

Association *for* Environmental Archaeology

Inside this issue:

Chair's Piece 1

**Spring
Conference
Review** 3

**AEA Autumn
Conference '24** 7

**Conference
Ads** 10

**International
Phytolith
Society** 15

**Sheffield Short
Course** 16

**New Book
Release** 17

Book Reviews 19

**News from the
Committee** 22

**Trending in
Environmental
Archaeology** 25

Key Dates 26

AEA Newsletter 163

June 2024

Dear Members,

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the Association for Environmental Archaeology newsletter.

There is lots of interesting conference news to discuss below, but the most important announcement applies to them all. Many of you will have known Lisa Lodwick personally, and many more will be familiar with her pioneering research. Lisa sadly passed away in 2022 - far too young. Lisa did so much to support the work of the AEA during her life, and she decided to make a substantial bequeathal to the AEA. Lisa hoped we would use this to enhance our support for members attending conferences through our bursary scheme. We have indeed committed to enhancing the bursary scheme. To reflect Lisa's lasting legacy, we have, with the support of her family, decided the scheme will henceforth be named the Lisa Lodwick Conference Bursary Scheme. This is an invaluable source of funding that enables AEA members to attend AEA conferences and meetings, something that Lisa passionately believed was key to the continued growth of our discipline.

Launching the scheme in honour of Lisa is ideal as our next conference, the 44th, will be held in Oxford on 12th-14th December 2024. Lisa was at Oxford for many years, and much of her work was forged there. The theme of the Oxford conference is Past Environments for Emerging World, and it promises to be a hugely stimulating and popular conference. You can find much more about the event [here](#).

Our Spring conferences are going from strength-to-strength. Many of you got to enjoy Faro in Portugal for the Spring conference back in May. Thank you to Dr Ceren Kabukcu and Dr Aroa García-Suárez for their incredible efforts in organising a superb conference. If you were not fortunate enough to attend in person, you can read a report on the conference in this issue. Finally, I'm delighted that we have the theme and venue confirmed for the 2025 Spring conference. Dr Mila Andonova-Katsarski and Dr Daniela Stoyanova, both of the University of Sofia, will host the meeting on the theme of Of Mountains and Rivers: Perspectives in Environmental Archaeology. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletter for more info. Finally, if you have an interest in hosting the 2025 Autumn Conference - please do get in touch with me.

On a broader note, I would like to point out some recent stakeholder engagement relevant to environmental archaeologists. Historic England recently ran a consultation period on the draft of revised environmental archaeology guidelines - a document that will surely be of relevance far beyond the borders of England. Also, the UK Research Council's AHRC and NERC have been consulting on a joint archaeology funding programme - a welcome recognition that archaeology is able to take the best from both the humanities and sciences. I was pleased to see many familiar AEA members amongst these consultations, and I would encourage all members to be active in consultations relevant to them.

ISSN 1363-6553

It is important our voices are heard; especially at a time when environment, resilience and sustainability are all top of contemporary agendas. I also recognise that the two consultations above betray my UK-based bubble. The AEA is an organisation for all environmental archaeologists - and I would love to hear your own tales of environmental archaeology engagement from wherever you are.

And I will finish in the vein of listening. We on the managing committee thought it could be informative to get some snapshots of member perspectives via the newsletter. We will be running mini online polls in

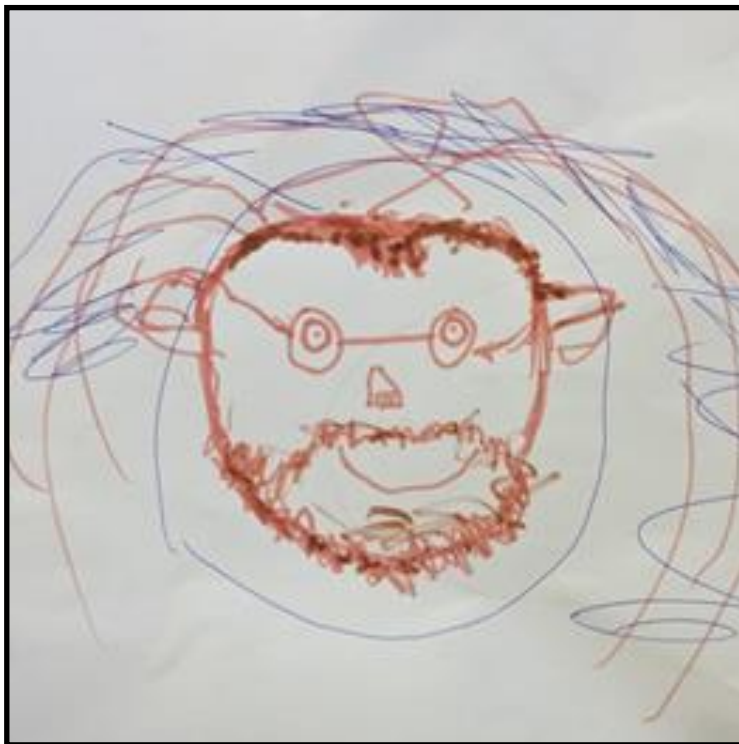
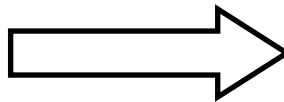
the newsletter - they should only take a couple of minutes to complete and all answers are anonymous. The first poll is accessible [here](#) and from the QR code below and will stay open until the end of August. I will report back on the views in the next newsletter.

All the very best.

Dr Michael Wallace

Chair of the Association for Environmental
Archaeology

Scan the QR code to answer the
first of our members polls!



Portrait of the Chair of the Association for Environmental Archaeology as drawn by five Scouts working in rotation and using their non-dominant hand, ink on paper.

Spring Conference Review Faro, Portugal, 3rd–5th May 2024

Environmental Archaeologies of Origins and Transitions in Prehistory

Hello fellow AEAers,

I write this still nursing an irresponsibly-incurred sunburn following my attendance of the Spring conference in the delightfully sunny Algarve of Portugal earlier this month. Whilst I have since returned to far less favourable climes, both looking and feeling slightly like a baked ham, the conference itself was a fantastic demonstration of both the variety and calibre of the ongoing research projects currently being pursued within environmental archaeology. I therefore consider being a bit pink and peely to be an acceptable trade-off for having gotten to experience it.

The event was held on the Gambelas Campus of the University of Algarve and was hosted by the University along with the Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behaviour (ICArEHB), and the Milá y Fontanals Institute for Humanities Research, of the Spanish National Research Council (IMF-CSIC). Thanks, as always, go

first and foremost to the brilliant organising committee, who made sure that everything on the packed schedule ran smoothly, and to the facilities staff, who made sure that no one had to risk going into a session involuntarily decaf, and who ensured that the excellent Portuguese refreshments were enjoyed by all at the evening welcome reception in the Museu Regional do Algarve.

In contrast to the Winter Conference, which has often been seen as the “main event” of the Association’s calendar, the Spring Conference has traditionally been the forum within which to introduce projects in their inception, in-process, and pre-publication stages. We had the opportunity to see and discuss the work currently being undertaken by our colleagues and compatriots within the wider environmental archaeology diaspora, each addressing the conference theme of transitional periods in prehistory through examinations of changing subsistence patterns, human impact and adaptation (particularly in terms of early agriculture, and of coastal and wetland exploitation).



Group photo of the Spring Conference attendees.

It was also notable as being the first conference I've attended which had strong representation from not just the academic community, but also from the commercial archaeology sector. Maybe I'm biased as someone currently straddling the two worlds, but it's always struck me how much more we have to gain as a discipline when everyone is invited to the table to engage collaboratively. (I appreciate that the nature of the beast that is finances means that full partnership is a pipe dream at this point, however, I want to believe that more collaboration is possible and positive – especially after the conference representatives' talks this Spring).

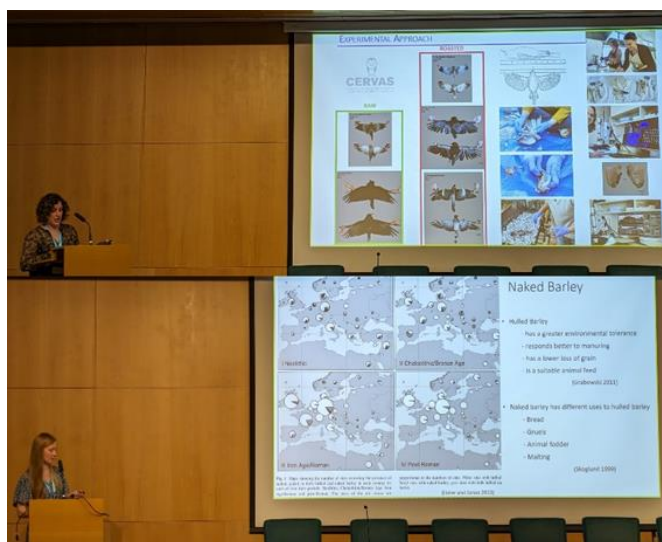
The introductory keynote address, by ICAREHB's Cláudia Costa, narrated the relatively recent inception of professional archaeology in Portugal, which I was surprised to learn was seen as neither a scientific profession nor a thing of any great importance socially until the 1990s, when very public backlash to the proposed destruction of prehistoric rock art to make way for a hydroelectric dam proved the counter point. This engagement and enthusiasm helped to change the way archaeology was perceived and performed, with the pursuit of research moving away from being the sole prerogative of government agencies and academic departments, and the establishment of the first professional units in Portugal, which improved the levels of standardisation of practice – and, most importantly – the wider dissemination of research findings.

Following this strong reminder of the power of public engagement, around twenty speakers took to the floor over the following days to expound on the

themes of the conference. The resulting blend of talks demonstrated a range of cross-disciplinary approaches and huge global range. These included Gillian Tan's integration of anthropology and phenomenology with geography, tectonics, and palaeoenvironmental studies to analyse the connection of highland Tibetans to the surrounding natural world, and Tomoko Ishida's use of material culture to track cultural contact between groups in ancient Japan and Korea. Simon Connor's introduction to the long-term development of cultural landscapes in Timor-Leste included a short screening of quite possibly the most charming video I've ever seen, demonstrating how research findings can be disseminated to local communities at the family level, showing both how cultural knowledge related to climatic shifts is supported by the scientific evidence, and how this evidence is obtained. Aleksa Alaica showed the biomolecular evidence interrogated to propose models of household guinea-pig management in 1st Millennium CE Peru, and a range of talks expanded upon the research being undertaken in and around the Iberian Peninsula, including Leonor Peña-Chocarro's engaging narrative on how the use of linguistics has potentially solved a long-standing mystery regarding pearl millet.

The conference additionally hosted a short series of lightning talks, challenging student speakers to deliver a comprehensive review of the highlights of their research projects within a six-minute window, as well as poster presentations addressing a range of studies including the interpretation of settlement strategies and human-environmental dynamics using GIS, microfauna fossil assemblages, ostracods,

phytoliths, isotopes, and geochemistry. Each of the speakers and presenters were excellent... but there can only be one winner at the end of the day, and the prizes for Best Lightning Talk and Best Poster Presentation went to Monika Jovanovic and Nompumelelo Maringa respectively, and well-deservedly.



Mariana Nabais describing the experimental processing of birds; Monika Jovanovic and Nompumelelo Maringa accept their awards to cheers and applause; Roisin O'Droma unveils prehistoric Irish agricultural practices; one of Faro's many resident stork families.

A delicious conference dinner was provided at the Tertúlia Algarvia, in the heart of Faro's old town, where traditional Portuguese dishes were served alongside decadent Douro wine and excellent conversation. The final day was a fieldtrip to the coastal fortress of Sagres built in the 15th Century by order of Portugal's Prince Henry the Navigator. There was time to stroll through this impressive site as well as take in the stunning views of the Vila do Bispo coastline before a fabulous three-course lunch was served at a local restaurant. Attendees were then treated to a personal tour of the newly-opened Vila do Bispo – Storehouse of History Museum, where an old granary building has been transformed into a repository for the collective heritage and memory of the local area. This was a great opportunity to see a little more of the Algarve landscape and learn more about the history and pre-history of the region.

The key take-home point of this year's Spring Conference for me (aside from the importance of always wearing sunblock) was how effective cross-disciplinary and collaborative approaches can be in addressing issues encountered by archaeologists regardless of whether we belong to the academic or commercial sectors. We both deal with issues caused by legislation (sometimes the lack thereof) and considerations of how we address information dissemination. We both run the risks of data being lost due to variable collection standards across the board. Whether from cost-cutting clients who don't want to pay for appropriate post-excavation works,

or from academic boards who refuse to see the value of our discipline, we all face challenges – and maybe we could be more resilient or adaptive to these challenges if we came together and exchanged ideas more often.

I'm now looking ahead to December, when our 44th annual AEA will be held in Oxford, UK. Hosted by the School of Archaeology and Department for Continuing Education (University of Oxford) and the commercial unit Oxford Archaeology, collaboration between the academic and professional spheres looks set to continue. Titled *Past Environments for Emerging Worlds*, this conference asks what our

rapidly changing world needs from environmental archaeology now and in the future and invites contributors to demonstrate how their research of the past applies to the challenges facing us today. Registration is now open – check the website's News, Events & Media page for more details!

It's time for me to apply more aftersun and dream bittersweet daydreams of pastel de natas and soaring storks, as the rain comes down and I attempt to push on with my own research. Until next time, friends and colleagues.

Kay
AEA Student Representative

PhD candidate at the University of Sheffield
(with a short contribution from Daisy Spencer)



The 15th Century fortress of Sagres and a group photo of fieldtrip attendees.



AEA Autumn Conference—Oxford 12th—14th December 2024

We are delighted to announce the 44th Association for Environmental Archaeology Conference will be held in Oxford (UK) from 12 – 14th December 2024, hosted by the School of Archaeology, the Department for Continuing Education (University of Oxford) and Oxford Archaeology.



Past Environments for Emerging Worlds
Association for Environmental Archaeology
Oxford, 12-14 December 2024

Environmental archaeology in academic and professional realms is at a cross-roads. In an age of ecological crisis, long term views have never been more important, and are relevant well beyond the discipline of Archaeology.

Environmental archaeology generates new primary data on the distributions, communities and ecologies of plant and animal species (including their microbiomes) that have co-evolved with humans for thousands of years. In interpreting these data, it is possible to reveal alternative ways of living with nature and to identify novel (now extinct) ecological relationships of relevance to ongoing nature recovery practices. From providing perspectives on global biodiversity loss over thousands of years, to informing emerging habitat creation strategies here in Oxfordshire, environmental archaeologists are in a powerful position to engage in discourse surrounding global challenges well beyond archaeology.

The 44th annual conference of the AEA, 'Past Environments for Emerging Worlds', asks What does the world want from environmental archaeology? How should environmental archaeology approach global concerns? and What role does it have to play in contemporary challenges at a range of scales?

Abstract submission and registration is now open and we would welcome a broad range of methodological, theoretical and data-based submissions, especially around the themes of:

Soils and Microbiomes
Wildlife
Farming
Open Data
Sustainable Practices
Perspective beyond Archaeology

We are accepting three formats for submission:

Standard presentation (15 minutes plus 5 minutes for Q&A)

5-6 minute "lightning" or "storytelling" presentation

Poster presentation

(Please note that this is a predominantly in person conference with some hybrid facilities).

Abstract submission is now open and can be accessed [here](#) until 31st July 2024.

Register for the AEA Autumn Conference [here](#).

Venues: Keble College and the Department of Continuing Education, (University of Oxford).

A conference dinner will be held on 13th December at Continuing Education, Rewley House,
Wellington Square.

This can be booked during registration and costs £27.85.

	Early bird (deadline 31/08/24)	Regular (deadline 31/10/24)
AEA member	£80	£100
Non AEA member	£100	£120
AEA member student/unemployed/retired	£40	£50
Non AEA member student/unemployed/retired	£50	£60

Further information on the conference aims, abstract submission and registration, as well as contact details of conference organisers can be found at the conference [website](#).

This conference is jointly hosted by Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology and Department for Continuing Education.

Oxford Archaeology

Anwen Cooper, Kay Hamilton, David Kay, Rebecca Nicholson, Richard Palmer, Tina Roushannafas

University of Oxford

Amy Bogaard, Charlotte Diffey, Muge Ergun, Katherine Hearne, Valasia Isaakidou, Tom Maltas, Elizabeth Stroud, Amy Styring, Andrés Teira-Brión, Shyama Vermeersch, Doris Vidas, Jade Whitlam



SIMEP, Barcelona 21st—23rd October 2024

Social Interactions in Mediterranean Prehistory

Barcelona, 21-23 October 2024



The 'Archaeology of Social Dynamics' Research Group of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC-IMF, Barcelona) is organizing an International Conference on

**SOCIAL INTERACTIONS
IN MEDITERRANEAN PREHISTORY**
in Barcelona, 21-23 October 2024.

It is expected that this conference will become a meeting point for researchers investigating social interactions in the Mediterranean Basin and its neighbouring regions from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age.

20241 SGR 584



Agència
de Gestió
d'Ajuts
Universitaris
i de Recerca



Archaeology
of Social Dynamics



www.simep2024.com
secretaria@simep2024.cat

The conference aims to shed light on the construction and maintenance of contacts between diverse populations involving three continents (Western Asia, North Africa, and Southern Europe), with the Mediterranean Sea acting as a vector for those connections. The focus will be on social interactions as dynamic processes that create identities and promote collaboration, reciprocity or conflict between communities. Drawing upon the exchange and circulation of ideas, raw materials, finished products, plants, animals and people examined at local and supra-regional scales, this conference seeks to explore the spread of people and culture through time and space.

We are therefore calling for papers that examine the mechanisms by which social networks developed and shifted due to internal and external social dynamics in parallel with the influence of environmental factors. We welcome papers covering a wide range of chronological periods prior to the appearance of Classical Mediterranean cultures, particularly those focused on comparative regional analyses and studies that discuss supra-regional results. Contributions concerning research which applies innovative methodological approaches (e.g., modelling, multi-scalar network analysis, ABM) are especially encouraged.

The conference will be held in-person. Contributions to the conference can be made in the form of oral or poster presentations.

FEES Students: € 80 Early Registration (until 30 June 2024):
€ 170 Standard (until 30 September)
€ 250

The conference is organised into the following sessions:

1. Cultural diffusion and population mobility
2. Alterity and confronted identities
3. Circulation, exchange and trade
4. Environment and social interactions
5. Advances in social interaction modelling

Abstracts can be submitted between 1st February and 20th April 2024.

The conference is organised by the 'Archaeology of Social Dynamics' research group of the Spanish National Research Council CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

More information can be found [here](#).



THE SYMPOSIUM OF HUMAN AND ECOLOGY RELATIONS THROUGH THE AGES



CALL FOR PAPERS

We cordially invite you to submit papers for the symposium organized by Ege University, Türkiye, Faculty of Letters Archaeology Department, with the kind support of the SAYGINER

Archaeology Foundation entitled “Human and Ecology Relations Through the Ages” on 4th—6th December 2024.

Since the late 19th century, the relationship between humans and non-humans has been one of the topics of archaeological research. Over time, humans have developed a strong connection with their natural surroundings, which has resulted in the presence of animal bones, shells, seeds, pollen, coal fragments, metals, and minerals in settlements and campsites which have been preserved in archaeological layers for extended periods of time. In the previous century, archaeologists analysed these remains through a human-centric lens, focusing on the dichotomy between humans and nature.

However, with the onset of climate and ecological crises in the 21st century, researchers are exploring a new perspective, one that seeks to break down the barriers between nature and culture. Advanced archaeological techniques and analysis are now being employed to delve deeper into this complex relationship.

Some scholars consider the Anthropocene to be the era in which humans have become a major ecological-climatic actor through their industrial and consumption-oriented activities. Although the Anthropocene has not been recognized as a geological epoch, the destructive effects of human activity on the biosphere are becoming increasingly evident and new adaptations, technologies, and ways of thinking and behaving are urgently needed to overcome these impacts.

In this era of global climate change and biodiversity loss, the study of the complex, entangled, and multi-layered relationship that past societies developed with non-human beings takes on a new significance. The shape and intensity of the human relationship with sentient and/or non-sentient beings and the reciprocal effects of this relationship can be made visible through archaeological record, and archaeology can even pioneer studies in this field.

For archaeologists, it is now questionable how far back the constructive and/or destructive effects of human beings on the earth go, under what circumstances they increase or decrease, and in what forms they display themselves. Therefore, discussing issues such as how humans have adapted to ecological conditions, resisted sudden changes, or in which cases they have been unable to survive can be seminal in understanding and overcoming today's ecological crisis.

For archaeologists, it is now questionable how far back the constructive and/or destructive effects of human beings on the earth go, under what circumstances they increase or decrease, and in what forms they display themselves. Therefore, discussing issues such as how humans have adapted to ecological conditions, resisted sudden changes, or in which cases they have been unable to survive can be seminal in understanding and overcoming today's ecological crisis.

With this symposium, the Archaeology Department of Ege University would like to examine and discuss the interactions developed by past societies with their climate, biosphere, lithosphere, and ecological environments, from the first emergence of human beings to the end of Antiquity, to reinterpret archaeological data and turn it into an opportunity to understand and overcome the contemporary ecological crisis.

Papers may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Abrupt climate changes in the Holocene and adaptation processes of past societies
- The past human relationship with its ecological environment: Constitutive or destructive relationships
- History of fauna-human relations
- History of flora-human relations
- Relationships with marine and freshwater ecosystems
- Human-ecology relations in the face of natural disasters
- Pre-agricultural and post-agricultural human-ecology relations
- Relationships with the natural environment in raw material supply and exploitation
- Relationships between humans and non-humans that develop during trade
- The political ecology of states and empires
- Impact of agriculture, maritime trade, mining, ceramic production, etc. on deforestation and biodiversity loss
- Impacts and consequences of human activity on biological evolution and biodiversity loss

You can submit the titles of your papers until July 1st, 2024 by emailing them to egeinsanekoloji@gmail.com.

Title submission: 1st July 2024

Abstract submission: 1st September 2024

Symposium Dates: 4th—6th December 2024

More information can be found on the Ege University [website](#).

International Phytolith Society

As President of the International Phytolith Society (IPS), I would like to remind existing members to renew their membership and encourage anyone with an interest in phytolith science to become a member. The IPS needs your financial support as the Board strives to make the IPS more responsive to the needs of members.

Please check out the [IPS website](#) to see what the IPS is currently doing and learn more about the following exciting announcements:

1. PHYTO-CHAT-L – For many years, the phytolith research community communicated through the listserve PHY-TALK. Unfortunately, PHY-TALK became non-operational several years ago. The IPS Board is very happy to announce that PHYTO-CHAT-L, a new listserv dedicated to discussion of anything related to phytoliths, is now operational (a big thank you to Board member Chad Yost for making this happen)! We strongly encourage all phytolith researchers (IPS membership is greatly appreciated but not required) to join PHYTO-CHAT_L.
2. IPS Envoys – The IPS is delighted to introduce IPS Envoy posts, a new feature on the website designed to increase communication among phytolith researchers. Because the phytolith research community is so large and global, it is difficult to keep up with research conducted by laboratories outside one's own region. The Board has chosen four regional envoys who provide monthly posts describing research currently being conducted at laboratories within their region, increasing awareness and encouraging researchers in other parts of the world with similar interests to interact.
3. 14th IMPR – The 14th International Meeting for Phytolith Research will be held on 14th–19th July 2025 in Barcelona, Spain. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this biennial meeting (which is partially sponsored by the IPS)!
4. New IPS Membership Fee Structure – Beginning this year, new and continuing IPS members have the option to receive a discount when joining for multiple years: <https://phytoliths.org/become-a-member/>. The longer you join, the larger your discount from the already extremely low annual fees of \$35 for regular membership and \$20 for students and low-income countries. If you join today for 2 years, your membership will be all set for the 14th IMPR in Barcelona in 2025. Please renew or join today!

A big thank you to all new and renewing members for their continuing financial support that allows the IPS to promote research and communication related to all aspects of phytolith science worldwide!

Kind regards,

Dr. Rand Evett

President, International Phytolith Society

Please email [here](#) for more information on membership.

The History of British Fauna Short Course

The Sheffield zooarchaeology team is returning with a fresh edition of the face-to-face short course ‘The History of the British Fauna: Wild and Domestic Vertebrates’!



From the **16th—18th of September 2024**, this three-day course offers an opportunity to gain a basic knowledge of the development of the British fauna from the Pleistocene to the modern day.

You will learn about various topics, ranging from evolution, zoogeography, domestication, introductions, and extinctions, and explore the dynamic interactions between humans and animals throughout history. By the end of the course, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of which species are native and which animals have been introduced to Britain, and how animals have adapted to changing environmental conditions and increasing human interference. Mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles will be all included.

Teaching will be delivered through short lectures and hands-on practical activities. This course is not aimed at professional and/or experienced zooarchaeologists but is directed to students, professionals, and enthusiasts and does not require any previous knowledge in zooarchaeology or previous participation in any of our short courses.

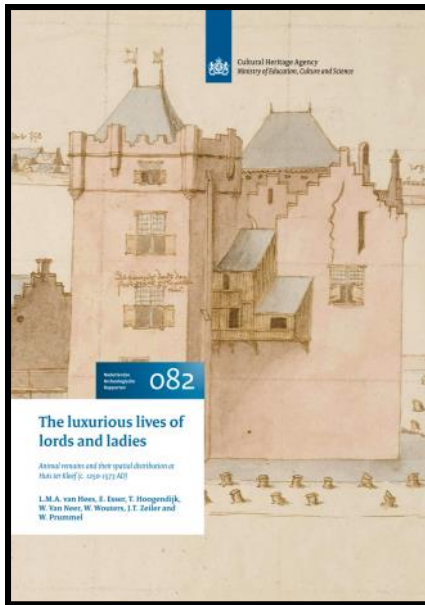
Click [here](#) to book a place on the course.

If you would like to know more about our short courses, please visit our [webpage](#), [facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Or email directly [here](#).



New Book Release— Zooarchaeological Research



On May 15, 2024, a book was published about zooarchaeological research on animal remains from the Huis ter Kleef castle in Haarlem (Netherlands).

The luxurious lives of lords and ladies. Animal remains and their spatial distribution at Huis ter Kleef (c. 1250-1573 AD)

L.M.A. van Hees, E. Esser, T. Hoogendijk, W. Van Neer, W. Wouters, J.T. Zeiler and W. Prummel

The excavations at the castle of Huis ter Kleef (c. 1250-1573 AD) were meticulous. The surrounding moat was excavated in grids of 1 m² squares, and each layer from the moat or infill from the latrines and wells was sieved at mesh sizes of 10, 4 and 2 mm, resulting in a huge quantity of animal bones. The c. 65,000

examined remains combined with archaeological and historical sources yielded a wealth of information on the consumption pattern of the castle's aristocratic inhabitants (sometimes traceable to a single lavish banquet), on their other activities (hunting, falconry), and on the use of the different castle buildings. In addition, various waste flows could be identified and plotted.

The vast majority of the identified animals were eaten. Many aspects of the species spectrum are indicative of a high socio-economic status; present were species like roe deer, partridge and sturgeon, all known to be luxury foods. The wide range of consumed animal species (119 in total) itself signifies luxury, as does the consumption of fresh and large fish. With the possible exception of a dovecote there is no evidence that consumed livestock and poultry were kept on the castle grounds, but there are indications that some meat was purchased elsewhere. Food was brought in from outside by different socio-economic routes. Traders and the estate's tenants supplied the castle with plenty of rabbits from the warren, waders were caught with folding nets, and some of the fish came from ponds. Highly unusual animals such as fallow deer, great bustard, tuna, swordfish and Portuguese oysters were either purchased or obtained as gifts.

The spatial analysis of the kitchen and meal waste together with distribution analysis of luxury foods resulted in a functional map of the castle's different spaces. The kitchen was in the west building. Dinners and feasts were held in the west part of the residential tower while the east part, near the castle's entrance, seems to have contained servants' quarters. The spatial distribution of the different animal body parts revealed how dishes were prepared, served and eaten. Because the quantity of animal remains was so large, patterns emerged of rituals related to red deer hunting which involved the distribution of the animal's body parts among the participants of the hunt.

The animal remains in the closed contexts illustrate peak events of waste deposition, suggestive of the temporary presence of large groups of people. However, there were activities in all seasons. There is no evidence for a preferred season for noble residence at the castle.

Evaluation of the used excavation and research methods led to a number of archaeological and zooarchaeological observations. Most importantly, the chosen excavation and collection methods allowed an adequate analysis of the waste flows and spatial distribution of the animal remains. Without these methods, this task would have been impossible.

Close collaboration between the involved archaeologists and zooarchaeologists gave each a better understanding of the formation processes, especially of the closed contexts. In several instances, bone material allowed us to prove that layers containing objects from different periods in fact belonged to the same 'phase' as underlying, more homogenous layers. Studying the formation process of the infills in the different contexts beforehand facilitated their subsequent interpretation. Animal remains are ideally suited for this purpose as they signal specific events, and radiocarbon dating them may provide yet another clue as to when the assemblage was deposited. Also, animal remains can give information on the degree of mixing of the different layers.

Sampling large assemblages, such as the contents of moats and gullies, can be done only after these contexts have been fully excavated by means of a grid system and a standardized collection method. Only then will subsequent assessment of all excavated (animal) remains allow the definition of the various subpopulations, which can subsequently be sampled for analysis and interpretation of the assemblage as a whole. Sample size will depend on which confidence factor and error margin have been decided upon.

None of the individually studied contexts, whether a closed context or a moat subpopulation, presented an adequate overall picture of events at the castle. Each assemblage offered a unique perspective on the castle's history. This demonstrates that the content of any given context should never be extrapolated to an entire site, which means that the analysis should encompass all assemblages.

When studying subsamples of small animal remains (e.g. fish) it is recommended to base the analysis on the minimum number of required remains rather than the unit volume of the sample or sieve residue.

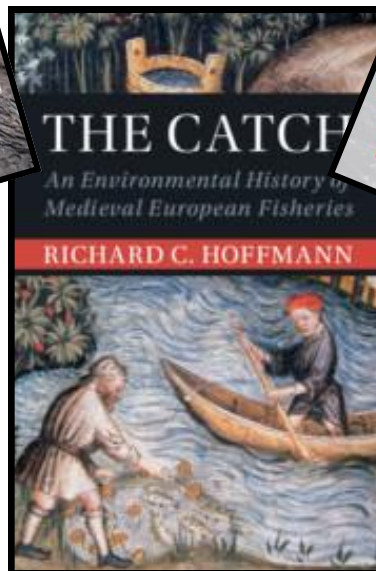
Although sieve residues are known to be crucial for answering various research questions their importance is still seriously underestimated. If our analysis of Huis ter Kleef had discounted the sieve residues its high aristocracy would have completely eluded us.

The book is in English and can be freely downloaded from the website of the [Cultural Heritage Agency](#).

Book Reviews

The AEA has a long history of reviewing the latest book releases and the AEA newsletter is now home to these book reviews.

As a perk of AEA membership, you can request to review a book. Please email the [AEA secretary](#) if interested in reviewing or if you are promoting a new book release and require a reviewer.



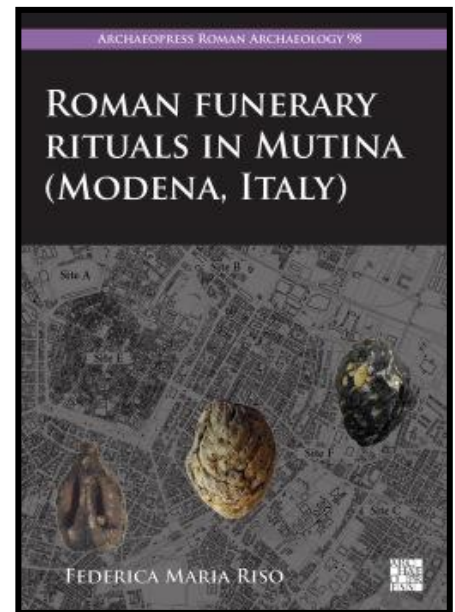
Current titles available for review to AEA members :

Federica Maria Riso

Roman Funerary Rituals in Mutina (Modena, Italy)

This book presents the results of a research project undertaken in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield. The project sought to identify and reconstruct the funerary space and rituals of the necropolis in Mutina (now Modena) in the period between the first century BC and second century AD.

The research is a key example of integrated analyses, linking the different results in the same interpretative system and supporting traditional strategies (archaeology and archaeobotany) with advanced technology (SAXS, CT-scan). The archaeobotanical remains (seeds and fruit) and the objects involved in the ceremonies constitute an important investigatory lens to reconstruct the mortuary rituals and attendance at the funerary space.

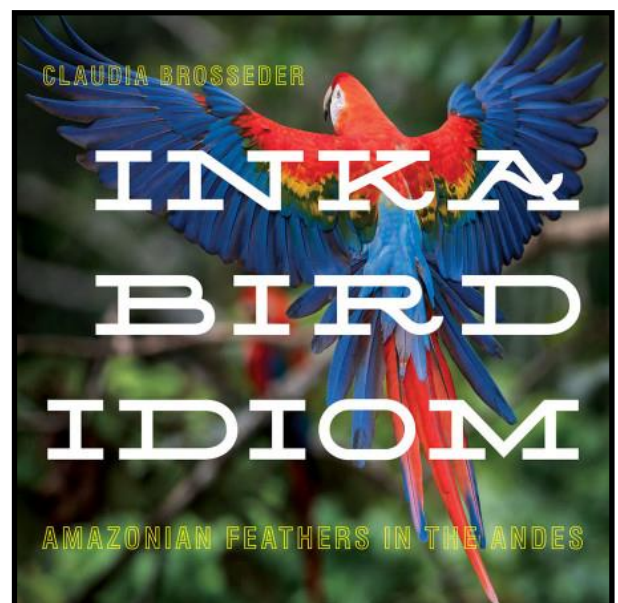


Claudia Brosseder

Inka Bird Idiom. Amazonian Feathers in the Andes

How Indigenous People Used Feathers as a Significant Way of Symbolic Communication in the Andes

From majestic Amazonian macaws and highland Andean hawks to tiny colorful tanagers and tall flamingos, birds and their feathers played an important role in the Inka empire. Claudia Brosseder uncovers the many meanings that Inkas attached to the diverse fowl of the Amazon, the eastern Andean foothills, and the highlands. She shows how birds and feathers shaped Inka politics, launched wars, and initiated peace. Feathers provided protection against unpredictable enemies, made possible communication with deities, and brought an imagined Inka past into a political present. Richly textured contexts of feathered objects recovered from Late Horizon archaeological records and from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century accounts written by Spanish interlocutors enable new insights into Inka visions of interspecies relationships, an Inka ontology, and Inka views of the place of the human in their ecology. *Inka Bird Idiom* invites reconsideration of the deep intellectual ties that connected the Amazon and the mountain forests with the Andean highlands and the Pacific coast.



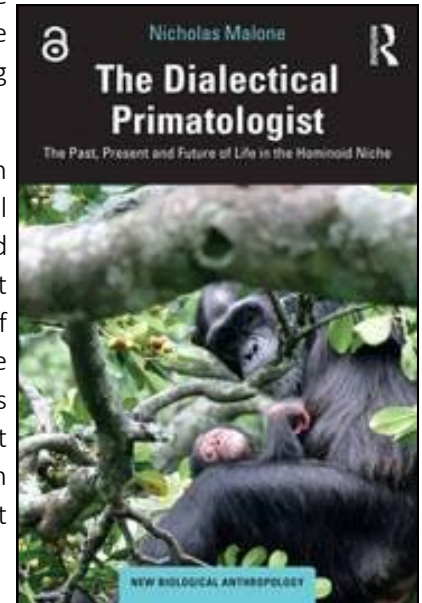
Nicholas Malone

The Dialectical Primatologist

The Dialectical Primatologist identifies the essential parameters vital for the continued coexistence of hominoids (apes and humans), synthesising primate research and conservation in order to develop culturally compelling conservation strategies required for the facilitation of hominoid coexistence.

As unsustainable human activities threaten many primate species with extinction, effective conservation strategies for endangered primates will depend upon our understanding of behavioural response to human-modified habitats. This is especially true for the apes, who are arguably our most powerful connection to the natural world. Recognising the inseparability of the natural and the social, the dialectical approach in this book highlights the heterogeneity and complexity of ecological relationships. Malone stresses that ape conservation requires a synthesis of nature and culture that recognises their inseparability in ecological relationships that are both biophysically and socially formed, and seeks to identify the pathways that lead to either hominoid coexistence or, alternatively, extinction.

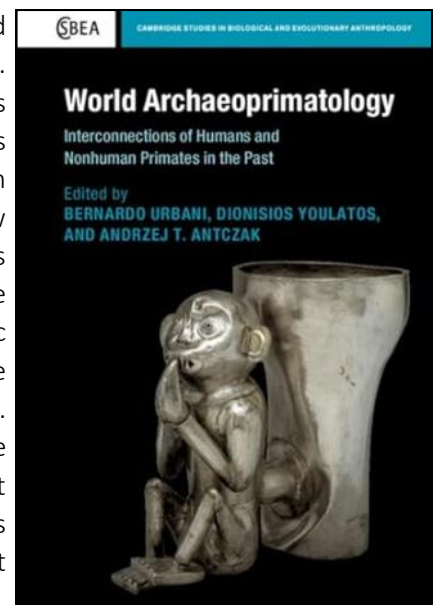
This book will be of keen interest to academics in biological anthropology, primatology, environmental anthropology, conservation and human–animal studies.



Bernardo Urbani

World Archaeoprimatology

Archaeoprimatology intertwines archaeology and primatology to understand the ancient liminal relationships between humans and nonhuman primates. During the last decade, novel studies have boosted this discipline. This edited volume is the first compendium of archaeoprimatological studies ever produced. Written by a culturally diverse group of scholars, with multiple theoretical views and methodological perspectives, it includes new zooarchaeological examinations and material culture evaluations, as well as innovative uses of oral and written sources. Themes discussed comprise the survey of past primates as pets, symbolic mediators, prey, iconographic references, or living commodities. The book covers different regions of the world, from the Americas to Asia, along with studies from Africa and Europe. Temporally, the chapters explore the human-nonhuman primate interface from deep in time to more recent historical times, examining both extinct and extant primate taxa. This anthology of archaeoprimatological studies will be of interest to archaeologists, primatologists, anthropologists, art historians, paleontologists, conservationists, zoologists, historical ecologists, philologists, and ethnobiologists.



2024 AEA Grant Winners

Thank you to all members who applied for one of the 2024 AEA Research Grant. This year we raised the available small grant to £750 and also introduced a larger research grant of £2000. We received an excellent range of high quality applications spanning the wide spectrum of Environmental Archaeology from across the globe. The AEA is delighted to be able to fund six small grants and two £2000 research grants. Projects funded range from geoarchaeological investigation of environmental disasters in Neolithic Greece, to faunal analysis of an Indigenous Australian shell midden and a palynological investigation of a lake in central Italy to list a few.

Thank you to all the committee members who evaluated the applications. If you are interested in applying for an AEA small research grant in the future, applications are open to all members on all topics related to Environmental Archaeology. Remember to check the AEA [website](#) in the New Year for more details of the next round of grants.

Dr Catherine Longford & Dr Tom Gardner

Enrique Fernández-Palacios University of La Laguna, Spain	<i>Assessing hypothetical dung constructed floors in pre-Hispanic Canary Island sites through a microscopic and biomolecular approach</i>
Dr Erica Rowan Royal Holloway, UK	<i>Olives All Around: Environmental analyses around Lago di Paterno, Italy</i>
Felix Sadebeck University of Exeter, UK	<i>A biomechanical approach to understanding past human-cattle-environment interactions</i>
Dr Gillian Wong University of Texas at El Paso, USA	<i>Human Paleoeecology in the Western Cape (South Africa) from Micromammal Remains</i>
Mackenzie Masters University of York, UK	<i>A massacre of outsiders? Comparative analysis of multiple 4th-6th c. CE funerary contexts in Ibida, Romania, including a mass grave, using a multi-isotope approach incorporating strontium, oxygen and lead isotopes to inform on identity and mobility</i>
Mary-Louise Lambourne University of Queensland, Australia	<i>Aboriginal and Environmental Interactions in Northern Australia: A faunal analysis of the Malangangerr shell middens</i>
Effimia Angeli Marie Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Lublin, Poland	<i>Environment and Interactions in Neolithic Greece: geoarchaeological research at Halai (Central Greece)</i>
Ida Tegby University of Stavanger, Norway	<i>Using sedimentary ancient DNA to re-evaluate the introduction and development of agriculture in southwest Norway</i>

John Evans Prize Winners Undergraduate

Elizabeth Joanna Jackson (University of Glasgow)

Believe the leaves: A medium scale synthesis of pollen records covering the Mesolithic of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Abstract:

The Mesolithic period in Scotland is relatively well documented by archaeologists and palynologists. However, comparably little is known about the lives of these people. Palynology has long been used to identify Mesolithic period human environmental disturbance in Scotland. However, the focus of these studies is often the identification of disturbances at individual locations. Very few studies consider the possible connections during Mesolithic disturbance episodes across multiple locations. Often these studies do not provide a comparable chronology and do not consider any temporal links or the frequent occurrence of certain taxa. Furthermore, little consideration has been given to what the species visible in disturbances could reveal about the lives of Mesolithic people. Here a synthesis of pollen records is presented which has re-modelled the dating of 8 different existing pollen records. This dissertation considers whether there are any chronological or taxonomical connections between Mesolithic period anthropological disturbances across these sites. Additionally, what any patterns of taxa could reveal about Mesolithic lives and the possible connections between Mesolithic anthropological disturbance and the rise of *Alnus*. The results reveal patterns in the dates of disturbance and occurring taxa across the majority of sites. It is proposed that Mesolithic disturbances may have been caused or exploited by people in order to encourage edible and medicinal resources. Additionally, no consistent link was observed between anthropogenic disturbance and the *Alnus* rise. Finally, the re-examination of the 8 sites proposed strong evidence of human induced disturbance at three sites in particular.

Comments from reviewers: "re-modelled the dating of 8 different existing pollen records", "results and conclusions very well-documented"

John Evans Prize Winners Postgraduate

Rainie E. Hoogendoorn (Bournemouth University)

Microfauna; more than an agent for paleoenvironmental reconstruction. A taphonomic and quantitative analysis to investigate the accumulation of small vertebrates in an Iron Age pit at Winterborne Kingston, Dorset, England.

Abstract:

Microfauna at prehistoric sites have never been at the forefront of social or economic studies, rather has been used as a mode of paleoenvironmental reconstructions, but that does not mean their presence in archaeological features should not be integrated into socioeconomic questions. A large microfauna assemblage consisting of over 1,300 remains from multiple amphibian and micromammal species was recovered from an Iron Age pit at Winterborne Kingston, Dorset during Bournemouth University's 2022 archaeological field school, The Durotriges Project. This microfauna assemblage recovered by hand-picking and through four different dry mesh screen sizes (4mm, 2mm, 1mm, and 0.5mm) was studied in attempts to provide methodologies for investigations and interpretations surrounding accumulation via pitfall by analyzing taphonomic alterations, element representation, and states of preservation to distinguish from other natural and cultural depositional agents. Following the investigation on pitfall accumulation, applications of taphonomy, size, development, and feature matrix fills led to an estimation of a rapid autumn infill within the same season the individuals entered the pit. Finally, the element representations between the hand-picked material and the sieved material exposed recovery biases which has provided insight into how current British excavation practices can lead to inaccurate interpretations when studying microfauna. By investigating modes of deposition and the timeline of accumulation, archaeologists can add to their interpretations surrounding the much-disputed topic of Iron Age pit functions.

Comments from reviewers: "detailed taphonomic analyses, supported by other archaeological materials within the deposit", "differentiation between culturally-mediated deposit/predation and natural accumulation", "Results very well discussed and conclusions well-grounded in the presented data".



Trending in Environmental Archaeology



Welcome to our Social Media roundup of all things environmental archaeology! Here you will find snapshots from social media selected by our student representative to provide a flavour of what has been happening online in the world of environmental archaeology during the last quarter. If you have a particular social media campaign that you would like featured on this page, please email the newsletter editor newsletter@envarch.net



Dr Jennifer 'JB' Bates
@DrJenniferBates

Sample fun! Diverse and dense [#archaeobotany](#) [#seeds](#) from a site in the Ganges, [#India](#) dating to the early historic periods. Fruits, beans, cereals and fibre crops all identified so far, and some dung and food lumps.

[#archaeology](#) [#archaeologicalscience](#) @ArchaeologySnu @bhupro



Ruth Carden 🇮🇪 🐾
@RuthFCarden

A very rare find!!! 🌟

Our @RIAdawson funded Castlepook cave excavations 2024 gave up partial unerupted baby (calf) woolly [#mammoth](#) premolar tooth, named Stan.

[#IrishCaveBones](#) 🐘

🎵 Baby mammoth, doo-doo, doo-doo, doo-doo
Baby mammoth, doo-doo, doo-doo, doo-doo... 🎵



Emma Jenkins
@E_L_Jenkins

Great couple of days coring on the Isle of Arran @BU_IMSET
@Fossilbeetle @BU_ArchAnth



The English Oak Project
@TheKentAcorn

Queen Elizabeth I Oak - Cowdray Park, Sussex 🌳

A Sessile Oak up to 1,000 years old. In 1591 Elizabeth I had lunch under its canopy

Photo: George Gunn





www.envarch.net



The AEA

The AEA promotes the advancement of the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines.

We hold annual conferences and other meetings, produce a quarterly newsletter for members, and publish our conference monographs, as well as our journal 'Environmental Archaeology: The journal of human palaeoecology'.

Key Dates

EAA Rome

28th—31st August 2024

The History of British Fauna Short Course

16th—18th of September 2024

SIMEP, Barcelona

21st—23rd October 2024

AEA Winter Conference, Oxford, UK

12th—14th December 2024

14th IMPR

14th-19th July 2025

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non-UK members. We accept short research pieces, thesis abstracts, conference announcements and calls for papers, and are always open to other suggestions.

To submit please email word documents and images to:

newsletter@envarch.net

Next deadline for content is 1st August 2024 for inclusion in the August newsletter

Daisy Spencer