

# Association for Environmental Archaeology

## Inside this issue:

Chair's Piece	1
New Research	2
AEA Groningen Webinar	4
AEA Photo Comp	13
AEA Small Grants	14
AEA Committee Nominations	15
Virtual Palaescience	19
Sheffield Zooarch Short Courses	20
Musings from Social Media	22
Key Dates	23

AEA Newsletter 148

August 2020

Dear members,

I hope you and yours are keeping well and weathering these turbulent times. This newsletter includes details of the webinar programme organised by the conference team at Groningen. I am really looking forward to speaking in the first session on *Sustaining the Profession*. My thanks to Nathalie Brusgaard, Canan Çakırlar, Merit Hondelink, Youri van den Hurk, Arnoud Maurer, Mans Schepers, Taravat Talebi Seyyedsaran, and Francesca Slim for organising these events.

There is also a short article by Naomi Sykes on a new project Feed the Birds –Do not Feed the Animals” which will explore animal feeding and its role in human culture. This leads me into a quick plug for our photo competition. The theme for this year is *Environmental Archaeologists observing lockdown* and is linked to *The Viral Archive*. How has your behaviour changed over the last few months and what have you observed in the world around you?

I have been keeping a weekly list of birds seen from my home office window. The neighbours both have bird feeders but types of bird food they could get hold of or have supplied has varied and this has influenced the frequency of visits and the number of individuals making those visits. Sales of bird feeders and bird baths in Britain have soared since the beginning of March and traffic to the websites of wildlife charities has increased tenfold <https://www.ft.com/content/51f9520b-2677-4c2e-aa45-fa16cc6bf3b2>.

Will these changes in attitudes to nature be permanent and will this transform environmental archaeology as we know it?



In terms of committee news, work on the new website has started and we hope to go live in the next month or so. The membership survey has been delayed due to potential data protection issues with the survey software we were using. We are looking into an alternative provider and hope to launch the survey very soon. My apologies for this but it was not a risk worth taking.

We have had a really good response for members wishing to stand for the managing committee. The candidates' personal statements are included in this newsletter and voting will take place at the virtual AGM and via email. Please note that we can receive nominations at any point up until the AGM so if you would like to stand there is still time. We will be sending out further details in due course.

**Gill Campbell,**

**August 2020**

## From “Feed the Birds” to “Do Not Feed The Animals” A new research project about animal feeding

The University of Exeter's Human-Animal-Environment (HumAnE) Centre has just been awarded Wellcome Trust funding for a 4-year transdisciplinary research project - From “Feed the Birds” to “Do Not Feed the Animals” - that will be exploring the drivers and consequences of animal feeding for human-animal-environmental health. The project will merge expertise from the universities of Exeter, Roehampton, Reading and National Museums Scotland and can be summarised as follows:

Signs stating ‘Do not feed the animals’ are ubiquitous in zoos, national parks and urban spaces. They stress that uncontrolled feeding by people can affect animal health, alter wild animal behaviour and create public hygiene and nuisance issues. However, humans appear to have a deep-seated proclivity to feed animals.

Many ancient cults fed animals, some modern religions require it, and feeding is often actively encouraged as a tourist attraction. Millions of people feed wildlife in gardens and in 2018, the pet-food industry was worth £2.7 billion in the UK alone.

This project will undertake a deep-time and cross-cultural investigation to uncover the roots of animal feeding and critique the benefits/risks for all concerned. Particularly, we will test our hypothesis that animal domestication itself was driven by the human penchant for animal feeding and that this process is not just continuing but accelerating, with consequences for global human-animal-environmental health.

It will be focussing specifically on bird feeding, cat feeding and the feeding of zoo animals. The team will be working with a variety of organisations including (but not limited to) Historic England, the National Trust, British Trust for Ornithology, Edinburgh Zoo, Museum of English Rural Life, Powell-Cotton Museum and the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The project is looking to recruit quite a few posts over the next few months (including 3 x 3-year PDRAs with osteoarchaeology skills - based at Exeter, Reading and Edinburgh - as well as two Reading-based PhDs focusing on isotope analysis) and want to use this as a broader opportunity to engage the Zooarch community.

To find out more about the project and the forthcoming opportunities, you can follow the project on twitter @Animal\_Feeding and watch the kick-off webinar which is available on the project's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMY9Rla8pXE&t=7s>

**Naomi Sykes**



# The Team



Prof. Naomi Sykes  
Archaeology

Dr Angela Cassidy  
Science and  
Technology Studies

Prof Garry Marvin  
Anthropology and Human-  
Animal Studies

Dr Stuart Black  
Isotope Ecology

Dr Andrew Kitchener  
Curator of Vertebrates

Research Network: Historians, Archaeologists, Veterinarians, Ecologists, Geneticists, Collections Managers, Curators...



## 41st AEA Conference Webinars

### Sustainability in Environmental Archaeology



#### Sessions:

**Session 1:** September 15th 7pm (CET)  
Sustainability of the Profession – Dr Gill Campbell – Historic England & Chair of the AEA

**Session 2:** September 29th 7pm (CET)  
Sustainability in the Past – Dr Kristina Douglass – Pennsylvania State University

**Session 3:** October 13th 7pm (CET)  
Sustainability and the Environment – Dr Camilla Speller – University of British Columbia

**Session 4:** October 27th 7 pm (CET)  
Social Sustainability – Prof. Christine Hastorf – University of California, Berkeley



#### **Session 1: September 15th 7pm (CET) – Sustainability of the Profession**

Environmental archaeology as a discipline is in constant motion. New methods, practices, and research ideas are constantly being developed and excavations revealing new information regarding the past. It may be argued, however, that the discipline of archaeology itself is struggling with several sustainability issues. New methods often require destructive sampling, exhausting available resources. Furthermore, the sustainability of archaeology as a profession is affected by aspects such as the number of students taking a degree course in archaeology, limited financial sources, and fast-paced advancements made in scientific methods. This justifies the need for archaeology to continuously develop new methods, carry out outreach activities, engage in new partnerships with various fields, and improve heritage management. This all contributes to the potential impact of environmental archaeology on our understanding of a sustainable environment.

**19:00-19:45 Keynote**

Presenter: Gill Campbell

Affiliations: Historic England and Chair of the AEA

Title: *Sustaining Environmental archaeology as a profession: a pestle and (mortar) analysis*

Abstract:

As we experience a global pandemic and see, almost daily, evidence of climate change, environmental archaeology has never been of greater relevance. However, are the results of our research packing sufficient punch and contributing effectively to debates on how we build a sustainable future? How can we make the profession a viable and attractive career that is open to all? With both the lure and promise of new techniques how do we ensure that we are asking the right questions and not reinventing the wheel? What can we do to protect the collections and archaeological resource we rely on?

This paper will use a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, Environmental) analysis to explore these questions and attempt to identify the most important actions that we need to take in order to sustain the profession.

**19:45-20:05**

Presenter: Emma Karoune

Affiliations: Independent

Title: *Open Environmental Archaeology means Sustainable Environmental Archaeology*

Abstract:

If we are to contribute, as a profession, to the UN's sustainable development goals, we need to get the most value out of the research that we conduct. Goals such as quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), reduction of inequality (Goal 10) and responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) can all be addressed if we as a profession embrace open science practices. This is not just providing open access and considering where data is deposited; it is an all-embracing holistic approach to opening up research within our profession and to the wider global community. There have been few assessments of open science practices in Environmental Archaeology, with most concerning data sharing such as in Zooarchaeology (Kansa et al. 2020) and macro-botanical analysis (Lodwick 2019). A new review is presented here concerning the state of open science practices in phytolith research that has again found short falls in our professional practice. This assessment digs down into how we can practically improve openness in our research in terms of project planning, data sharing, and open access. However, it also touches on other aspects including the need for citizen science and consideration of inclusiveness in all research activities. These suggested steps forward are also useful for other disciplines to start to address their own practices and therefore start to work towards individual guidelines to make their own field more open and consequently more sustainable.

References: Kansa, SW., Atici, L., Kansa, EC. and Meadows RH. 2020. Archaeological analysis in the information age: guidelines for maximising the reach, comprehensiveness and longevity of data. *Advances in Archaeological Practice*, 8(1): 40-52. DOI: 10.1017/aap.2019.36 Lodwick, L. 2019. Sowing the seeds of future research: data sharing, citation and reuse in Archaeobotany. *Open Quaternary*, 5(7): 1-15. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/oq.62>

**20:05-20:25**

Presenter: D.J. Huisman

Affiliations: Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands/University of Groningen

Title: *Lost again? The future of archaeological specialists' samples*

**Abstract:**

Archaeological investigations, and the varied specialist research associated with it, strives to find and uncover materials and knowledge that had been lost. Afterwards, most of the products are cared for. E.g. in the Netherlands, artefacts and (larger) bones are stored in depots or museums along with the documentation, which is made accessible online. And the research results are reported and may play a role in journal papers and books. This way, the results and products of excavations remain accessible for further research and interpretation.

There is, however, a category of research products that are in danger of getting lost (again): This is the category of samples – raw or processed – that were taken for specialist research. After processing, these samples are still of great value for additional research. E.g. micromorphology thin sections and sieved or flotated botanical samples may be studied again with new research questions. And new techniques may be applied, e.g. stable isotope analyses on botanical material and mCT scanning or micro-XRF analyse on impregnated soil samples from micromorphological research. I know too many examples where irreplaceable specialists' samples that would be valuable for new studies were lost, inaccessible or unknown to (still) exist. I therefore discuss and advocate a standard practice in which samples for specialist research are stored along with documentation and artefacts in depots or museums.

**20:25-20:45**

Discussion

**Session 2: September 29th 7pm (CET) – Sustainability in the Past**

Sustainability is not only a topic of concern for societies today. In the past, communities were also challenged by issues such as climate fluctuations, environmental and landscape change, and the cultivation and maintenance of healthy, sustainable human, animal, and plant populations. The archaeological record can inform us on how people dealt with these issues and what it reflects about the interactions between humans and their living and non-living environment. This may be visible and studied at different scales, from local hunter-gatherer communities that practiced selective hunting and foraging strategies to long duréé changes in the landscape due to human intervention and their socio-economic practices. Reflecting on sustainability in the past can contribute to both a broader understanding of the past and new perspectives on the future.

**19:00-19:45 Keynote**

Presenter: Kristina Douglass

Affiliations: Pennsylvania State University

Title: On Equity, Inclusion and Justice in Environmental Archaeology

Abstract:

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to exact a heavy toll on communities around the globe, archaeologists, like members of most other professions, are faced with losses, disruptions, uncertainties, and the need to adjust their professional practices. While the spread of COVID-19 has dominated news cycles and is at the forefront of local, national and international concerns, it is one of many human-driven crises that are exacerbating inequality, marginalization and injustice. As environmental archaeologists, we cannot ignore the intimate ties these crises have to historical, political, economic and social aspects of human-environment interaction, whether we consider the asymmetrical power dynamics underlying the global economy and its catastrophic repercussions on fishing communities in the Indian Ocean, or the disproportionate impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on communities of color. The exceptional challenges of the present moment provide an important opportunity to contextualize and understand these issues using deeper time perspectives. More importantly, however, I argue that the moment is ripe for critical self-reflection on aspects of the practice of environmental archaeology, as many of these were built on a foundation of inequality that not only perpetuates harms against diverse communities and stakeholders, but also diminishes the quality and potential positive impact of the science produced.

**19:45-20:05**

Presenter: Theresa S. Nelson

Affiliations: University of Sheffield

Title: *Modelling Agricultural Energy Systems at Çatalhöyük*

Abstract:

Current sustainability narratives propose that before the Industrial Revolution humanity was “an insignificant force” on the Earth and “human-induced environmental change [was] highly localised”. This perspective is inaccurate. The Agricultural Revolution provides substantial evidence of human activity extensively affecting the environment. It brought new ensembles of activities, behaviours, and technologies permitting cultivation, surplus production, and changes in nutrition, workload, mobility, and population growth. From an archaeological perspective, agriculture profoundly affected social and environmental systems. From an energetic perspective, agriculture required and caused substantial changes in energy flows and new social institutions. The Agricultural Revolution epitomises humanity’s enduring struggle to sustainably balance available energy with energy use, social coherence, material acquisition, and community needs. As a discipline, archaeology has failed to consider the energy extraction processes required for agriculture to occur. Further, archaeology has not pursued understanding the development of human energy systems, or, modelled and analysed past energy systems. To address this research gap, my PhD establishes a methodology to quantify the energy demands and dissipations of Neolithic Çatalhöyük’s agricultural system. I recalculate Çatalhöyük archaeological data via a modern human energy requirements framework and demonstrate how to model past energy systems. In this paper, I use this research to provide an archaeological perspective on modelling society-energy relationships, bring history into energy sustainability models, and demonstrate how archaeology can contribute to sustainability, today.

**20:05-20:25**

Presenter: Irina A. Vishnevskaya

Co-Authors: Dashzeveg Bazargur, Tatiana G. Okuneva, Byambaa Gunchinsuren & Arina M. Khatsenovich

Affiliations: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS; Vernadsky Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry of Russian Academy of Sciences; The Zavaritsky Institute of Geology and Geochemistry of the UB RAS; Institute of Archaeology MAS

Title: *Isotopic study of the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic sites in Orkhon valley, Northern Mongolia*

**Abstract:**

Late Pleistocene environmental conditions in the Orkhon valley, Central Mongolia is considered as the key region for understanding of Late Pleistocene human dispersal. The scarcity of stratified Palaeolithic sites in this region, stemming from erosion processes, is a big challenge for interdisciplinary research. Multi-layered Moiltyn -am site was the first stratified Palaeolithic occurrence found in Mongolia in 1949 and studied by three different teams in 1960-1990th. Here we present the new project, targeting study of deposits and faunal remains in the archaeological context to understand the accumulation of cultural horizons. The first results indicate the short-term occupational episodes of Orkhon valley, including Moiltyn-am and two neighbouring Middle-Upper Palaeolithic sites – Orkhon-1 and -7. Supposedly this valley was transitional path for human; we analyse environmental conditions and possible migrations of the ungulates, using  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  stable isotopes and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio and  $d^{88}\text{Sr}$  with the background of ETR data. First results indicate that climate was semiarid, more humid, than modern, between 40–12 ka.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio in the deposits of stratigraphic profile increases from the bottom to the uppermost layer from 0.7091 to 0.7096. Isotopic composition is similar to the typical rocks of upper crust. Its gradual increasing and ETR spectrums indicate significant mixture and averaging-out of sedimentary material before sedimentation. Isotopic composition obtained for 2 samples of ungulate teeth enamel is relatively equal -  $0.7101 \pm 0.0003$ . Higher ratio probably indicates that ungulates herded in the other region during the first years of their lives (RSF #19-78-10112).

**20:25-20:45****Discussion****Session 3: October 13th 7pm (CET) – Sustainability and the Environment**

Throughout history, humans have been exploiting a wide variety of environmental resources and have been niche-constructing both the biotic and the abiotic environments. This impact on our surroundings has in some instances led to environmental degradation, climate change, and the introduction, endangerment, alternation, extirpation, or even extinction of animal and plant species. Environmental archaeology offers the possibility to assess the status of environmental factors in the past, and can provide modern sustainability studies and approaches with a baseline or data that can benefit attempts to protect our environment.



**19:00-19:45 Keynote**

Presenter: Camilla Speller

Affiliations: University of British Columbia

Title: *Ancient Waters: Biomolecular Contributions to Marine Resource Management and Conservation*

**Abstract:**

Over the last century, marine ecosystems have witnessed dramatic declines worldwide due to industrial overharvesting and human-induced environmental degradation. Resource managers are increasingly turning to archaeological data to provide baseline information on the past abundance and distribution of aquatic species, and to mitigate anthropogenic effects on marine and freshwater ecosystems. Biomolecular analysis of marine vertebrate remains recovered from archaeological and paleontological sites represent a rich resource for reconstructing past marine biodiversity and complexity over millennia. Through a series of case studies focused on baleen whales, Pacific salmon and Pacific herring, this presentation will highlight how collagen peptide mass fingerprinting (ZooMS) and ancient genomics can: 1) reveal the former distribution and ecology of extirpated populations; 2) quantify the impacts of anthropogenic alteration on adaptive variation; 3) reconstruct lost biodiversity of marine taxa exploited in the past. These case studies highlight the potential for biomolecular techniques not only to reconstruct marine paleoenvironments but contribute essential information for the conservation, management and restoration of modern aquatic ecosystems.

**19:45-20:05**

Presenter: Brenda Oxman

Co-Authors: Arzamendia Yanina, Marcelo Morales, Rojo Veronica & Yacobaccio Hugo

Affiliations: CONICET, Buenos Aires University

Title: *The Barrancas Biocultural Heritage Project, Argentinean Puna*

**Abstract:**

The aim of this paper is to present the Barrancas Biocultural Heritage Project, Argentinean Puna. The Puna is an arid region, with intense solar radiation, extreme temperatures and scattered resources. The socio-economic organization is based on llamas and sheep herding, and family scale horticulture. Primary productivity is concentrated in stable hydrological systems, which frequently form "vegas". Vegas are essential in Puna landscape since they sustain plant communities which concentrate the highest primary productivity and biological diversity in a regional scale. Vegas are intensively used for grazing animals, channelling waters to irrigate crops and natural vegetation for fed livestock, and building infrastructure for the water supply for the town. Due to the importance of the ecological services of these ecosystems and that they are very vulnerable to climate change, their study and protection is urgent. Barrancas is currently inhabited by indigenous people and local communities and the area constitutes a County Reserve in order to protect the rock-art and archaeological sites. Archaeological evidence showed that since the late Pleistocene human populations have occupied the region forging an intimate relationship with the environment and developing different strategies (domestication of camelids) to adapt to the uncertainty of climate variability and behaviour that defines them as resilient. This interdisciplinary project shows the complex human-vegas interaction history, incorporates multiple lines of evidence from environmental (pollen, diatoms and geomorphology analysis) and social sciences (ethnography) and traditional knowledge, in order to generate a wetlands management plan to promote public policies for the conservation and enhancement of heritage.

**20:05-20:25**

Presenter: Kimberley Davies

Affiliations: H. Mackay, M. van Hardenbroek, T. Fonville, K. Head, N. Whitehouse, A. Henderson, P. Langdon, P. Barrett & A. Brown

Title: *Lakeside settlements characterises prehistoric human-environment interactions by analysing geochemical and biological signals preserved within the sediments*

**Abstract:**

Humans have always been attracted to lakes as resource hotspots. In the Iron Age to Medieval Period in Ireland and Scotland, this attraction is reflected in lakeside settlements and the construction of artificial islands called crannogs, in thousands of small, largely lowland lakes. Limited excavations or environmental assessments have been completed at such sites, meaning our understanding of the spatio-temporal impact of prehistoric wetland societies on their environment is relatively limited. Sedimentary records extracted near to wetland archaeological sites provide a potential source of information from a wide range of proxies associated with site usage and wider environmental impacts of construction. We can detect activities with both high-temporal and analytical resolution that appear to have had profound effects on and within small lake environments that are sensitive to environmental change. Our research on lakeside settlements characterises prehistoric human-environment interactions by analysing geochemical and biological signals preserved within the sediments. Results of the palaeoecological analyses reveal the short-lived construction and occupation phases of crannogs from the Iron Age to the Medieval Period. The main effects of human activities on the lake ecosystems are nutrient-driven increases in productivity and shifts to more eutrophic conditions. Abandonment reduces nutrient inputs and aquatic productivity but, despite returns to pre-settlement levels, the lake ecosystems do not return to their previous ecological state. This research has enabled us to understand the sustainability of cultural practices across the time period in question and the legacy of specific actions in the landscape.

**20:25-20:45**

Discussion

**Session 4: October 27th 7 pm (CET) – Social Sustainability**

Social archaeology examines the social dimensions of human life in the past through the interpretation of archaeological remains, informing us about expressions of ethnicity, race, age, status, class, and gender. It provides insights into the social sustainability of past societies. Through, for example, the investigation of the unequal distribution of power, wealth, and resources, social archaeology can reveal patterns regarding social practices and how communities and societies were shaped and developed through time. Interpretations of the past are also influenced by social issues in the present. Increasingly, archaeological studies advocate for more agency for groups traditionally under-represented in research. Here environmental archaeology also plays an important role in lending more agency to non-human species, for example in social zooarchaeological and multi-special approaches.

**19:00-19:45 Keynote**

Presenter: Prof Christine Hastorf

Affiliations: University of California, Berkeley

Title: *Plant protection as societal sustainability: meaningful Andean landscapes*

**Abstract:**

Until 2000 years ago many people engaged with their landscape in an agentive way. To them, everything was a subject not an object, plants, animals, rocks and streams were alive. The indigenous American ontology assumes that all who live in a landscape are responsible for all other beings, plants, animals, water, and rock. This includes both the fields of planted domesticates as well as the gifts of the wild. Archaeologists and anthropologists are learning that as people settled down in this landscape, they valued not only their domestic animals and plants but also the wild beings that resided throughout the landscape. These beings are not just part of the ecology of a vibrant ecosystem, they are also beings that require social relationships and tending to maintain this diverse world. This talk will discuss this worldview that has sustained farmers and collectors for thousands of years by presenting an Andean indigenous world view of a farming community who produce food for their families, and maintain their community while tending to the beings throughout the landscape. These reciprocal interactions promote both social and botanical well-being that has sustained people and plants for thousands of years. These ideas help us to think about the *longue dureé* of domesticates and food.

**19:45-20:05**

Presenter: Aleksa K. Alaica

Affiliations: University of Toronto

Title: *Pastoral Practices and Marine Resource Exploitation among the Moche of North Coast Peru: Examining Social and Cultural Continuity through Vertebrate and Invertebrate Remains*

**Abstract:**

The environmental disruptions of ENSO events, droughts and climatic shifts have impacted pre-colonial cultures of the Andes region for millennia. Among the Moche (CE100-850), a series of droughts and ENSO events created constraints to agricultural practices that shifted the reliance of rural communities to mobile pastoral practices and greater marine resource exploitation. Despite, the sociopolitical transformations of the Late Moche period (CE600-850), pastoral activities persisted through predominantly coastal herding strategies and local animal management, supplemented by long-distance trade with the northern and southern highlands. At the site of Huaca Colorada, the combination of marine resource exploitation and agro-pastoral activities permitted the stability of rural coastal communities to engage with larger political spheres of Moche influence in the Jequetepeque Valley on the north coast of Peru. I present the distribution of vertebrate and invertebrate species to demonstrate the continuity of mollusk collection, hunting, herding and fishing practices despite volatile environmental conditions. I argue that the stability of social interaction is predicated on sustainable subsistence acquisition strategies. In the Late Moche period, rural and urban communities were maintaining interaction through seasonal cycles of gathering that permitted the negotiation of trade relations, authority and cultural capital. In the end, social sustainability was possible during environmental instability because of the resilient strategies employed by indigenous stakeholders. These insights place important attention on the integral study of ancient practices to ensure the sustainability of our contemporary environment, indigenous traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

**20:05-20:25**

Presenter: Taariq Ali Sheik

Affiliations: Department of Art, Culture, History, and Antiquity, Faculty of Humanities and CLUE+, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Title: *Environmental Archaeology: Inter-disciplinary Decolonization?*

Abstract:

2020 has certainly been something. I, like a lot of people, have been watching the enfolding health, social, economic, and environmental crises with a mix of shame, anger, fatigue, and helplessness. But, we should not forget that these crises have been unfolding for hundreds of years. Where does Environmental Archaeology, and its related disciplines, lie among these crises? The field is by no means free from complicity in producing and maintaining inequality, but simultaneously occupies a liminal space, laden with the capacity to challenge the norms that have shaped the world as we know it today. This talk aims to present both the potential of environmental archaeology to contribute to a more sustainable, equitable, and accountable present and future, and highlight the systemic factors that have (re)produced violence, discrimination, and degradation. A diverse range of sources will be drawn on to highlight the potentials and limitations of a Decolonial Environmental Archaeology, from the intersectional feminist labours to deconstruct the primacy of Cartesian dichotomies, to palaeoecology and archaeology to provide material evidence for the intersecting roles of racialization, sexualization, colonialism, imperialism, and modernization in manufacturing a world defined by crisis. A final note will be made to emphasize that there can be no decolonization without emancipation. Therefore, any decolonial environmental archaeology needs to be both reflective and accountable, aware of its institutional context and complicity, and active in its potential to harbour diverse perspectives and challenge harmful narratives.

**20:25-20:45**

Discussion



## AEA Photo Competition 2020

The AEA photo competition has been running for a number of years, with a different theme being chosen each year. This year it is inescapable that we have all been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, and the attempts of governments to control it via national lockdown measures. In these circumstances we are reminded no one can live apart from the wider world, particularly in an era of rapid global interconnections. It might also put our research into perspective as project plans are put on hold, and new ways of communicating are engaged when conferences are cancelled.

This year the theme that has been chosen is **Environmental Archaeologists Observing Lockdown**. Does having the perspective of an environmental archaeologist allow us to see aspects of the lockdown differently? How have you as an environmental archaeologist coped during your national lockdown? How have you adapted your research to deal with social distancing and travel restrictions? This can be interpreted in the broadest sense and seeks to portray and record the experiences of 2020 through the eyes of the environmental archaeologist.

We are running this year's competition in collaboration with **The Viral Archive**. This is a collaborative project between archaeologists at the University of Warwick (Rosie Everett), University College Cork (Ben Geary and Orla Peach-Power), and University College London (Matt Pope). The project is sending out a global invitation, to capture the visual record of the signs, marks and graffiti that are keeping us safe, together, and uplifted during this pandemic. It was recently featured on the BBC news website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-52848024>, and is prominently led by a number of AEA members. This project is as an act of bearing witness to, and capturing, the changes that can occur in our local landscapes due to a global crisis, and the personal and broader social responses that can emerge as a form of resilience. The project can be followed by the twitter handle [@Viral\\_Archive](https://twitter.com/Viral_Archive), and using the hashtag [#ViralArchive](https://twitter.com/Viral_Archive).

All of the images submitted to the AEA photo competition under the theme **Environmental Archaeologists Observing Lockdown** will be collated together and archived as part of the AEA's submission to **The Viral Archive** project. This will act as a permanent record of the experiences of environmental archaeologists during this period.

Entries can be emailed to the AEA Secretary [envarch@envarch.net](mailto:envarch@envarch.net) or via twitter by adding the handles and hashtag [@Envarch](https://twitter.com/Envarch) [@Viral\\_Archive](https://twitter.com/Viral_Archive) [#ViralArchive](https://twitter.com/Viral_Archive)



Transforming a kitchen table into an environmental sorting station during the Irish lockdown.

*Daisy Spencer*

## **AEA Small Research Grants: How to apply**

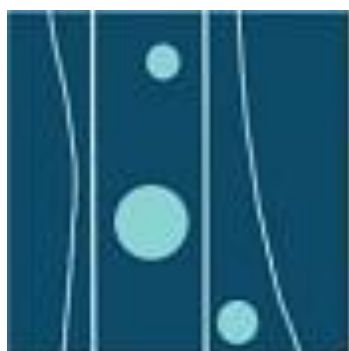
The next deadline for applications will be **31st January 2021**

Applicants are required to complete the application form detailing the total sum requested and breakdown of costs, how the grant will contribute to the overall research project and what the benefits will be.

All applications must be accompanied by a referee's statement of support and submitted either in electronic format via the website or by email to [researchgrants@envarch.net](mailto:researchgrants@envarch.net) or as hard copy to AEA Research Grants Officer: Dr Niklas Hausmann, Niedersächsisches Institut für historische Küstenforschung (NIHK), Viktoriastr. 26/28, 26382 Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Applications will be assessed by members of the committee and applicants informed of the results of their application by the end of March.

Grants will normally be up to £500 but applications for larger amounts may be considered. Grants cannot cover the cost of equipment or conference attendance or costs that should normally be covered by developers or larger funding bodies (e.g. AHRC, NERC) funding other areas of the same research project. Costs that may be covered include travel and accommodation for visits to research facilities, scientific analyses or time buy-out for those working in the commercial sector and wishing to carry out research beyond that funded by developers. Grants may also be used for research start-up or pilot projects.



Association for  
Environmental  
Archaeology

## Committee Nomination Statements

Elections for new committee members will be held during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which for the first time in the Association's history will be held online. The date and time of the meeting will be published in the next newsletter and communicated to members via email.

This year we are seeking nominations for Treasurer (a four year term), three Ordinary Members (four year terms) and one Student Representative (a two year term).

### Current Managing Committee members

Elected Position	Name	Term	Current responsibility
Chair	Gill Campbell	2017-21	-
Secretary	Don O'Meara	2018-22	-
Treasurer	Mark McKerracher	2016-20	-
Journal Editor	Tim Mighall	Co-opted	-
Ordinary Members	Jo McKenzie	Co-opted	Membership Secretary
	Lynne Gardiner	2016-20	Conferences
	Jen Harland	2016-20	Prizes
	Niklas Hausmann	2016-20	Grants
	Rhiannon Philp	2017-21	NL Editor
	David Smith	2017-21	
	Michael Wallace	2017-21	Web Officer
	Canan Çakırlar	2018-22	Seminars
	Michael Bamforth	2018-22	
	Daisy Spencer	2018-22	NL Editor
	Eva Fairnell	2019-23	Web Officer
	Alexandra Livarda	2019-23	
Student Representatives	Nora Battermann	2018-20	
	Róisín Nic Cnáimhín	2019-21	

**Committee Position: Treasurer****Name:** Mark McKerracher**Affiliation:** University of Oxford**Email address:** [treasurer@envarch.net](mailto:treasurer@envarch.net)

I have served as Treasurer on the AEA committee since 2017, and would be happy to continue in post, building upon my experience with the committee and its financial structures, and engaging with the adoption of new e-commerce technology for the new website. During my current term as Treasurer, I have overseen a rationalization of the AEA's finances, including the closure of redundant accounts and the introduction of annual budgets, to promote the continued financial viability of our resources and activities. I have also been involved in preliminary discussions about the new AEA website. My archaeological career began in 2005 with a degree in classical archaeology, then segued into archaeobotany and early medieval archaeology, culminating in a thesis about Anglo-Saxon agricultural innovation. Since 2017, following work in project management and software development, I have worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, specialising in archaeobotany, quantitative analysis and information technology on the "Feeding Anglo-Saxon England" (FeedSax) project. FeedSax is using a suite of bioarchaeological methods to address longstanding questions about the development of early medieval field systems, in a pioneering interdisciplinary approach. I have also undertaken freelance archaeobotanical work for academic, commercial and community projects; served as organizer of Oxford's Archaeobotany Discussion Group; and am editor-elect of the journal Medieval Settlement Research.

**Nominated by:** Gill Campbell [Gill.Campbell@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:Gill.Campbell@historicengland.org.uk)**Seconded by:** Don O'Meara [DO'Meara@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:DO'Meara@historicengland.org.uk)**Committee Position: Ordinary Member****Name:** Aldona Mueller-Bieniek**Affiliation:** W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences**Email:** [a.mueller@botany.pl](mailto:a.mueller@botany.pl)

I am archaeobotanist, and started my 'Cinderella adventure' in the early 1990s. I studied environmental biology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and then I worked in W. Szafer Institute of Botany PAS. I was taught by Krystyna Wasylikowa who supervised my masters and doctoral thesis in classical archaeobotany. Now I am employed as a professor in the Polish Academy of Science but I hope there is still a long and interesting way ahead. I work mostly with samples derived from dry sites but I am also familiar with waterlogged remains from medieval towns and from natural sediments. During these years I also identified wood charcoal and plant imprints in daub and pottery. I like that part of work which is connected with time consuming observations of plant macroremains but I am mostly interested in answering some questions using all accessible and reliable sources of information; research that needs good collaboration and understanding with other specialists. Last time I started to study the possibilities of stable N and C isotopic analyses as a source of information about past environment and diet. I published several scientific papers, participated in some projects (four as PI), and I am a secretary in the Commission on Quaternary Palaeogeography, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences. Despite working in a scientific unit I also have some experience of commercial archaeology, including participation in some projects of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; with most of these studies published in international scientific journals. I work in the Institute of Botany and I've always collaborated with other archaeologists and archaeological institutions. I participated in several excavations in Poland and abroad including Egypt, Georgia, and Greece. Although with some brakes I have been an AEA member since 2005. I am very well experienced in archaeobotany but I can see that when we try to solve any scientific problem then we need to join information obtained by several specialists. In such occasions a good cognition and interdisciplinary understanding is crucial for performing any valuable discussion. In practice it is not so easy.

**Nominated by:** Ruth Pelling [ruth.pelling@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:ruth.pelling@historicengland.org.uk)**Seconded by:** Alexandra Livarda [alivarda@icac.cat](mailto:alivarda@icac.cat)



**Committee Position: Student Representative****Name:** Sebastião Lacerda de Lima Filho**Affiliation:** LAP/UNEB—Brasil**Email:** [arqueologiasobradinho@gmail.com](mailto:arqueologiasobradinho@gmail.com)

Good afternoon everyone! I am graduated and post-graduated in Archeology and Anthropology at different Brazilian universities. I believe that I can collaborate as a representative or collaborating researcher acting and helping other students who are entering the careers of archaeological and anthropological sciences. I believe that there is a need for greater visibility for AEA researchers and students, especially Latin Americans.

**Nominated by:** Sebastião Lacerda de Lima Filho**Seconded by:** Tom Fowler [Thomas.Fowler1@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Thomas.Fowler1@nottingham.ac.uk)**Committee Position: Student Representative****Name:** Mariana Nabais**Affiliation:** Institute of Archaeology, UCL**Email:** [mariananabais@gmail.com](mailto:mariananabais@gmail.com)

I am a zooarchaeologist currently working on my LAHP-funded PhD on the role of small and large prey within Neanderthal diets in Portugal during the Marine Isotope Stage 5 (MIS-5; ~130 to 70.000 years ago). My research is based on the analyses of several animal groups – including mammals, birds, tortoises, crabs and molluscs –, and is mainly focused on human-animal-landscape interactions, combined with a strong taphonomic component. My interest in environmental archaeology started during my Archaeology degree in the University of Lisbon (Portugal), resulting in a dissertation on the burnt animal evidence from the Middle Palaeolithic site of Gruta da Oliveira. Following this, my postgraduate studies took me to the University College London (UCL, UK), where I completed an MSc in Environmental Archaeology. During this time, I had the opportunity to deepen my zooarchaeological experience which led to a dissertation on tortoise use and consumption by Neanderthals in Central Portugal. I am currently finishing my PhD, which has allowed me to conduct my own research, but it has also given me the fortunate opportunity to work for three years as a teaching assistant for the Field Methods and Zooarchaeology undergraduate courses in UCL. I am also part of several research projects in Portugal, Spain and the UK – with chronologies ranging from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Tudor period –, and with a heavy fieldwork component. My research interests are, therefore, multi-period and highly motivated by my deep involvement in all stages of the excavation process.

**Nominated by:** Simon Davis [simonjmdavis@gmail.com](mailto:simonjmdavis@gmail.com)**Seconded by:** Maria João Valente [mvalente.ualg@fastmail.com](mailto:mvalente.ualg@fastmail.com)**Committee Position: Ordinary Member****Name:** Nora Battermann**Affiliation:** University of Leicester**Email:** [nmb24@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:nmb24@leicester.ac.uk)

I am a zooarchaeology PhD student at the University of Leicester researching human-fox relationships in England over the past 10,000 years. From November onwards I will also join the Staatssammlung für Anthropologie und Paläoanatomie in Munich as their zooarchaeology collection manager. In the past, my research has focussed on human-animal relationships of varying kinds, including cats in Roman Britain and the conception of the 'wild' in the Roman Empire. I am fortunate to be able to pursue my interest in environmental archaeology in the future and would love to continue promoting the discipline as an ordinary member of the committee of the AEA, following my two-year position as a student representative.

**Nominated by:** Niklas Hausmann [niklas@palaeo.eu](mailto:niklas@palaeo.eu)**Seconded by:** Eva Fairnell [eva@fairnell.co.uk](mailto:eva@fairnell.co.uk)

**Committee Position: Ordinary Member****Name: Emma Karoune (nee Harvey)****Affiliation: Independent****Email: [ekaroune@googlemail.com](mailto:ekaroune@googlemail.com)**

I have been a member of the Association for Environmental Archaeology since I was student at the University of Bradford in the late 1990's. Very much inspired by my undergraduate tutors, Terry O'Connor and Jill Thompson, I went on to pursue postgraduate qualifications in Environmental Archaeology at UCL. I graduated in 2006 with a PhD in Archaeobotany, in which I combined macro-botanical and phytolith analyses to address questions of the development of agricultural communities in Northern and Eastern India. I have publications concerning my PhD research in India, subsequent work in China but also on methodological aspects of phytolith analysis and the identification of macro-botanical remains.

I have been working out of Archaeology for some time, as a science teacher, but over the last year I have been actively developing a new research project – the application of phytolith analysis on British Archaeological sites. As well as working on this new project, my other research interest is open science and I have been conducting a research project concerning open science practices in phytolith research. This has involved a review of articles in 16 prominent archaeological and palaeoecological journals to extract those with primary data (341 articles). I have then assessed the state of open access, data and meta data sharing in these articles and evaluated the next steps needed to move forward as a discipline to become more open.

I have recently received two small research grants (AEA and BSBI) and I am working on an application for a larger grant. My work is also being kindly supported by colleagues at Historic England's Scientific Lab, who are offering much encouragement to develop a phytolith reference collection for the British Flora. I am trying to be as active as possible with my research pursuits; I have recently presented a poster at the IMAA workshop at the University of Reading and I am working with PalaeoSIG on their lay summary blogs as a copy-editor. I feel that it will be good experience for me to be more involved in the running of the AEA and I am happy to take on any role that you think would suit me.

**Nominated by: Gill Campbell** [Gill.Campbell@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:Gill.Campbell@historicengland.org.uk)**Seconded by: Ruth Pelling** [Ruth.pelling@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.pelling@historicengland.org.uk)

If you would like to stand for a committee position then please do get in touch as there is still time.

We would love to hear from you.

Please apply by emailing Don O'Meara or Gill Campbell:  
[envarch@envarch.net](mailto:envarch@envarch.net).

You will need to provide a personal statement and the names and email addresses of the two AEA members who have agreed to nominate and second you. We welcome nominees from any country, but please note that meetings are conducted in English.

Nominations will be accepted up to the beginning of the AGM.



**ViPs** (Virtual Palaeoscience) is a community-led project developed to collate and create a shared archive of online palaeoscience teaching resources, both as a short-term COVID-19 response and as longer-term enhancement of learning, accessibility and public outreach. Following a successful launch meeting in May 2020, the project has set up working groups to find, evaluate, and bring together existing materials in a single web resource and to create a range of new materials to meet specific needs.

### **Why is this project needed?**

Many of us within the university teaching sector will be feeling the pressure (the scramble!) to get teaching material online in response to coronavirus closures.

Whilst it's unclear whether or not we will all be full virtual next semester, the prospect of partial/complete online provision being required for academic year 2020-21 is a real one. Many institutes seem to be preparing for a number of outcomes making the task of teaching even more difficult within the context of the growing pressures on academic time and resources.

There is a clear need for, and great potential in, virtual environments to improve access to learning for educators, students and wider audiences, especially those who may not have capacity to develop online resources from scratch.

Changing technology and its availability can offer new / different opportunities within the learning environment (and shifting student expectations) and the current situation gives us opportunity to begin to address this.

You can find out more about this project by visiting: <https://virtualpalaeoscience.wordpress.com/>

# UNDERSTANDING ZOOARCHAEOLOGY I

A short course for archaeology and heritage professionals, students and enthusiasts

18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January 2021



# UNDERSTANDING ZOOARCHAEOLOGY II

A short course for those who have a basic knowledge of zooarchaeology. For professionals, students and enthusiasts

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021



For more information, please email: [zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk)



The University Of Sheffield.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY



<https://cutt.ly/zooarch>



@ZooarchLab Sheffield



Sheffield Zooarchaeology Short Course

SCAN ME



## University of Sheffield Zooarchaeology Short Courses

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE NEW DATES\*\*\***

Understanding Zooarchaeology I: 18th-20th January 2021  
Understanding Zooarchaeology II: 21st-23rd January 2021

Price for one short course: £ 200 / £ 140 (student/unwaged)

Price for both short courses: £ 350 / £ 240 (student/unwaged)

**\*\*\*Due to COVID-19 the dates for the next Understanding Zooarchaeology I short course have currently been pushed back to run in January 2021\*\*\***

This three-day course aims to provide an understanding of the basic theory and methods which zooarchaeologists use to understand evidence from animal remains.

The introductory course will be followed by Understanding Zooarchaeology II, a three-day course suitable for anyone who has already attended our Understanding Zooarchaeology I course, or who has a basic knowledge of zooarchaeological methods. This course will cover the identification of a wider range of species than our introductory short course, including wild British mammals and birds, and the separation of sheep and goats. It will also provide participants with experience in recording and analysing a real archaeological assemblage.

Both courses will use short lectures, hands-on practical activities, and case studies focused on current zooarchaeological research.

For more information please visit our website:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/research/zooarchaeology-lab/short-course>

You can also follow us on:

**Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/Sheffield-Zooarchaeology-Short-Course-100619023380021/?ref=hl>)

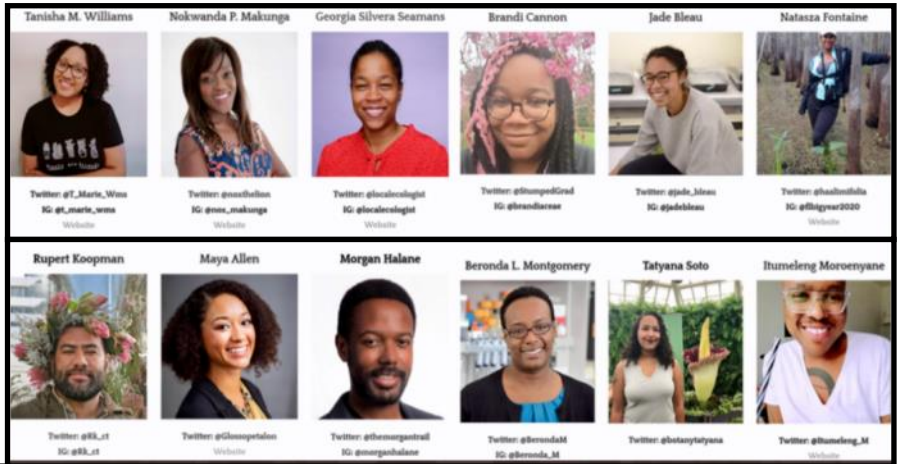
and

**Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/ZooarchLabSheff>)

For any questions, please feel free to email us at: [zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk).



# Musings from Social Media



Dr. Tanisha M. Williams 🌿 #BlackBotanistsWeek 🌸  
@T\_Marie\_Wms

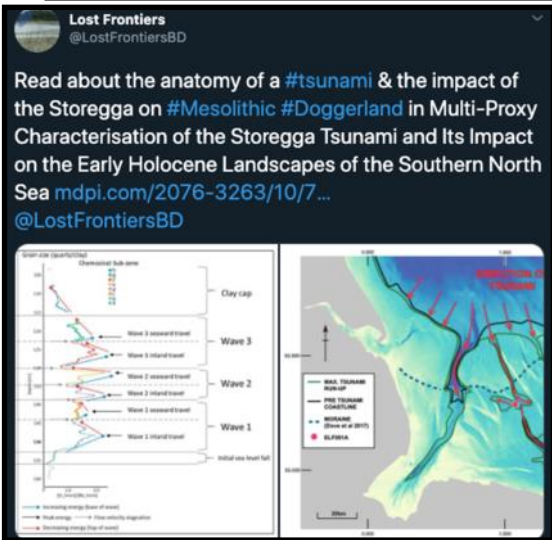
#BlackBotanistsWeek was amazing because of the wonderful committee members and all their hard work! THANK YOU!!! I am excited to continue to work with you!!



Benjamin Gearey  
@BenjaminGearey

Very many happy returns to my excellent friend and colleague @TomCBHill - an excuse to roll out this classic photo 🤔

#BlackBirdersWeek! As a zooarchaeologist, my research lives at the intersection of anthropology and zoology. My fieldwork required monthly oyster collections on St. Catherines Island Georgia to establish a modern proxy for archaeological isotope studies. @BlackAFinSTEM 1/3





<http://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

### AEA Autumn Conference Online Webinars

Session 1: 15th September

Session 2: 29th September

Session 3: 13th October

Session 4: 27th October

### Sheffield Zooarchaeology Short Courses

I: 18th-20th January 2021

II: 21st-23rd January 2021

### Small Research Grants Deadline

31st January 2021

## Notes from the Newsletter Editors

Please note that thesis submission forms can be found on the website which gives AEA members an opportunity to publish abstracts of their postgraduate thesis.

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non-UK members. To submit an article, please email word documents and images to:

**[newsletter@envarch.net](mailto:newsletter@envarch.net)**

**Next deadline: 20th September 2020**

***Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer***