

Monica Hanna Biography

She was born in Heliopolis and is originally from the region around Middle Egypt. She began her academic studies at the prestigious American University in Cairo, where she majored in Egyptology with a minor in Archaeological Chemistry. She then pursued her doctorate at the University of Pisa with a dissertation on the "Problems of Preservation of Mural Paintings in the Theban Necropolis: a Pilot Study on the Theban Tomb 14 using 3D Scanning Techniques."

Throughout her studies and especially since completing her PhD, she has been actively involved with protecting Egypt's archaeological sites, but also with issues of cultural identity and education of these important aspects. She has been a member of archaeological expeditions at Saqqara and Thebes as well as several cultural resource management projects around Egypt, notably at Serabit el-Khadim. She furthered her research and engagement through a post-doctoral fellowship at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin at the Topoi Cluster of Excellence in the Department of Egyptology and North African Studies with her project on "Contemporary Communities and Archaeology: investigating the relationship between the inhabitants of modern al-Quran and local archaeological sites (Thebes, Egypt)".

Just last year she was appointed as Associate Professor and Founding Dean of the newly founded College of Archaeology of Cultural Heritage at the Arab Academy of Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport. The Academy is part of the Arab League University system with campuses in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan and her college will be based in mostly Aswan.

During her Post-Doc in Berlin, she decided to return to Egypt to document the looting situation there in light of the 2011 uprising. Making use of the power of social media, Dr. Hanna created and maintains the Egypt's Heritage Task Force, which documents these losses of cultural heritage around Egypt and brings them to the attention of the world stage. She has worked tirelessly to reduce the illicit trade in antiquities and worked with government officials to protect Egypt's cultural heritage. For her work, she received the 2014 SAFE Beacon award and has also been called a Monuments Woman.