

## **Prominent archaeologist Thomas Levy joins UCSD Department of Anthropology**

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### PROMINENT ARCHAEOLOGIST JOINS UCSD DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Thomas Levy, one of the world's most prolific and respected archaeologists now digging in Israel, has joined the Judaic Studies Program and the department of anthropology at the University of California, San Diego.

The author of over 40 publications including the book, "Shiqmim I - Studies Concerning Chalcolithic Societies in the Northern Negev, Israel," Levy received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Sheffield in England, and his B.A. from the University of Arizona.

Levy's expertise is in the Chalcolithic period (ca. 4500-3000 B.C.E.) of the Middle East. His archaeological explorations at the site of Shiqmim in Israel's Negev desert have unearthed environmental and cultural factors that are revolutionary to our understanding of how and why urbanism first emerged in that part of the world.

Prior to joining the UCSD faculty this fall, Levy was the assistant director of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology at Hebrew Union College.

Levy's research has been supported by the National Geographic Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the C. Paul Johnson Charitable Foundation, among others.

In the past, UCSD and Hebrew University have collaborated to enable students, staff, and faculty to participate in excavations of Jerusalem led by UCSD Professor Richard Elliot Friedman. Unfortunately, the program was suspended due to the death of Yigal Shiloh, director of the City of David project. The addition of Levy to the UCSD faculty will provide dozens of undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity for "hands-on" archaeological experience in Israel.

Written By: Jill Wright

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