



**Prof. Josef Mario BRIFFA, S.J.**



## Birth

June 1979, Malta

## Personal

- Member of the Society of Jesus, since October 2000
- Roman Catholic priest, ordained in June 2010

## Education

- PhD in Archaeology (2012-2017).  
Institute of Archaeology, University College London.  
Thesis: *The Figural World of the Southern Levant during the Late Iron Age*.
- Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (2009-2012), Magna cum Laude.  
Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Bachelor of Divinity (2006-2009), First Class honours.  
Heythrop College, University of London.  
(and Bachelor of Sacred Theology, *Magna cum Laude*  
in affiliation with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
- Bachelor of Philosophy (2002-2004), Magna cum Laude  
Istituto Filosofico Aloisianum, Padova, Italy
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Archaeology (1996-2000), First Class honours  
University of Malta, Msida, Malta

## Professional Experience

### *Lecturing/Teaching*

- Lecturer at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem, spring semester 2017-present. **Courses:** *Archaeology and geography of the Holy Land* (in Italian); *Political and Religious History from the time of the judges to the return from Exile* (in Italian).
- Assistant Lecturer at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Jerusalem, since summer 2013. **Course:** *Archaeology and geography of the Holy Land* (in Italian)
- Teacher of English, division prefect, assistant headmaster at Saint Aloysius' College, Malta, 2002-2004.

### **Fieldwork (excavation & survey)**

- *Lautenschläger Expedition to Azekah*, Israel, 2013-present.  
directed by Prof. O. Lipschits, Dr Y. Gadot (Tel Aviv University) and Prof. Dr M. Oeming (University of Heidelberg),  
Area Supervisor, Area N (2016-) Assistant Area Supervisor, Area N (2014-2015)
- Excavation of a Roman period catacomb, Rabat, Malta, 2010.  
supervision on behalf of the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, Malta
- Excavations of a Roman Villa, Żejtun, Malta, 2008.  
directed by Prof. A. Bonanno, and Prof. N.C. Vella (University of Malta)
- Field survey of Punic tombs at Ghajn Klieb, Rabat, Malta, 1999-2000  
directed by Prof. N.C. Vella (University of Malta)
- Excavations at Tas-Silġ, Marsaxlokk, Malta, 1997-2000.  
directed by Prof. A. Bonanno, and Prof. A.J. Frendo (University of Malta)  
Area Supervisor: Area C (1999), Area B (2000); Finds' Hut manager (1997-1999)

### **Exhibition / Museum Curatorship**

- Research associate, *Jerusalem: Fall of a City, Rise of a Vision* (due in July 2017)  
online exhibition for the centenary of the Society for Old Testament Studies  
coordinated by Dr C. Crouch (Nottingham), Dr J. Stökl (Kings', London).  
Curating the section on daily life in Iron Age Jerusalem.
- Museum of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem, 2014-present
- Exhibition curator, *Fr Emmanuel Magri SJ: Jesuit, Ethnographer, Archaeologist*  
National Museum of Ethnography, Inquisitors' Palace, Vittoriosa (Malta),  
March-July 2017. Organised by Heritage Malta and the Maltese Jesuit Province.

## **Bibliography**

### **Books**

- (with C. Sagona), *Catalogue of Artefacts from Malta in the British Museum*. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2017.
- SPARKS, R.T. – FINLAYSON, B. – WAGEMAKERS, B. – BRIFFA, J.M. (eds.), *Digging Up Jericho. Past, Present and Future* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2020).

### Book sections

- «Through a Glass Darkly: Figurines as a Window on the Past», in O. LIPSCHITS – F. ČAPEK (eds.), *The Last Century in the History of Judah. The Seventh Century BCE in Archaeological, Historical and Biblical Perspectives* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature 37; SBL Press, 2019) 179-197.
- (with N.C. Vella) “Magri, new standards and the Phoenician chimera” In: A. Pessina, N.C. Vella, with contributions by A. Bugeja, J.M. Briffa, H. Frendo and O.J. Gilkes, *Malta and Mediterranean Prehistory: Luigi Mari Ugolini, politics and archaeology between the two World Wars*. Malta: Midsea Books, in press.
- “Más allá de Ašerah. Las estatuillas en terracota del Levante meridional en los siglos VIII-VI a.C.” pp. 25-37 in: E. Ferrer Albelda, and Á. Pereira Deldago, eds., *Hijas de Eva. Mujeres y Religión en la Antigüedad*. SPAL Monografías XIX. Seville, Editorial Universidad de Sevilla, 2015.
- “Historical Introduction” and “Related Documents” In: E. Magri, *The Ruins of a Megalithic Temple in Xeuchia (Shewkiyah), Gozo. First Report*. Ed. by Charles Cini SDB, Heritage Malta & SDB (Malta), 2009.
- “Collaborare con i Laici: Tradizione o Novità?” pp. 9-16 in: M. Pace Asciak, ed., *I Gesuiti e la collaborazione dei laici. Atti del XXII Convegno internazionale “I Gesuiti e la storia”*. Malta, 30 marzo – 2 aprile 2005. Malta, St. Aloysius’ College.

### Papers / Journal articles

- “What has the ‘priestly character’ of the Society of Jesus meant, and what does it mean to me as a scholastic?”, *Review of Ignatian Spirituality*, XLI, 2/2010, 64-68.
- “Inclusive Education and Ignatian Pedagogy. MAPS: Making Action Plans,” *Orbis* 5/3 (Autumn 2006): 9-11.
- “New light on Fr Magri’s exploration of the Hypogeum. Notes from correspondence with the British Museum,” *Malta Archaeological Review*, 6, 41-46. (published 2005)
- N. Vella, K. Borda, J.M. Briffa, K. Fenech, K. Grinde, E. Scerri, M. Sisk, H. Stöger, M.E. Zammit, “Għajn Klieb, Rabat (Malta). A preliminary report of an archaeological survey,” *Malta Archaeological Review*, 4, 10-16. (published 2001)

### Review articles

- E. Darby, *Interpreting Judean Pillar Figurines* (FAT II/69; Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2014). in: *Strata: The Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society*. (in press, accepted for publication 30.08.2016)

- M.D. Press, *Ashkelon 4. The Iron Age Figurines of Ashkelon and Philistia* (Harvard Semitic Museum Publications; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012). In: *Strata: The Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society*, 32 (2014), 121-123
- *Byzantium 330-1453* (exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, London) in *ThinkingFaith*, 24 November 2008  
[[http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20081124\\_1.htm](http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20081124_1.htm)]

### **Conference Posters**

- *Late Iron Age Jericho and its neighbours. Figurines and contacts*. International Symposium “Digging Up Jericho: Past, Present, Future” organised by the CBRL, UCL Institute of Archaeology and NPAPH, 2015
- *The Figural World of Late Iron Age Judah*. BANEA 2015 conference, London. Awarded the Routledge Poster Prize.

### **Lectures and talks (unpublished)**

- 05.01.2017, *Figurines: meaning and performance*. BANEA Annual Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 26.04.2016, *The Figural World of Judah in the Late Iron Age*. ICAANE 2016, Vienna.
- 07.01.2016, *The Figurines of Iron Age Lachish: A Case Study*. BANEA Annual Conference, Lampeter, Wales.
- 10.06.2015, *Beyond Asherah. Deconstructing Archaeological Interpretations*. Seminar entitled: *Gott - weiblich? Göttinnen- und Götterbilder im Alten Testament* at the Faculty of Theology, University of Heidelberg (invited by Prof. Dr Manfred Oeming)
- 16.11.2012, *Text and Trowel. Can the Bible and archaeology meet?* Manchester Universities' Catholic Chaplaincy
- 30.03.2007, *The Magri Papers: A Case study in archive archaeology*. Department of Classics and Archaeology, University of Malta.
- 27.03.2007, *Unearthing Malta's Past. Fr Emmanuel Magri's pioneering work in Archaeology*. Heritage Malta Head Office, Valletta.
- 13.10.2004, *The excavation of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum under Fr Emmanuel Magri SJ: new light from letters to the British Museum*. Malta Archaeological Society.
- 01.06.2004, *La Parola e la Terra. La Palestina del Nuovo Testamento*, Auditorium of the Centro Giovanile Antonianum in Padova
- 16.01.2003, *Credo e culto alla vigilia dell'esilio. Testo biblico e ricerca archeologica*, Istituto Filosofico Aloisianum, Padova.

updated 05.04.2017