

Jodi Magness: Bioblurb

Jodi Magness (www.JodiMagness.org) is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since 2002, she has been the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 1992-2002, Magness was Associate/Assistant Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology in the Departments of Classics and Art History at Tufts University, Medford, MA. She received her B.A. in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1977), and her Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania (1989). From 1990-1992, Magness was Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology at the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art at Brown University.

Magness' research interests, which focus on Palestine in the Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic periods, and Diaspora Judaism in the Roman world, include ancient pottery, ancient synagogues, Jerusalem, Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Roman army in the East. Her most recent books are *Jerusalem Through the Ages: From Its Beginnings to the Crusades* (New York: Oxford University, 2024), which received an Honorable Mention in the Biblical Archaeology Society's 2025 Publication Award for Best Popular Book in Archaeology; and *Ancient Synagogues in Palestine: A Reevaluation Nearly a Century After Sukenik's Schweich Lectures. The Schweich Lectures of the British Academy 2022* (London: The British Academy/Oxford University Press, 2024). Three more of Magness' books have also won awards: *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth* (Princeton: Princeton University, 2019) was selected as a finalist for the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in the category of History, the Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award; *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002; revised edition 2021) won the 2003 Biblical Archaeology Society's Award for Best Popular Book in Archaeology in 2001-2002 and was selected as an "Outstanding Academic Book for 2003" by Choice Magazine; and *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003) was awarded the 2006 Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize in the category of non-fiction on the archaeology of Israel. Her other books include *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata* (co-authored with G. Davies) (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2015); *The Archaeology of the Holy Land from the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest* (New York: Cambridge University, 2012); and *Stone and Dung, Oil and Spit: Jewish Daily Life in the Time of Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011). In addition, Magness has published dozens of articles in journals and edited volumes.

Magness has participated on 20 different excavations in Israel and Greece, including co-directing the 1995 excavations in the Roman siege works at Masada. From 2003-2007 she co-directed excavations in the late Roman fort at Yotvata, Israel. Since 2011, Magness has directed excavations at Huqoq in Galilee (www.huqoq.org).

Magness is the recipient of the 2025 Archaeological Institute of America's Martha and Artemis Joukowsky Distinguished Service Award. In 2021-2022, she was awarded a Kingdon Fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; a Fulbright Israel Senior Scholar Award at Tel Aviv University; and the Gitin Professorship at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, to support research on *Jerusalem Through the Ages*. She received a 2016-2017 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar Award for research on *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth*. Magness' other awards include a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and a fellowship in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. (1997-98); a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for College

Teachers and a Skirball Visiting Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (2000-2001); a Fulbright Lecturing Award through the United States-Israel Educational Foundation at the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (spring 2005); a fellowship at the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ (2007-2008); and a Chapman Family Faculty Fellowship at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2010-2011). She delivered the 2022 Schweich Lectures in Biblical Archaeology at the invitation of the British Academy.

In 2008 Magness received a national teaching honor: the Archaeological Institute of America's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She produced a 36-lecture course on "The Holy Land Revealed" (released December 2010), and a 24-lecture course on "Jesus and His Jewish Influences" (released December 2015) with The Teaching Company's Great Courses. Magness consulted for and is featured in the National Geographic giant screen film *Jerusalem*, which premiered in September 2013 (<http://www.jerusalemthemovie.com/>). Magness also consulted for and appeared in the National Geographic series, *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*, which aired in spring 2016.

Magness is an Honorary President of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) (having served as President from 2017-2020), a member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem (and past Vice-President). She has served on the Governing Board of the AIA and the Board of Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research and was President of the North Carolina Society of the AIA and the Boston Society of the AIA.