

About Richard Moriarty



Carnegie Museum of Natural History is saddened by the recent passing of our great friend, Dr. Richard Moriarty. His deep commitment to the museum made possible the Carnegie Discoverers, which he helped found in 2006 and served as chair, and the R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars program that launched in 2010.

Dr. Richard Moriarty was a pediatrician, a former associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and a vibrant member of Pittsburgh's medical community. He

advanced knowledge in the fields of pediatrics and toxicology, contributing more than 20 journal articles with the fundamental goal of reducing childhood fatalities due to poisoning.

Moriarty founded the Pittsburgh Poison Center—nationally known for the development of the Mr. Yuk poison warning symbol—and the National Poison Center Network that both fostered the development of and supported existing poison centers nationally.



**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY**

ONE OF THE FOUR CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OF PITTSBURGH

4400 FORBES AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

The R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars

Exploring Nature, Culture, and the Future of Life on Earth



Christine Johnston, PhD

Western Washington University

“River Life in Ancient Egypt: The Nile and its Varied Environments”

Monday, March 11, 2024 | Noon

The 167th Seminar in a continuing series

Abstract:

Ancient Egyptian society developed around and was dependent on the Nile River. It was the physical and cultural heart of the pharaonic state, playing important roles in transportation and trade, agriculture and subsistence, and belief and ideology. The Nile brought bounty to the people of Egypt through both the resources it held and the rich sediments it deposited across the Nile valley during the annual inundation. These sediments supported the production of agricultural products like grain, while the river environment provided fish and fowl and supported the raising of livestock and the cultivation of plants like flax and papyrus used to make linen and paper. Although the Nile represented an important source of life, it could also be dangerous. It was home to creatures like hippopotami and crocodiles and helped to spread water- and insect-borne parasites and illnesses like malaria. Fluctuations in the annual inundation could also have devastating effects on agriculture, while the migration of the river across the valley altered physical and cultural landscapes. This presentation will focus on the regional differences through the Egyptian Nile Valley, the changes that occurred over time, and the impact of the river on the lives and beliefs of the ancient Egyptians.

Biography:

Christine Johnston is an Assistant Professor of Ancient Mediterranean History at Western Washington University and a Natural Environment Area Editor for the UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology. Her research focuses on economic and environmental history in the Mediterranean, West Asia, and North Africa during the Bronze Age. She also engages in research on cultural heritage, legacy holdings, public history, and digital humanities, and is a co-founder and the video producer for the Peopling the Past project.



The Flooded Courtyard of Amenhotep III in the Luxor Temple (Image by Antonio Beato, Getty Collection Object 84.XM.1382.9). Digital image courtesy of the Getty's Open Content Program.

