# Frédéric Colin
## USIAS Marc Bloch Chair (2022-2024)

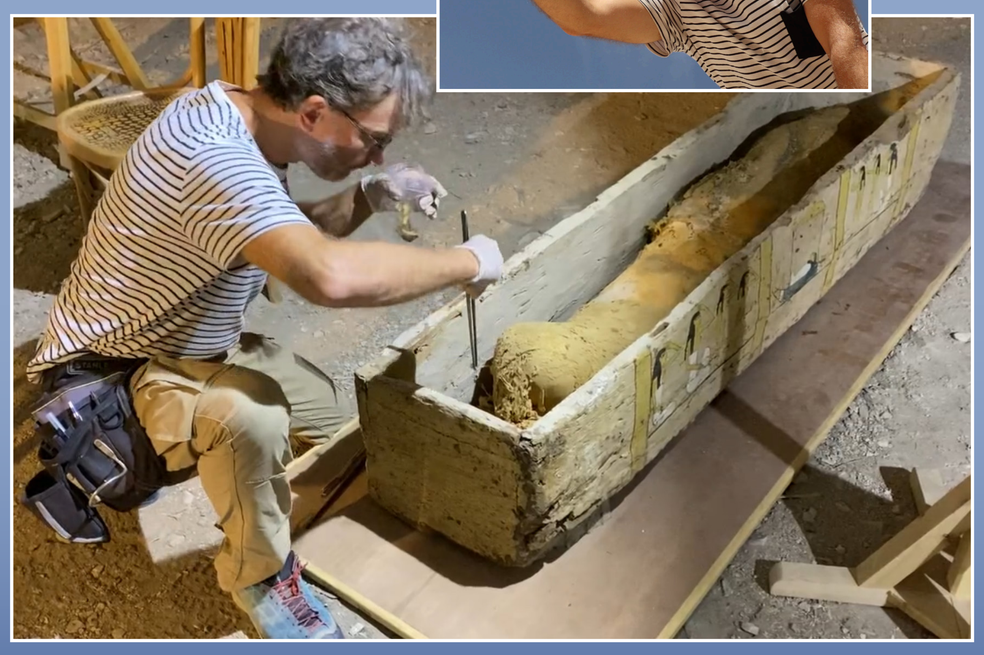
Frédéric Colin is Professor of Egyptology, head of the Institute of Egyptology and curator of the Egyptian collection at the University of Strasbourg. He is known, inter alia, for his cross-disciplinary and plurilingual approach in the study of Greek and Egyptian inscriptions and papyri, which helps to better understand Greek-Egyptian interculturality. He has been awarded the Marc Bloch Chair in social sciences and humanities at the University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study (USIAS), a position which was created in 2022 to recognize Strasbourg-based researchers who have made an exceptional contribution to their field.

Frédéric Colin, Université de Strasbourg

Frédéric Colin studied both ancient history (Greek and Roman) and philology and oriental history (Egyptian, Akkadian) at the Free University of Brussels. In 1996, he ran his first project in the Bahariya Oasis where he learned Arabic.

*"It's a necessary skill if one wants to communicate with a diverse team that includes local excavation technicians, in a direct dialogue in which know-how is exchanged, allowing a constant learning process. Working in this type of context, which calls for cultural and social skills, is also a true human adventure, an exploration of our own humanities."*

In 2015, forced to abandon his excavations in the desert because of the deteriorating safety situation, he spent two years studying photogrammetry, a technique used to digitise objects and contexts in 3D. With this new expertise, he went to El-Assasif in 2018, to set up an experimental laboratory.



*"We wanted to take command of this new technology, developed by optical engineers and computer scientists, to see how we could use it in ways not imagined by the inventors, to ask new questions, find new answers and have a catalysing effect on the well-established and traditional methods of our discipline."*

He used the 3D scanning technology to document in meticulous detail a recent major discovery of an unscathed tomb containing five sarcophagi of women who lived in the 16th century BC, at the court of Thebes. The flexible, accurate and rapid tool proved invaluable for data-recording and post-excavation interpretation of the highly unstructured context from which the five 3,500-year-old sarcophagi came.

*"The value of a certain degree of scientific wandering crossing disciplinary borders is tremendous, provided that one dares to take a temporarily naive look at a well-known problem, which can generate unexpected creativity."*

**The USIAS Marc Bloch Chair** was created in 2022 for Strasbourg-based researchers who have made an exceptional contribution to their field. The Chair is named in honour of Marc Bloch (1886-1944), a French historian who was a professor of medieval history at the University of Strasbourg from 1921-1936. Co-founder of the historical journal "Annales", he was known for his work on comparative and economic history, and his interest in interdisciplinarity.

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