



INTRODUCTION

The Origins and Afterlives of Kush conference was held at the University of California, Santa Barbara, July 25–27, 2019. Organized by Stuart Tyson Smith with the assistance of Vincent W.J. van Gerven Oei and sponsored by the UCSB Department of Anthropology with support from the College of Letters and Sciences and the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research, it featured daily discussion sessions and twenty-one presentations, of which ten are published in this special volume of the *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*.

CONFERENCE THEME

The origin of the second Kingdom of Kush (c. 850 BCE–350 CE) has been the subject of much discussion and debate over the years. The kingdom that arose at Napata lasted over a thousand years, evolving over time and continuing to influence the polities that emerged after the kingdom broke apart in about 350 CE. One of the kingdom's modern legacies is as an early example of an African state,

allowing for an exploration of larger theoretical questions surrounding state formation, religion and ideology, political economy, identity, and intercultural interaction. At the same time, the Kingdom of Kush has played an important and controversial role in the development of Black studies, the discourse of Afrocentrism, and a consideration of the asymmetries in the racial discourse surrounding Egypt in particular and Africa more generally, both in their historical and contemporary incarnations.

CONFERENCE WEB PAGE:

anth.ucsb.edu/news/event/677

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

anth.ucsb.edu/sites/default/files/sitefiles/Origins%20and%20Afterlives%20of%20Kush%20Program.pdf

ABSTRACTS

anth.ucsb.edu/sites/default/files/sitefiles/Abstract%20Booklet.pdf