Stanford



Ian Morris

Jean and Rebecca Willard Endowed Professor of Classics

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Ian Morris is Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and a Fellow of the Archaeology Center at Stanford University. He has published fourteen books, many of them focusing on the big patterns in world history and possible future trends, and he has directed archaeological excavations in Greece and Italy. His books have been translated into fifteen languages, and his 2010 work Why the West Rules—For Now won literary awards in the United States, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and China as well as being named as a book of the year by the New York Times, The Economist, the Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, Nature, and the London Evening Standard. Princeton University Press published his latest book, Foragers, Farmers, and Fossil Fuels: How Human Values Evolve, in April 2015.

Morris grew up in Britain and studied at Birmingham and Cambridge Universities. He moved to the University of Chicago in 1987, and on to Stanford University in 1995. He directed Stanford's archaeological excavations at Monte Polizzo in Sicily between 2000 and 2007 and has served as Senior Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences, Chair of the Classics department, Director of the Archaeology Center, and Director of the Social Science History Institute.

Outside Stanford, Morris is a contributing editor at the strategic consulting firm Stratfor and has served as a visiting professor at the University of Zürich's Business School, He has also delivered the Tanner Lectures in Human Values at Princeton University and a Darwin Lecture at Cambridge University, and in 2015/16 will deliver the Philippe Roman Lectures in International Relations and History at the London School of Economics. He has advised the US National Intelligence Council, the Special Autonomous Regional Government of Hong Kong, the Henry Jackson Committee of the British Parliament, and the President of the Dominican Republic. His academic honors include an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fellowship in the British Academy, a Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and two honorary doctorates.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Classics

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Stanford Archaeology Center, Stanford University, (2003-2006)
- Acting Director, Social Science History Institute, Stanford University, (2001-2002)
- Director, Stanford Excavations at Monte Polizzo, Sicily, Stanford University and Soprintendenza i beni culturali, Trapani, (2000-2007)
- Co-Director, Stanford Archaeology Center, Stanford University, (2000-2002)
- Senior Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University, (1998-2000)
- Chair, Department of Classics, Stanford University, (1996-1998)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Foundation (2015)
- Fellow, Society of Antiquaries (2014)
- Honorary Doctorate, Birmingham University (2014)
- Most Powerful Author Award, Citic Books, Beijing (2014)
- Campbell National Fellowship, Hoover Institution (2013-14)
- Honorary doctorate, DePauw University (2013)
- Corresponding Fellow, British Academy (2012)
- Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford University (2011)
- International Nonfiction Bestseller Award, Sharjah Book Festival, UAE (2011)
- PEN USA Literary Nonfiction Award, PEN USA (2011)
- getAbstract Business Book Award, getAbstract (2011)
- Guggenheim Fellowship, Guggenheim Foundation (2002-03)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities (2002-03)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Contributing Editor, Stratfor (2015 - present)
- Editorial Board, Cambridge Archaeological Journal (2002 - 2010)
- Editorial Board, American Journal of Archaeology (2000 - 2005)
- Board of Directors, American Philological Association (1993 - 1996)
- Editorial Board, Classical Philology (1989 - 1995)
- Member, Archaeological Institute of America (1988 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Cambridge University , Classical archaeology (1986)
- BA, Birmingham University , Ancient History and Archaeology (1981)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

I combine evidence from archaeology, anthropology, and history with methods drawn from the social sciences and evolutionary theory to try to identify the big trends that have shaped society across the last 100,000 years, and to analyze how those trends might play out in the future. I concentrate particularly on biology and geography as driving forces, and since 2010 have written books analyzing east-west relations, quantitative measures of social development, war and violence, and human values. I am currently working on a book examining the ancient world at the global scale. Future projects I am considering include the comparative study of dark ages, geostrategy since the Ice Age, the role of chance and the individual in history, and the long-term history of gender and the family.

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Ancient Empires: Near East: ARCHLGY 81, CLASSICS 81, HISTORY 117 (Aut)

- Methods and approaches for ancient historians: CLASSICS 219 (Aut)
- Professionalization Workshop: CLASSICS 251 (Aut)
- Progress: CLASSICS 388 (Win)
- The Greeks: CLASSICS 83, HISTORY 101 (Win)

2025-26

- Ancient Empires: Near East: CLASSICS 81, HISTORY 117 (Aut)
- Greek Archaeology: The Worlds the Greeks Made: ARCHLGY 30, CLASSICS 30 (Aut)
- Professionalization Workshop: CLASSICS 251 (Aut)
- The Greeks: CLASSICS 83, HISTORY 101 (Win)

2024-25

- Ancient Empires: Near East: CLASSICS 81, HISTORY 117 (Aut)
- Environmental History of the Ancient World: CLASSICS 261 (Spr)
- Greek Archaeology: The Worlds the Greeks Made: ARCHLGY 30, CLASSICS 30 (Aut)
- Methods and approaches for ancient historians: CLASSICS 219 (Aut)
- Persia and the Greeks: CLASSICS 361 (Win)
- The Greeks: CLASSICS 83, HISTORY 101 (Win)

2023-24

- Alexander the Great: CLASSICS 120 (Win)
- Ancient Empires: Near East: CLASSICS 81, HISTORY 117 (Aut)
- Greek Archaeology: The Worlds the Greeks Made: ARCHLGY 30, CLASSICS 30 (Aut)
- The Greeks: CLASSICS 83, HISTORY 101 (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Gabriella Armstrong, JJ Lugardo

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Absent Archimedes - what?** *INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE REVIEWS*
  Morris, I.
  2022; 47 (3-4): 440-448
- **The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity (Book Review)** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Book Review Authored by: Morris, I.
  2022; 126 (3): E65-E75
- **Evolutionary history.** *Evolutionary psychology : an international journal of evolutionary approaches to psychology and behavior*
  Morris, I.
  2022; 20 (1): 14747049211068279
- **What is Ancient History?** *DAEDALUS*
  Morris, I., Scheidel, W.
  2016; 145 (2): 113-121
- **Increased Affluence Explains the Emergence of Ascetic Wisdoms and Moralizing Religions** *CURRENT BIOLOGY*

Baumard, N., Hyafil, A., Morris, I., Boyer, P.
2015; 25 (1): 10-15

- **Archaeology as a social science** *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*
  Smith, M. E., Feinman, G. M., Drennan, R. D., Earle, T., Morris, I.
  2012; 109 (20): 7617-7621
- **Why western science conquered the world** *NEW SCIENTIST*
  Morris, I.
  2010; 208 (2784): 32-34
- **Negotiated peripherality in Iron Age Greece: Accepting and resisting the East** *94th Annual Meeting of the American-Anthropological-Association (AAA)*
  Morris, I.
  ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBL INC.1999: 63–84
- **Meaning and the Maros** *CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL*
  Morris, I.
  1998; 8 (1): 105-106
- **The art of citizenship** *Symposium on New Light on a Dark Age - Exploring the Culture of Geometric Greece*
  Morris, I.
  UNIV MISSOURI PRESS.1997: 9–43