

**BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM**  
**Semester topic “(Past) Mobility and Migration:  
Matters of Transfer and Translation”**

**Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 p.m.**

**ECOLOGY AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF MODULAR CITIES  
ALONG THE MEDIEVAL SILK ROAD**

**Michael Frachetti (Washington University, St. Louis)**

This paper will present the discovery of a new Silk Road city in Uzbekistan, called Tashbulak. Tashbulak dates to the period of the Qarakhanid Empire, a nomadic state that ruled over vast territories of Central Asia from the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> c. CE. Of key concern is the nature of urbanism amongst “nomadic” polities: How did they use cities and how did their cities serve to shape the networks of trade and exchange that define the Silk Roads throughout the medieval era?