

Association *for* Environmental Archaeology

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August 2024

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have had a productive, and occasionally relaxing, summer season. Summer is of course the time of year when so much primary research happens within our discipline. I am sure we will be sharing stories at the upcoming AEA conference in Oxford.

As I write this we are just crossing the deadline for abstract submission for the conference. This is always such an exciting period to be involved in the AEA as we ramp up to the main event of the year. This year's conference should be a special one - with an engaging theme, academic and commercial collaboration and the magic setting of

Oxford. I hope to see many of you there.

For those with limited access to the funding needed to attend, please do check out the information on our website about the Lisa Lodwick Conference Bursaries.

It is also prize season, and the John Evans prize is seeking bachelors and masters dissertation submissions. So please do get in touch if you have candidates - information on the website.

I wish you all well, and hope to see much of the community soon.

Michael Wallace,
AEA Chair



Scan the QR code to
answer our member
survey!



ISSN 1363-6553

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 will have three forms of presentation:

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 closed! We look forward to reading all of your submissions!

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.

2021 SGR 581



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i de Recerca



Parc
Recerca
Biomèdica
Barcelona



Archaeology
of Social Dynamics



CSIC
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

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.

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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](#).

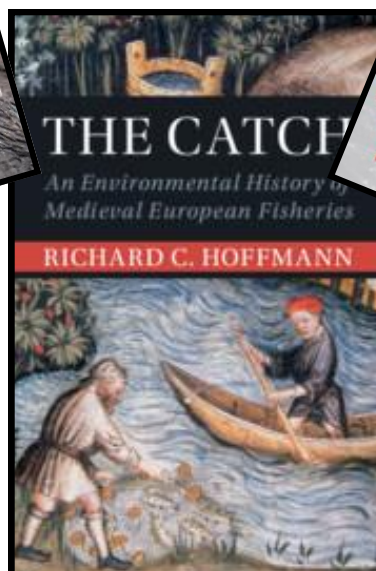
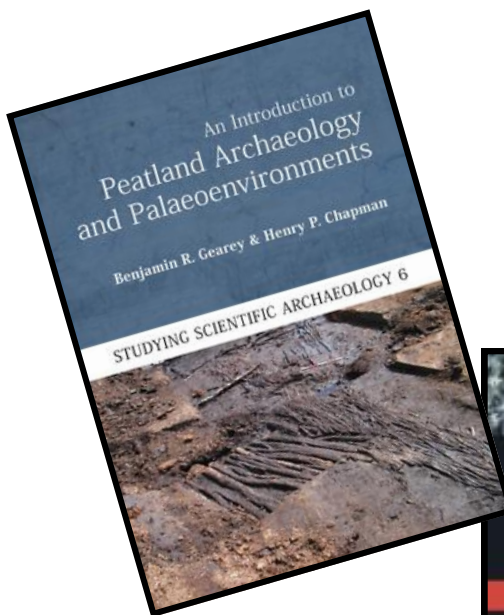
Or email directly [here](#).



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 :

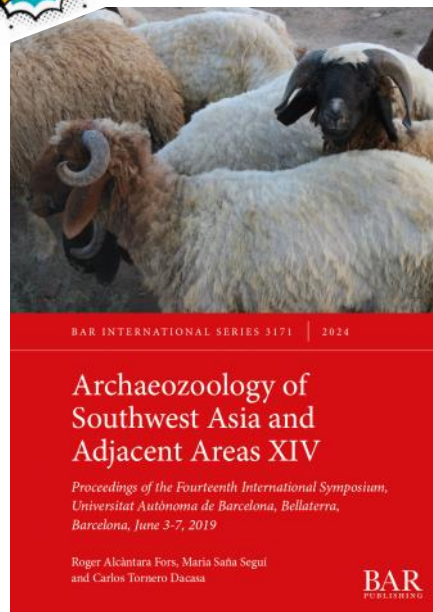
Please get in touch if you would like to review any of the following titles!

Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia and Adjacent Areas XIV

Roger Alcàntara Fors, Maria Saña Seguí and Carlos Tornero Dacasa

This volume represents a collection of papers resulting from the Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia Working group meeting held in Barcelona in 2019, when early-career and well-established researchers debated on nearly 10,000 years of adaptation and change in human-animal interactions. The 14 chapters in this volume range from the Neolithic to the Byzantine period, travelling through the regions of modern Turkey, Syria, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Egypt, among others.

Intertwining new archaeological and archaeozoological data, this volume reviews the development of complementary food acquisition strategies. These approaches to understanding fishing, hunting and husbandry practices discuss adaptation and perseverance against constant social, cultural, economic and political change. They reveal changes through time in food preferences, preparation and storage, the social value of animals, as well as their incredibly adaptive nature.

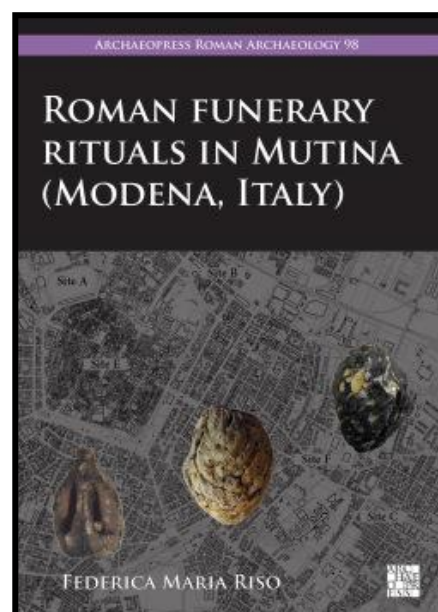


Roman Funerary Rituals in Mutina (Modena, Italy)

Federica Maria Riso

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.

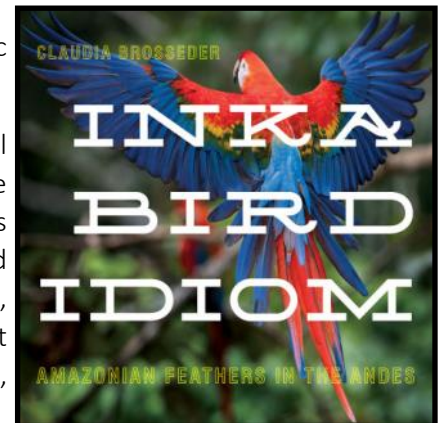


Inka Bird Idiom. Amazonian Feathers in the Andes

Claudia Brosseder

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.

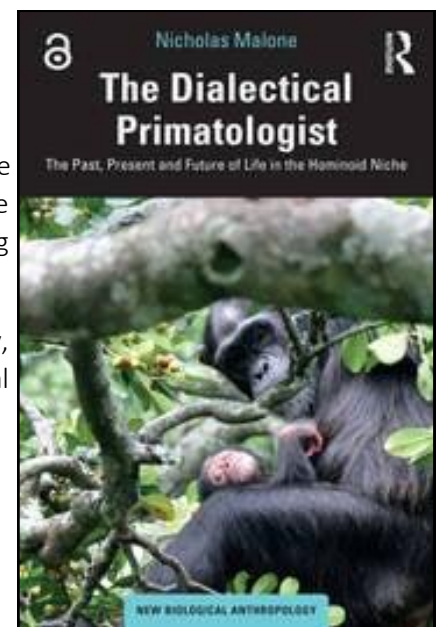


The Dialectical Primatologist

Nicholas Malone

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.

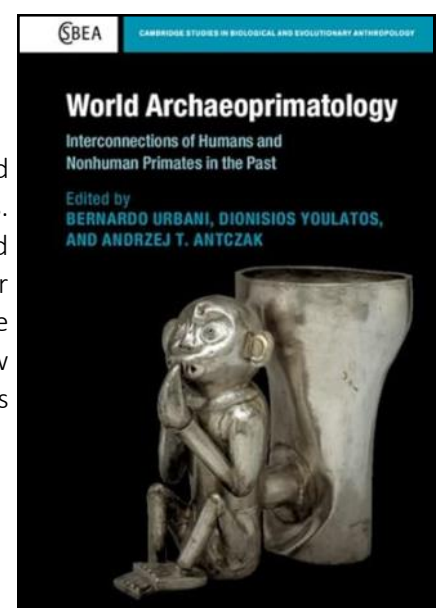
This book will be of keen interest to academics in biological anthropology, primatology, environmental anthropology, conservation and human–animal studies.



World Archaeoprimatology

Bernardo Urbani

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.





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



'Rewilding' Later Prehistory
@RewildArch

#WildWednesdays It genuinely is exciting reading through @AEAOxford abstract submissions! Fab connections being made between environmental archaeology and contemporary matters from farming to artisan practices. Keep the abstracts flowing!



AEAOxford @AEA_Oxford24 · Aug 9

Our team started reading your abstracts - how exciting! 🧐

Abstract deadline has been extended to the end of August, so you have plenty of time to still get your abstract in.

...

[Show more](#)



Frontiers - Human Dynamics
@FrontHDynamics

On the International Day of the World's [#Indigenous](#) Peoples we are sharing our dedicated collection on 'Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental [#Archaeology](#)'.

fro.ntiers.in/IndP

To support scholarly inclusivity we aim to subsidize contributions - check out the collection!



Abarta Heritage
@AbartaGuides

Fancy a [#SundayStory](#)?

Edercloon: Pathways Under the Peat tells the story of the remarkable complex of trackways found in a Longford wetland, with insights from experts who uncovered its story

Listen to this free audiobook as a podcast, and on our website:
abartaheritage.ie/edercloon-path...



BRP Archaeology @brparchaeology · Jul 15

A little bit of flotation as the sun starts to burn off the mist. Not so bad being in the cool water today. [#environmentalarchaeology](#)





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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 22nd November 2024 for inclusion in the December newsletter

Daisy Spencer