

Gregg Jamison

Discipline: Anthropology

Title of Project : Seal Production in the Indus Civilization: A Comparative Analysis of Art, Technology, and Power

Inscribed steatite seals are among the most important material remains of the Indus or Harappan Civilization of modern Pakistan and India. During the Integration Era of the Harappa Phase (2600-1900 BC) they were used by ruling elites as symbols of wealth and power, serving to legitimate and reify the social order. Yet despite their significance, questions remain regarding how and where they were made and how production would have varied within and between different sites. My research attempts to address these issues through a detailed study of the organization of Indus seal production. Using a multi-faceted research program the study attempts to identify patterns of variation in seal production techniques and styles that will ultimately be linked to distinct workshops or carving traditions. The data will ultimately be used to test current models of Indus socio-political organization and provide new insights into the relationship between craft production and the development of Pakistan's earliest state-level society.
