

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2024 Teaching Ancient Studies: Continuing Education Reading Group

Pakal's Legacy: The Boy King of Palenque and His Mythical Narratives

Led by Dr. Catherine Nuckols

Introduction to Reading Group:

In July of 615 CE, a twelve-year-old boy named K'inich Janaab Pakal took the throne of the ancient Maya site of Palenque. He was faced with the impossible task of saving the city from ruin-- and over his nearly 70-year rule, he not only brought Palenque back from the brink, but transformed it into one of the most important Maya centers of art, culture, and power.

Over the course of five weeks, this reading group will examine the narratives, both mythical and historical, of Pakal's life, as told by Pakal himself and by his descendants. We will examine how later rulers of Palenque chose to fashion themselves after Pakal or distinguish themselves from him, and how they used mythology to justify those decisions. Participants will read translations and analyses of hieroglyphic texts and examine the visual narratives built into the architecture of the site. Discussions will center around the rhetoric used by Pakal and his dynastic descendants and how it served to solidify the legacy of the site and its rulers for generations to come.

Reading Group Objectives:

Participants will:

- Familiarize themselves with the history of one of the most well-known Maya sites;
- Gain an understanding of how mythology was incorporated into historical narratives in the Maya world;
- Engage in discussion of the visual and textual rhetoric used by Maya rulers across generations to legitimize rulers and their descendants

**Your SASA Educational
Ambassador:**

Catherine Nuckols, PhD
PhD in Ancient Maya Art Writing at
Tulane University

Google Classroom:

During our weekly Zoom meetings, we'll come together to discuss our readings and delve into the topic. We will also use Google Classroom to provide easy access to reading materials, resources, and facilitate ongoing discussions through open forums. This platform will also be where participants submit their assignments.



Dates:

Thursdays @ 3pm EDT

- Session 1: June 13
- Session 2: June 20
- Session 3: June 27
- Session 4: July 4
- Session 5: July 11

Week 1: Introduction to Palenque and the Maya World

- Martin and Grube, "Palenque," *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens* p. 155-175.
- Stuart and Stuart, Palenque and the Ancient Maya World, National Geographic.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCs86ZrxX9k>

Week 2: K'inich Janaab Pakal and the Creation of a Legacy

- Guenter, "The Tomb of K'inich Janaab Pakal: The Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque." <https://www.mesoweb.com/articles/guenter/TI.pdf>
- Bassie-Sweet and Hopkins, "[The Narrative of the Palenque Temple of the Inscriptions Sarcophagus](#)," *Maya Narrative Arts* p. 206-227.



Week 3: The Sons of Pakal: K'inich Kan Bahlam and K'inich K'an Joy Chitam

- Bassie-Sweet and Hopkins, "[The Palenque Cross Group Narrative](#)," *Maya Narrative Arts* p. 228-268.
- Stuart, "[The Name of Paper: The Mythology of Crowning and Royal Nomenclature on Palenque's Palace Tablet](#)," *Maya Archaeology* 2 p. 117-149.

Week 4: An Enduring Legacy: Pakal in the Words of His Grandchildren

- Stuart, "[K'inich Ahkal Mo' Nahb: His Name Glyphs and Historical Setting](#)," The Inscriptions from Temple XIX at Palenque p. 148-157.
- Bassie-Sweet and Hopkins, "[The Palenque Tablet of the 96 Glyphs](#)," Maya Narrative Arts p. 193-205.
- Stuart, "A Puzzle in Plaster: The Inscription of Temple XVIII at Palenque, Mexico /BEARC," Boundary End Archaeology Research Center.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX8RZ8T7hJw&t=31s&pp=ygU5Ym91bmRhcnkgZW5kIHJlc2VhcmNoIGNlbnRlciBkYXZpZCBzdHVhcnQgcGFsZW5xdWUgc3R1Y2Nv>

Week 5 :The Rediscovery of Pakal's Legacy in the Modern World

- Stuart, "[A New Look at Palenque's Mythology](#)," The Inscriptions from Temple XIX at Palenque p. 158-185.
-  Palenque: Secrets of the Ancient Maya revealed
- <https://www.penn.museum/collections/videos/video/313>
-  50 Años del descubrimiento de la Tumba del Rey Pakal / 2009

Culminating Assignment:

Instructions for this assignment can be found in your Google Classroom under Coursework.

Certificates of Completion:

The following criteria must be met by participants in order to receive a certificate of completion:

- Complete culminating assignment
- Attended all 5 live class discussions

* If you are seeking continuing education/professional development credits SASA recommends that you check with your school district, continuing education committee, or other relevant authority in advance to ensure you receive the proper credit and advancement for your coursework. Save Ancient Studies Alliance does not guarantee acceptance by your school, district, or licensing authority.