Please join us for a Department of Art History and Archaeology and Archaeometry Laboratory joint sponsored Special Lecture:

**Bordering on Imperial Production: Pots in the Urartian Periphery**

**Susannah Fishman**

University of Pennsylvania

**Switzler, 201**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2015**

**5:00 PM**

Urartu was the first empire to arise from the northeastern highlands of Ancient Near East (800-600 B.C.E.), uniting a fragmentary political landscape of valley kingdoms and rivaling Assyria to the south. The fortress site of Oğlanqala, Azerbaijan lies on the eastern periphery of Urartu, and embodies a complex constellation of cultural and political affiliations. Since technological practice is always embedded in a social context, changes in ceramic technology provide insights into the circumstances of ceramic producers and consumers and how their actions reproduced, transformed, or resisted political or economic conditions of power.

This talk will explore how the selection and rejection of Urartian ceramic elements in Oğlanqala instigated changes in local production and exchange. Petrographic analysis demonstrates that new styles required new methods, which in turn required significant shifts in the organization of production and exchange. The limited adoption of Urartian ceramic elements does not simply reflect imperial affiliation, aspiration, or mimicry, but rather performs an important role in extensive technological shifts that have significant implications for local practice and identity. Most of the ceramics mediating these changes do not appear typically Urartian, but rather demonstrate the creative ways that the inhabitants of Oğlanqala employed technology to negotiate their position on the periphery.