the web of connections between languages and cultures, the mobility of Italian culture and its interaction with others across the globe, including through patterns of emigration and immigration, will broaden the horizons for modern languages at a challenging time for the discipline.

The BIEA runs over 100 events annually. With the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPR) in Zambia, University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, and University of Warwick in the UK, the BIEA helped to establish the Zambia Elections Research Network (ZERN) as an active network of southern Africa and UK-based researchers ahead of the country's 2021 election. Activities include academic workshops, policy meetings, research projects and academic publications.

The BIRI run joint events and conferences and are committed to continuing to grow their digital events programme. The introduction of digital events has helped the BIRI to deliver truly global participation and reach vastly expanded audiences.

In 2019–20, BIRI events engaged over 20,000 people with critical independent academic discussion.



How can art help refugee women tell their stories? BIRI-supported research at the British Academy's Summer Showcase.



Fielding questions: part of the BIAA's 'Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey' (SARAT) project.

With support from the British Academy

The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Its principal aim is to mobilise the disciplines to understand the world and shape a brighter future. The Academy invests in researchers and projects in the UK and overseas, engages the public with fresh thinking and debate, and brings together scholars, government, business and civil society to influence policy for the benefit of everyone. It consists of more than 1,000 Fellows, who are distinguished academics from across the humanities and social sciences.

The Academy is a long-standing supporter and major funder of the BIRI and this is vital for ensuring the long-term future of the network. In addition to funding, the Academy provides academic and administrative support, and office space at 10–11 Carlton House Terrace, London.

Our relationship with the Academy is built on an appreciation of shared interests and unique roles. We work together to enable the arts, humanities and social sciences to enrich and deepen our understanding of key regions in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, to ensure that the UK remains an attractive place for the very best researchers, and to promote the UK's centrality to facilitating knowledge and cultural exchange.



The British Academy, 10–11 Carlton House Terrace.

