



"Recycling for Death: Coffin Reuse and the Theban Royal Caches"

Dr. Kara Cooney (University of California, Los Angeles)

Book: <https://aucpress.com/9781649031280/>

Lecture: November 9, 2024 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

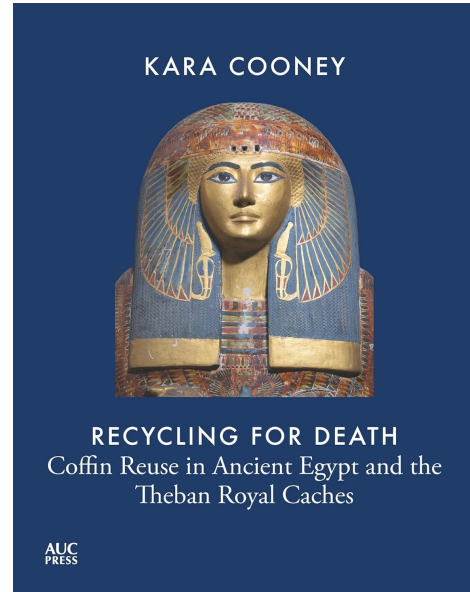
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Kathlyn (Kara) Cooney is a professor of Egyptian Art and Architecture and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA. Cooney's research in coffin reuse, primarily focusing on the 21st Dynasty, is ongoing. Her research investigates the socioeconomic and political turmoil that have plagued the period, ultimately affecting funerary and burial practices in ancient Egypt. This project has taken her around the world over the span of five to six years to study and document more than 300 coffins in collections around the world, including Cairo, London, Paris, Berlin, and Vatican City. Her most recent trade book, *The Good Kings: Absolute Power in Ancient Egypt and the Modern World*, appeared in 2021 with National Geographic Books. Her latest book, *Recycling for Death: Coffin Reuse in Ancient Egypt and the Theban Royal Caches* (2024) was published by The American University in Cairo Press.

Funerary datasets are the chief source of social history in Egyptology, and the numerous tombs, coffins, Books of the Dead, and mummies of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Dynasties have not been fully utilized as social documents, mostly because the data of this time period is scattered and difficult to synthesize. Many coffins show evidence of reuse from other, older coffins, as well as marks where gilding or inlay have been removed. Innovative vignettes painted onto coffin surfaces reflect new religious strategies and coping mechanisms within this time of crisis. It was in the context of necropolis insecurity, economic crisis, and group burial in reused and unpainted chambers that a complex, polychrome coffin style emerged. This culmination of fifteen years of coffin study analyzes coffins and other funerary equipment of elites to provide essential windows into social strategies and adaptations employed during the Bronze Age collapse and subsequent Iron Age reconsolidation

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