

SOCIETY OF AFRICANIST ARCHAEOLOGISTS

25th BIENNIAL MEETING: AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY — A 20:20 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Third Circular: Call for Papers and Announcement of Symposia

Call for Papers

The SAfA 2020 Organizing Committee is pleased to issue a Call for Papers for the 25th Biennial Meeting in Oxford, 21-24 September 2020. Paper abstracts may be submitted for consideration in one of the proposed Symposia (see below) or for a General Session. *Please note that some of the Symposia listed below may be merged with others depending on the extent of expressions of interest.* A final list of accepted Symposia will be included in the Fourth Circular.

Papers may examine a wide range of topics relevant to African archaeology, from theoretical concerns to methodological advances, from regional syntheses to local reports, and from survey/excavation to ethnoarchaeology, linguistics, biomolecular science and other allied disciplines. Abstract submissions are due by **31 January 2020**.

Announcement of Symposia

The Organizing Committee is delighted to announce that the Symposia listed below are now open for further submissions. They are listed here in three groups: Pan-African topics (PA) are ordered chronologically, Regional/Local (RL) topics are ordered from north to south and west to east, and Methodological/Theoretical (ME) topics are listed alphabetically. Complete information (full title, organizers' names and contact information, and abstract) for each symposium is given at the end of this Circular. Symposia that do not wish to recruit additional participants publicly are **not** listed here.

Code	Short Title	Organizers
PA-01	Early Stone Age Technology and Regionality	Rosa MOLL and Carmen MARTIN-RAMOS
PA-02	Middle Pleistocene Evolution in Global Context	Laura BASELL and John GOWLETT
PA-03	Generic MSA: Fact or Fiction?	Eleanor SCERRI and Manuel WILL
PA-04	The Early Holocene: Palaeoclimate and Adaptation	Amanuel BEYIN
PA-05	Economic Transitions & Environmental Archaeology	Louis CHAMPION and Dorian FULLER
PA-06	Crafting, Novelty and Everyday Life	Shadreck CHIRIKURE, Robert NYAMUSHOSHO and Bedone MUGABE
PA-07	The PAGES Landcover6k Land Use Group	Nadia KHALAF, Stefania MERLO and Leanne PHELPS
PA-08	Early Villages and Farming: Cameroon to the Cape	Ceri ASHLEY, Bernard CLIST and Gavin WHITELOW
PA-09	African States and Stateless Societies	Jorge DE TORRES RODRIGUEZ
PA-10	Complex Societies in Africa Revisited	Plan SHENJERE, Gilbert PWITI, Elton SAGIYA and Shadreck CHIRIKURE
PA-11	Technologies and Terminologies of Subsistence	Marianna FUSCO and Rosco ROTUNNO
PA-12	Foodways in Africa	Anne MAYOR, Julien VIEUGUÉ and Moustapha SALL
PA-13	Interactions, Relations and Networks in Africa	Alexa HÖHN and Friederike JESSE
PA-14	Landscape Perspectives	Carla KLEHM and Abigail STONE
PA-15	Exploring Mobility	Anneke JENZEN and Katherine GRILLO
PA-16	New Approaches to Africa's Coastal Heritage	Mark HORTON, Jon HENDERSON and Laura BASELL
PA-17	Culture History and Archaeology in Troubled Times	Barbara FRANK and Daouda KEITA
RL-01	Ecological and Demographic History of North Africa	Katie MANNING and Nicholas DRAKE

RL-02	Sudan Under the Rule of Sennar	Artur OBLUSKI, Dorota DZIERZBICKA and Maciej WYZGOŁ
RL-03	The Sahel: Rethinking 'Marginal' Environments	Isabelle GREGORY, Mike BRASS and Paul SERENO
RL-04	Aksumite Archaeology	Ioana DUMITRU and Smiti NATHAN
RL-05	Historical Archaeologies in Senegambia	Sidy NDOUR
RL-06	Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to West African Complexity	Kevin MacDONALD and Sirio CANOS-DONNAY
RL-07	Igbo Ukwu at 50	Susan McINTOSH and Akin OGUNDIRAN
RL-08	Social Complexity in the Yoruba-Edo Region	Olanrewaju LASISI and Abidemi BABALOLA
RL-09	Palaeoenvironments and Archaeobotany in the Congo Basin	Christopher KIAHTIPES
RL-10	Advances in Central African Prehistory	Karen LUPO and Dave SCHMITT
RL-11	Southern Tanzania and Human Origins (Papers in Honour of Pam Willoughby)	Katie BIITNER and Pastory BUSHOZI
RL-12	Cultural Contacts in the Southwest Indian Ocean	Chantal RADIMILAHY, Vincent SERNEELS, Mélissa MOREL and Christoph NITSCHÉ
RL-13	Archaeology of Madagascar	Zoe CROSSLAND and Chantal RADIMILAHY
RL-14	Archaeology in Zambia	Evin GRODY and Zach McKEEBY
RL-15	Early <i>Sapiens</i> Behaviour in Southern Africa	Silje BENTSEN, Turid NEL and Magnus HAALAND
RL-16	Studying Technological Change in Southern Africa	Geeske LANGEJANS, Gerrit DUSSELDORP, Sebastian FAJARDO and Paul Kozowyk
RL-17	Why Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology (Still) Matters	Charles ARTHUR and Patrick ROBERTS
RL-18	Hunter-Gatherer Mineral Resource Use in Southern Africa	Laure DAYET, Guilhem MAURAN and Patrick SCHMIDT
RL-19	Populations and Interactions in Late Holocene Southern Africa	Tim FORSSMAN and Iris GUILLEMARD
RL-20	Rock Art Research: Ontologies and Contact	Sam CHALLIS
ME-01	Pleistocene Geochronological Perspectives	Eslem BEN AROUS, Chantal TRIBOLO, Sallie BURROUGH, Simon ARMITAGE and Jean-Luc SCHWENNINGER
ME-02	Chronology and Dating of Rock Art	Adelphine BONNEAU and David PEARCE
ME-03	Remote Sensing and GIS: Landscape Archaeology Heritage	Nadia KHALAF and Akinbowale AKINTAYO
ME-04	Geoarchaeology and Palaeoecology at Open-Air Prehistoric Sites	Michael TOFFOLO, Kristen WORTH and Britt BOUSMAN
ME-05	Biomolecules in Reconstructing the African Past	Cristian CAPELLI, Riaan RIFKIN and Simon UNDERDOWN
ME-06	Glass in African Archaeology	Abidemi BABALOLA
ME-07	Digital Archaeology	Stefania MERLO, Justine WINTJIES and Vuyiswa LUPUWANA
ME-08	Archiving as Practice and Possibility	Ceri ASHLEY, Gérard CHOUIN and Ann STAHL
ME-09	Heritage Management and Development	Sophia LABADI, Rachel KING and Albino JOPELA
ME-10	Engaged Archaeologies and Social Justice	Vuyiswa LUPUWANA and Navashni NAIDOO
ME-11	Constructing Identity, Tradition and Community	Jacopo GNICCI and Efthymios RIZO

How to submit an abstract for your paper

Please use the form accompanying this email, which is also available on the Web at <https://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/safa-2020>. Abstracts should be no longer than 150 words and must be in either English or French. They must be submitted by **31 January 2020**. Abstracts submitted after that date will not be considered. Please note that this extended submission deadline supersedes that mentioned in the Second Circular.

If you wish to have your paper included in one of the Symposia listed above, please contact its organizers by email using the addresses included at the end of this Circular. You must do this well in advance of the 31 January deadline to make sure that your paper fits the symposium's theme.

Abstracts intended for one of the Symposia listed above must be submitted to the Organizing Committee at safa2020@arch.ox.ac.uk AND also to the symposium's organizers. Put the code and short title of your chosen symposium in the subject line of the email. Please note that symposium organizers may redirect your paper for inclusion in a General Session of their symposium is already full, or if your paper does not make a good fit with their theme.

If you wish to submit your paper for inclusion in a General Session please send your Abstract Submission Form directly to the Organizing Committee at safa2020@arch.ox.ac.uk using 'Abstract submission for a General Session' in the email's subject line.

SaFA membership: a precondition of paper submission

Membership of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists is a precondition of presenting a paper at SaFA 2020. You MUST therefore confirm that you are a member of the Society when submitting your paper's abstract. Membership of SaFA, which is free for African residents, can be effected via the SaFA website at <https://safa.rice.edu/annual-membership-and-subscription-fees>

Multiple presentations

In general, each SaFA member should be the first author of only one podium-presented paper. However, the Organizing Committee recognises that there may be cases where a member is involved significantly in multiple projects, requiring them to be the lead author in two different Symposia. Such members should contact the Organizing Committee, which will grant permission to lead on two papers if a) the papers are on different topics and in different Symposia, and b) at least one of the papers has other contributing co-authors. Additionally, individual members may act as a discussant in one Symposium.

No member should present more than two papers as lead authors at the 2020 conference or act as discussant in more than one symposium.

What comes next?

After the 31 January 2020 deadline for abstract submission the Organizing Committee will make a final decision on which Symposia have been accepted and will, where necessary, merge Symposia or allocate individual papers to relevant Symposia or General Sessions. Availability of meeting space will be taken into account when making these decisions. Where podium presentations are not accepted the opportunity to present work in poster form will be offered instead.

Travel funds

The Organizing Committee and the SaFA Executive have limited funds available to support the travel and conference costs of colleagues in established posts resident within Africa and students attending African universities or those in the Global North. Regrettably, no such funds are available for colleagues resident in North America or Europe. Details of the application process for accessing these funds will be published on the conference website and circulated by email in January 2020.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!

With best wishes,

The SAfA 2020 Organizing Committee

Peter Mitchell (University of Oxford, Organizing Secretary)
Tunde Babalola (University of Cambridge)
Nick Barton (University of Oxford)
Shadreck Chirikure (University of Oxford/University of Cape Town)
Tim Clack (University of Oxford)
Ashley Coutu (University of Oxford)
Matt Davies (University College London)
Sam Derbyshire (University of Oxford)
Anne Haour (University of East Anglia)
Jane Humphris (British Institute in Eastern Africa/University of Cambridge)
Rachel King (University College London)
Paul Lane (University of Cambridge/Uppsala University)
Julia Lee Thorp (University of Oxford)
Kevin MacDonald (University College London)
Amy Styring (University of Oxford)
Simon Underdown (Oxford Brookes University)
Chris Wingfield (University of East Anglia)
Stephanie Wynne-Jones (University of York)

PAN-AFRICAN SYMPOSIA

Early Stone Age Technology and Regionality

PA-01 Rosa Moll Carmen Martín-Ramos

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Early Stone Age assemblages are found across the African continent, with archaeological assemblages ranging from 3.3 Mya to 300 kya. Recent studies have revealed new sites and techno-complexes, as well as emphasizing the need for inter-site comparative studies to determine the diversity of the Oldowan and Acheulean technocomplexes. This symposium aims to bring together archaeologists working across the African continent who are interested in the technological trends of the Early Stone Age in order to present new and established studies and ideas that will hopefully lead to future collaborations. ESA archaeology is identified in multiple regions and advances in comparative work should now begin to cover these questions of regionality. The session is also open to investigation and discussion of the nature of transitional sites, behaviours and technologies. We hope that exploration of current hypotheses and theories will create opportunities for co-operation between institutions and researchers, as well as new research avenues. The participation of postgraduate students and early career researchers is highly recommended.

The African Stone Age Revisualized: Middle Pleistocene Evolution in Global Context

PA-02 Laura Basell John Gowlett

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In recent decades new discoveries have fundamentally altered our understandings of human evolution and challenged some of the key theoretical and explanatory frameworks that once dominated the discipline (e.g. Out of Africa, the Origin of Modernity). New species have been identified, geochronological control has improved and more detailed reconstructions of palaeoclimatic variability have been produced. There have been significant improvements in understanding regional palaeoecologies and their relationship to changes in the archaeological record. Innovative lithic analyses have demonstrated both precocious developments in lithic technology and periods of relative technological stasis, while geochemical and isotopic studies have improved our understanding of hominins' landscape engagement. Research in social cognition, theory of mind and neural networks offers new opportunities for exploring sociality, group sizes and empathy, while DNA permits the identification of hominin, faunal and plant presence, even when macroscopic traces do not survive. This session seeks contributions focusing on any period from the mid-Pleistocene transition (0.8 Mya) to the end of the Quaternary that address the African archaeological record through: 1) comparing any aspect of the behavioural record except stone artefacts between regions in Africa or beyond and for any purpose except defining modernity; and/or 2) applying/developing novel, alternative theoretical/explanatory frameworks for the patterns identified.

The Generic MSA: Fact or Fiction?

PA-03 Eleanor Scerri and Manuel Will

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Recent decades have seen a surge of interest in the Middle Stone Age (MSA) as it constitutes the archaeological background to the early evolution of *Homo sapiens*. However, research primacy has typically been given to rare regional and temporal signatures of MSA technological diversity and material culture. These include, for example, the Still Bay, Howiesons Poort, Lupemban and Aterian. In contrast, archaeological assemblages apparently lacking these features have received little attention, and are often subsumed under the catch-all term of “generic MSA”. The marginalization of this material culture record is problematic. Firstly, it dominates the MSA archaeological record. Secondly, there has been no quantitative study to justify subsuming ~250,000 years of spatial and temporal variability into a single category. This symposium gathers together researchers working in different African regions with the aim of scrutinizing

apparently “non-specific” MSA lithic assemblages across time and space, evaluating their commonality on different chronological and geographical scales. The session invites comparative quantitative studies within and across regions, methodological advances to reach these goals, and the integration of contextual, palaeoecological, and palaeoanthropological data to understand the validity of the term “generic MSA” and of alternative hypotheses in the wider framework of modern human cultural and biological evolution.

Early Holocene Paleoclimate and Human Adaptations in Africa: Current State of Research

PA-04 Amanuel Beyin

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The early Holocene (*c.* 12,000–6000 years ago) was a period of remarkable ecological and cultural changes globally. Emerging palaeoclimatic studies demonstrate multiple climatic swings between humid episodes and dry spells throughout this period. These climatic shifts are known to have stimulated novel cultural developments and human territorial expansion. Among other things, current research by Africanist archaeologists into this period seeks to elucidate how African foragers modified their adaptive behaviours in response to the prevailing environmental changes and how the cultural novelties that appeared during this period may have contributed to the onset of food production and social complexity. With these overarching questions in mind, this symposium aims to bring together archaeologists and geo-scientists whose research contributes new archaeological, chronological and palaeoclimatic datasets, and theoretical insights relating to early Holocene climatic conditions and human adaptations across all regions of Africa.

Economic Transitions and Environmental Archaeology

PA-05 Louis Champion and Dorian Fuller

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All human societies have economies that involve the extraction, modification, exchange, and consumption, or use, of materials. These economic processes are both constrained by environment conditions and have the potential to transform environments. Environmental archaeology brings together those sub-disciplines best placed to reconstruct past economic processes and their environmental consequences, including archaeobotany, zooarchaeology, and geoarchaeology, and recent years have seen steady growth the application of these methods in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this session we hope to encourage a comparative consideration of economies, and transitions between economic systems across the savannas and forests of Africa through the empirical record of environmental archaeology. These transitions included the transition to farming, but also many other subsequent changes in the modes of subsistence and production of commodities for trade, including milk products, textiles, tree fruits, and spices. We hope to see comparisons across societies that are organized at a small scale, such as the “domestic mode of production” featured in Sahlin's *Stone Age Economics* or larger corporate and institutional forms of organization, like those explored in Timothy Earle's *Bronze Age Economics*. What societies at different scales have in common are the flows of materials through societies and the organization of labour that procures, creates, or transforms those materials, thereby creating value until such materials are consumed or discarded. Key issues include procurement, including food production, through cultivation and animal herding; preparation/creation/transformation, when raw materials into consumables, such as through crop-processing, butchery, and cooking; storage and redistribution, which invariably relate to issues of value and social organization; and finally consumption and use, and the extent to which these are more or less restricted. Methodologically, there are important issues about how archaeological evidence can be related back to these economic processes through an understanding of archaeological formation processes, but we hope to encourage contributors to this session to use such analyses of the archaeological evidence as a starting point for considering the organization of the labour involved in production, the means of distribution, and/or patterns of consumption.

Crafting, Novelty and Everyday Life during the African Stone and Iron Ages

PA-06 Shadreck Chirikure, Robert Nyamushosho and Bedone Mugabe

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For more than a century now, archaeologists working on the African past have divided the continent's very long historical record into "Ages" of Stone and Iron. In each "Age", material culture, and by extension technology featured prominently in explorations of various behaviours across space and time. Interestingly, the dominant materials of each "Age" (e.g. Stone or Iron) attracted serious but parallel studies motivated by interests of individual researchers, surviving materials, available analytical techniques and skills individual archaeologists. Be that as it may, the materials became proxies for constructing identities and othering. Rarely, however, have researchers compared issues of crafting, innovation, and improvisation across the 'Ages' to map situational and historical similarities and differences. Consequently, was crafting the same or different in the Stone and Iron Ages, including the recent pasts? Furthermore, how did crafting and novelty articulate with everyday life in these different time periods? The purpose of this session is to bring together researchers working on crafting and related behaviours in both the Stone and Iron "Ages" into a conversation on innovation, contingency, and complementary and contrasting behaviours in human history. This will highlight the roles and entanglements of crafting and novelty in the daily lives of humans in deep and recent times. We welcome a wide array of papers, including engagements on new research datasets and conceptual and theoretical developments, as well as reflections and updates on various aspects that inform our current understanding of the dynamism of crafting across the "Ages".

The PAGES LandCover6K Land Use Group in Africa: Benefits and Drawbacks of a Global Initiative

PA-07 Nadia Khalaf, Stefania Merlo and Leanne Phelps

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It has been acknowledged that land-use and land-cover scenarios used for climate modelling are simplistic, limited, and often incorrect, making them unrealistic. As such, the PAGES LandCover6k initiative aims to produce data driven reconstructions of past land-cover and land-use at continental and global spatial scales. The LandCover6k working group seeks to create comprehensive maps of human land use for different time-slices. The classification system used is the result of several years of consultation and refinement at workshops and meetings across research groups. Several methodological and practical challenges of developing generalized land use categories have been discussed within regional chapters. Although the African chapter of the project has participated in several working group meetings, issues central to the creation of land-use maps in Africa have not hitherto been discussed within the broader community of Africanist archaeologists. This symposium seeks to engage participants in a discussion on how the LandCover6k classification fits (or doesn't) in Africa. The session aims, first, to exemplify some of the work done so far on classification systems and regional maps, and second, to dive into vivid case studies and perspectives that illustrate the benefits and drawbacks of global land use classification approaches, as well as the political implications behind existing forms of land use representation in Africa. In order to accomplish this, perspectives across the Africanist community are essential; we therefore put forward an open invitation for talks that will provoke debate and novel perspectives surrounding these key issues.

Early Villages and Farming from the Cameroon Grassfields to Victoria Nyanza and the Eastern Cape

PA-08 Ceri Ashley, Bernard Clist and Gavin Whitelaw

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Our focus is on the first villages and related social processes in Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa. From recent research in genetics, archaeology, and linguistics a new picture has emerged. It is currently understood that Bantu-speaking communities spread (genetics) from the northwestern reaches of Central Africa towards Eastern and Southern Africa (archaeology), using an expansion axis that went through/around the equatorial forest of Central Africa before branching east towards the Indian Ocean's shores and Southern Africa (linguistics, 'late split' model). Although the general picture seems convincing, mismatches between the disciplines involved have developed and new research questions have arisen. The

objective of this panel is to bring together specialists in these latest developments for interactions that attempt to bridge the divide inherited from colonial times between Francophone and Anglophone Africa, and specifically between Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa. We wish to decompartmentalize our knowledge and revive a scientific network of information exchange. The aim is to produce a coherent understanding of Central, Eastern, and Southern African communities over more than 2000 years.

Between Conflict and Co-operation: African States and Stateless Societies

PA-09 Jorge de Torres Rodríguez

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This session will explore the wide array of interactions that framed the relationship between African states and those stateless societies in contact with them, either outside or within their borders. Without diminishing the traditional focus on the predatory character of many pre-colonial states and their operations to dominate or exploit surrounding stateless societies, this proposal wants to explore other contexts — economical, religious, ideological, political — that evolved into spheres where groups with highly different political systems could interact, cooperate or even develop shared identities based on common interests. The objective is to provide a richer and more accurate vision of the complexity of pre-colonial African states and their relationship with other political entities and groups, as well as the manifold ways in which authority, legitimacy, and control were achieved or contested. The proposal will focus on African states and therefore will not examine the interactions between colonial European powers and African societies. The session will, however, welcome papers on interactions between African states and stateless societies in a broad sense (from Ancient Egypt to the twentieth century; the role of minorities within African states; strategies of statehood and state consolidation; and strategies of dissent and resistance).

Complex Societies in Africa Revisited

PA-10 Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi, Gilbert Pwiti, Elton Sagiya and Shadreck Chirikure

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From the late centuries of the first into the early part of the second millennia AD, many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa underwent fundamental changes in socio-economic and political organization, changes that saw the growth of socio-political formations commonly referred to as chiefdoms and state systems. What is particularly striking is the chronological coincidence of the developments, a coincidence on which scholars have occasionally commented. How and why did this phenomenon take place during this particular period across this vast part of the continent? What factors or historical and possibly environmental processes could have been behind this coincidental growth? An understanding of these developments has direct relevance to societies today and in the future, particularly because there are demonstrated historical and cultural links between people in the past and people in the present across the sub-continent. This symposium therefore invites papers from archaeology and related disciplines in the form of reports on recent research, re-examination of past approaches, and theoretically grounded papers offering new ways of thinking for the investigation of and understanding the road to complexity on the African continent. The broad objective is to work towards a comparative understanding of the evolution of complexity across Sub-Saharan Africa's major regions.

People vs Food: Technologies and Terminologies of Subsistence Strategies in a Comparative Perspective from Prehistoric Contexts

PA-11 Marianna Fusco and Rocco Rotunno

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Although often marginalized in the development of models for food procurement, production and management, Africa presents unique and theoretically informative case studies for global comparison. The archaeological record from the mid-late Pleistocene up to the early and middle Holocene presents an extraordinary wealth of data concerning the adoption of different subsistence strategies related to

environmental changes and cultural variability. From food's production/procurement to its processing and consumption and on to its ultimate discard, the stages and actions performed are commonly indicative of social identity and complexity. Reconstruction and interpretation of the relationship between people and food are more often weakened by inadequate terminologies considering recent advances in archaeological research. This session aims to draw together research and data gathered from African prehistoric contexts. With a focus on the northern and eastern parts of the continent, the contributions will help to develop updated explicative models to better define the highlighted variability of subsistence strategies within human groups and cultural entities. The following research topics are warmly welcome: 1) technologies and economies (lithic analyses, pottery studies, faunal and vegetal remains); 2) landscape and sites (landscape and territorial analysis, site function, environmental studies); and 3) people and mobility (bioarchaeological analysis, mobility patterns, trade and exchange studies).

Foodways in Africa: An Interdisciplinary Approach

PA-12 Anne Mayor, Julien Vieugue and Moustapha Sall

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Food as a social, economic, and cultural marker has emerged as a topic of great scholarly interest that needs to be addressed from an interdisciplinary perspective. Researchers can use various lines of evidence to reconstruct the ways in which food was procured, stored, prepared, and consumed: written, iconographic, oral, and material sources (including pottery and faunal and botanical remains). In order to interpret the archaeological artefacts, ethno-archaeological reference databases are needed. For example, the study of the morphometry and use-wear of ethnographic pottery combined with residue analysis can contribute to help identifying the functions of ancient ceramics. Samples of faunal and floral components of present-day meals collected at various transformation stages may also offer a comparative dataset for the identification of archaeological remains. This session would like to include researchers from various fields and explore the dialogue between the present and the past of food and beverages in Africa with a cross-disciplinary approach. Archaeological studies about different time periods and geographical contexts are welcome to draw a sketch of the variability of food practices throughout Africa. Historical, linguistic, and anthropological studies are also welcome to show the changes that took place under the influence of the Atlantic trade since the fifteenth century and from colonial times to globalization.

Entangled Africa: Interactions, Relations and Networks within Africa

PA-13 Alexa Höhn and Friederike Jesse

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This symposium addresses questions of entanglements and their contribution to the formation and development of human societies in Africa in the past. Presentations should therefore address intra-African interactions, whether that is the transfer of ideas, knowledge, material culture, animals, plants, or people. The spatial scale of entanglement may cover long distances or be confined to a limited area. In addition, the means of interaction (e.g. migration, trade, networking, or war) and the necessary infrastructure (e.g. pack animals, routes and roads, market places), as well as the external conditions and the motivation for entanglement and interaction, are of interest. We welcome theoretical and methodological papers along with case studies aimed at a better understanding of the indicators as well as the forms, patterns, and consequences of entanglement and interaction within the African continent during the past. The symposium is hosted by researchers involved in the project "Entangled Africa: Intra-African Relations Between Rain Forest and Mediterranean, c. 6000–500 BP" (<https://www.dainst.blog/entangled-africa/en/home/>), but seeks to initiate discussions with researchers from outside the project working on or interested in this challenging subject. In this session, we thus hope to discover an array of parallels, divergences, connections, and trajectories.

Landscape Perspectives in African Archaeology: Present and Emerging Approaches

PA-14 Carla Klehm and Abigail Stone

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Landscape archaeology is a productive framework for contextualizing spatial relationships over time, with landscapes providing reference and context for human activity. Theoretical and methodological approaches vary widely, as do temporal and spatial scales for research activities. Regardless, landscape archaeology is fundamentally about humans and their relationships with both the built and “natural” environment (with recognition that the latter almost always has anthropogenic alterations, whether intentional or not). This session concerns landscape archaeology as taken up by African archaeologists. With the longest record of human history, as well as having an enormously diverse range of environments and correspondingly varied human responses (social, economic, political) to their surroundings, Africa is a rich subject for landscape approaches to archaeology. Accordingly, we encourage papers from multiple places, periods, and perspectives. We ask participants to unite their papers by defining how they use the concept of “landscape,” their corresponding research design, and their contribution towards local and broader archaeological contexts. We aim to build a set of present and emerging approaches that will collectively add value to our understanding of past and present human-environmental relationships in Africa.

Exploring Mobility in African Archaeology

PA-15 Anneke Janzen and Katherine Grillo

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From highly planned seasonal migrations to stochastic movements, mobility has allowed foragers and pastoralists to cope with environments characterized by marked seasonality and unpredictable resource distributions and to avoid various social and environmental threats. Exchange represents a different axis of mobility, reflecting social networks and connections within and among groups. Movement of material culture, animals, and people across landscapes and social groups offers another way of understanding how social networks provide an avenue for negotiating shifting social and ecological landscapes. These kinds of mobility have been extensively documented ethnographically, but the ephemeral nature of most sites occupied by mobile populations poses challenges for archaeological inquiry. Fortunately exploring mobility in the past can be achieved through a range of methodologies including, but not limited to, elemental and stable isotope analyses. This session aims to include papers examining different aspects of mobility: including the mobility of individuals, movements of materials through exchange networks, and the spread of ideas and technologies. All regions and time periods are welcome, and we look forward to opening up dialogues on the role of mobility in different contexts in African archaeology.

Heritage on the Edge: New Approaches to African Coastal Heritage

PA-16 Mark Horton, Jon Henderson and Laura Basell

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African countries currently have little capacity to protect or explore their rich coastal and marine heritage, yet it is under active threat from unprecedented levels of infrastructural development and the impacts of climate change. In recent years there has been a revival of interest in recording tangible and intangible material cultural heritage under threat from rapid development (e.g. UK initiatives such as the AHRC-GCRF Rising from the Depths Network and the British Museum’s Endangered Material Knowledge Programme (EMKP), plus a range of other projects). This has led to the application of a wide array of new approaches and techniques that move beyond more traditional archaeological excavations and surveys or ethnographic observations. There have also been notable efforts to move towards co-production of knowledge involving multi-national collaborators and local communities. This session seeks contributions from coastal research projects that involve: 1) the application of innovative recording and visualization techniques; 2) the co-creation of research with local stakeholders; and 3) challenge-led research aimed at creating social, economic, and/or cultural benefits. It will critically examine: a) the opportunities for situating archaeological research within a widely connected research framework; and b) the reciprocal benefits of engaging with the wider development agenda in Africa.

Looking Back to Move Forward: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology in Troubled Times

Regarder le Passé pour Construire le Futur: Patrimoine Culturel et Archéologie en Période de Troubles

PA-17 Barbara Frank and Daouda Keita

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Archaeologists, art historians, and other scholars face significant challenges under the current conditions of crisis in some regions of Africa. Ongoing conflicts and insecurity have made it extremely difficult for archaeologists, whether local or foreign, to engage in research on the ground. The crisis has substantially impacted local and national economies once enlivened, if not sustained, by tourism. Western governments have declared some regions a red zone for their citizens, virtually eliminating the possibility of joint projects in the field and funding agencies are likely to question the feasibility of any such research. This panel proposes to assess the current state of archaeological research in the region to highlight ongoing projects and identify areas of greatest need for the future. The panel will also explore ideas for ways in which individuals and institutions in the West might support ongoing efforts by our colleagues, given these circumstances. Topics may include appropriate ways of partnering with local communities, even if remotely, models for institutional collaborations such as self-determination, institutional exchange, and shared stewardship.

Les archéologues, les historiens de l'art et d'autres chercheurs sont confrontés à des défis importants dans les conditions de crise actuelles de certaines régions d'Afrique. Les conflits en cours et l'insécurité ont rendu extrêmement difficile la tâche des archéologues, locaux ou étrangers, de mener des recherches sur le terrain. La crise a eu un impact considérable sur les économies locales et nationales autrefois animées, sinon soutenues par le tourisme. Les gouvernements occidentaux ont déclaré que certaines régions étaient une zone rouge pour leurs citoyens, ce qui éliminait pratiquement toute possibilité de projets communs sur le terrain, et les agences de financement remettraient probablement en cause la faisabilité de telles recherches. Ce panel propose d'évaluer l'état actuel des recherches archéologiques pour mettre en évidence les projets en cours et identifier les zones où les besoins sont les plus criants. Le panel explorera également des idées sur la manière dont des individus et des institutions de l'Ouest pourraient soutenir les efforts en cours de nos collègues, dans ces circonstances. Les sujets peuvent inclure des moyens appropriés de partenariat avec les communautés locales, même à distance; des modèles de collaboration institutionnelle tels que l'autodétermination, les échanges institutionnels et la gestion partagée.

REGIONAL/LOCAL SYMPOSIA

Ecological and Demographic History of North Africa

RL-01 Katie Manning and Nick Drake

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Northern Africa has undergone repeated episodes of climatic amelioration driven primarily by changes in the Earth's orbital precession. These cycles of African Humid Periods (AHPs) have provided essential corridors across northern Africa, prompting the expansion and cultural development of human populations in this part of the world. Whilst the Holocene AHP is perhaps one of the most thoroughly documented climate change events, and its archaeology is relatively abundant, there remains considerable uncertainty over the timing and spatial extent of ecological change as well as the human response. Other significant AHP's, such as MIS 5, also appear to have had river corridors crossing the Sahara, providing important dispersal routes for hominins across and out of Africa. Numerous researchers today are shedding new light on the North African past, using a wide range of methods, many of which have been developed in response to the increasing inability to conduct field research across large parts of the Sahara. This symposium will bring together researchers working on the environmental and demographic history of different humid periods in the North African past. In particular, we hope to emphasize the range of methodological

approaches that are currently employed and to highlight the role that humid periods have played in the expansion of human populations, cultural and genetic diversification, and dietary evolution.

Sudan Under the Rule of Sennar: Material Culture Perspectives on Nubian Society in the Funj Period

RL-02 Artur Obluski, Dorota Dzierzbicka and Maciej Wyzgol

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The aim of the symposium is to discuss topics related to Nubian society in the Funj period with special focus on its material aspects. The main focal point are changes that occurred in the wake of the fall of the Christian kingdoms and the transition to Islam in the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, how these changes influenced social structures and identity of the Nubians, and how Islam was perceived and adapted by the inhabitants of the Middle Nile Valley. The scope of the symposium includes studies on changes to urban layout and domestic architecture subsequent to political and cultural transformations that followed the end of the kingdoms of Makuria and Alwa, but it is also open to papers examining the ties between the Funj Sultanate and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. The growing volume of material evidence on the life of Nubians in the Funj Period gives an opportunity to revisit ethnohistoric sources concerning Nubian society, that were very often written from a Eurocentric viewpoint. The proposed papers will present archaeological studies focused on the Funj period, socio- historical research, and discussions on the role of the Funj material culture in Sudan's heritage and studies of memory.

The Sahel: Rethinking 'Marginal' Environments

RL-03 Isabelle Vella Gregory, Michael Brass and Paul Sereno

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To what extent is marginalization grounded in historical trajectories? This session examines the marginalization of dynamic areas. Specifically, we focus on the Sahel. While it is a transitional place in terms of its ecoclimate and biogeography, it nevertheless hosts a diversity of life and cultures over a span of 5400 km, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. It is defined by a diversity of environments, people and history and is also an area that continues to face desertification and social instability. We invite papers on two themes. The first considers the dynamism of 'marginal environments', asking What are the historical dynamics behind some areas being overlooked and hereby excluded from research, how has this impacted the current knowledge of a particular region and how are current projects working to overcome this? This is an opportunity to share both fieldwork/archival/museum research results and engage with how the archaeology of individual regions is being redefined and to what extent these questions can be answered with the use of more complex fieldwork methods. The second theme explores new initiatives for local educational and heritage preservation programs and work on developing methods and approaches based on local knowledge given that, despite a wealth of cultural heritage, indigenous research programs and heritage preservation are poorly developed in communities living in what have long been regarded as modern marginal environments across most of northern Africa.

New Developments in Aksumite Archaeology

RL-04 Ioana Dumitru and Smiti Nathan

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This session concentrates on the Empire of Aksum and its predecessor, the Pre-Aksumite polity. Topics include broad overviews, reports on recent archaeological fieldwork and survey, and artefactual studies, as well as more focused methodological or theoretical discussions that address issues relating to the ancient environment, regional and long-distance trade, economy, production, ethnoarchaeological studies, epigraphic research, and other matters associated with the development of socio-political complexity in the northern Horn of Africa.

Historical Archaeologies of Atlantic Entanglement in Senegambia: Current Perspectives

RL-05 Sidy Ndour

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In the last two decades, Senegambia has become a centre of historical archaeological research in Sub-Saharan Africa. Much of this work has sought to complicate our understanding of the region's Atlantic and colonial pasts, drawing on material archives to examine how African societies weathered the historical forces of capitalist commerce, colonialism, and globalization as they were reshaping the globe. Now might be a good time to take stock of these developments and to connect research projects across the region with a view toward crafting a more integrated picture of socio-political trends and divergences. In this light, this session examines the impact of the world economy in Senegambia over the long term of the Atlantic Era (c. 1450–1900). By considering the archaeological histories of Senegambian societies multiple levels, this session seeks to illuminate both the particularities and the larger patterns that emerged during this turbulent time in West African and world history and shaped local, regional, and international dynamics into the modern era. As such, papers also interrogate interactions between Senegambia and Western societies across Atlantic time and space, tracing the interplay of global economic encounters, commodity chains, and political mutations.

Beyond States: Multi-disciplinary Approaches to Socio-Political Complexity in West Africa

RL-06 Kevin MacDonald and Sirio Canos-Donnay

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Two decades have passed since the challenge of S.K. McIntosh's seminal *Beyond Chiefdoms* volume. While social-evolutionist frameworks and their taxonomies are increasingly being rejected, some of their terminology and implications are still very much with us. Over the last few decades, archaeologists and historians working in West Africa have brought to light an incredibly diverse array of indigenous sociopolitical forms that might broadly be termed heterarchies, ritualities, or coercive polities (amongst others). This recognition of the "complexity of complexity" (Stahl 2004), has made it clear that while terms like "state," "empire," or "city" might still serve as (contested) general labels, the great diversity in organization, territorial configuration, and sources of power within each category makes it imperative to go beyond labelling and to explore how such polities emerged, articulated, and transformed. Our focus becomes more on the nature, rather than the degree, of complexity. In this session, we shall explore how new multi-disciplinary projects, especially those combining oral history and settlement archaeology, are contributing new data and theoretical frameworks to this debate.

Igbo Ukwu (Nigeria) at 50

RL-07 Susan McIntosh and Akin Ogundiran

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Fifty years after the landmark publication of excavations at Igbo Ukwu by Thurstan Shaw, the site remains one of the most iconic, enigmatic, and sumptuous sites ever documented in West Africa. Its astonishing corpus of 75 kg of copper and bronze artifacts, plus over 165,000 glass and carnelian beads has generated debate for decades on the possible origins of these materials and their likely chronology, given radiocarbon dates with a 2-sigma range between the eighth and twelfth centuries AD. This symposium celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of publication focuses on recent archaeological, archaeometric, radiometric, and analytic studies that provide new evidence for understanding the context and connections of Igbo Ukwu and new insights into its local and global intersections.

Emerging Perspectives on Social Complexity in the Yoruba-Edo Region of West Africa

RL-08 Olanrewaju Lasisi and Abidemi Babatunde Babalola
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The last two decades have witnessed intense archaeological research programs in the Yoruba-Edo region of West Africa most of which focused on understanding the dynamics of social complexity based on landscape approaches and material culture that ranges in size from small finds to monumental architectures. This session invites papers that emanate from these recent archaeological inquiries. We particularly seek papers that raise new questions and offer new answers about regional interactions, chronology, cultural formation, technology, human ecology, migration, urbanization, state formation, disruption, and resilience during the past two millennia. Additionally, the symposium welcomes presentations that introduce new methodologies, conceptual frameworks, and theoretical orientations to understand past events in the region.

Building the Big Picture in Congo Basin Archaeology: Advances in Palaeoenvironmental and Archaeobotanical Research

RL-09 Christopher Kiahtipes
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The ecological and climatic context of human settlement of the Congo Basin during the Holocene is an enduring question in Central African archaeology. This issue is immediately relevant to mitigating the influence of human societies on rain forest biomes and models of population dispersals into tropical forests. Conventional portrayals cast rain forests as depauperate and vulnerable biomes where permanent human settlement requires food production and climatically or anthropogenically driven forest degradation. However, recent research shows that rain forests may be attractive environments for human populations practising mixed farming strategies. The scale of late Holocene forest fragmentation appears more variable than previously supposed. New field projects in the Congo Basin have expanded the geographic area of archaeological survey and employed interdisciplinary approaches to assess human-environment interactions more directly. This symposium seeks to evaluate models of forest response to climate change and human settlement in light of new empirical data by bringing together scholars working on the palaeoecology, palaeoclimates, and archaeobotany of Central Africa. Together with a complimentary symposium on Congo Basin archaeology (RL-10), these presentations will identify core lines of agreement, outline the limits of current empirical data, and consider the directions of future research in a globally important biome.

Peoples of the Forest: Advances in Understanding Central African Prehistory

RL-10 Karen Lupo and Dave Schmitt
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Forested portions of Central Africa have long presented challenges to archaeological research. Densely vegetated landscapes, highly eroded surfaces, and disturbed acidic sediments obscure the visibility of archaeological materials and mitigate against preservation. Large sections of Central Africa, particularly forested areas, remain unexplored and the prehistoric record for these areas is poorly known. But recent research has produced archaeological and proxy data that speak to the timing and nature of human occupations of the rain forest. Recent discoveries shed light on hunter-gatherer occupations and the spread of farmers and smelters, notably Bantu-speaking populations that spread east and south into the Congo Basin. This session brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to present recent data on Central African demographic, economic, and technological processes during pivotal and transformative epochs. Together with a complimentary symposium on Congo Basin palaeoenvironmental and archaeobotanical research (RL-09), these presentations will identify core lines of agreement, outline the limits of current empirical data, and consider the directions of future research in a globally important biome.

Putting Southern Tanzania on the Map of Human Origins: Papers in Honour of Professor Pamela Willoughby

RL-11 Katie Biitner and Pastory Bushozi
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This honorary session offered to Professor Pamela Willoughby as she approaches retirement brings together past and present students and colleagues who have contributed to her examination of the archaeological and cultural heritage of southern Tanzania. For fifteen years Pamela Willoughby has been the principal investigator of the Iringa Region Archaeological Project (IRAP) in the Iringa Region of south-central Tanzania, while before that she also worked for some decades in the Mbeya Region of southwestern Tanzania. This session will focus on the archaeological record of southern Tanzania, including a history of research, evidence for the origins of modern humans, lithic technologies in the Middle and Later Stone Ages, Iron Age production and subsistence practices, the ethnoarchaeology of Iringa baskets, and cultural heritage and public outreach. The implications and outcomes of the research done to date and future directions for work in this critical region will both be examined.

Resource Exploitation, Technological Transfer and Cultural Contact in the Southwest Indian Ocean

RL-12 Chantal Radimilahy, Vincent Serneels, Mélissa Morels and Christoph Nitsche
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The Swahili coast, Madagascar, and the Comoro Islands are generally seen as marginal partners in the Indian Ocean World System: passive participants exploited for various raw materials. This session aims to explore the dynamics of production, exchange, and contact within this area, towards the interior of the African continent, and with the distant circum-oceanic cultural areas. Recent fieldwork on potstone extraction and iron primary production in northern Madagascar will be presented. We invite speakers working on the resources and transfer mechanisms of the Southwestern Indian Ocean area to present their results. Contributions on mineral and organic raw materials exploitation, craft and agricultural production, or techniques and trade are very welcome.

Archaeological Research in Madagascar: Recent Results and New Directions

RL-13 Zoe Crossland and Chantal Radimilahy
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This symposium is proposed as an opportunity to gather researchers who are working on the archaeology of Madagascar to present and discuss research from across the island. Madagascar has recently attracted more attention from scholars as interest has grown in its connections across the Indian Ocean and the Mozambique Channel. Given the enormous size of the island, researchers working in disparate areas rarely have the chance to meet each other to learn about and discuss recent developments. For this symposium we have invited a variety of contributors who work in many different parts of the island. We aim to include those who have undertaken research in Madagascar for decades and those who have recently initiated projects with the aim of sharing results and in the hope that we can build a framework for future study and collaboration.

Archaeology in Zambia: New and Ongoing Work

RL-14 Evin Grody and Zachary McKeeby
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In recent years an increasing number of research projects have launched in Zambia, loosely centred around understanding its history and its place in the history of the larger subcontinent. Given the richness of this region and the breadth of the research, these recent and ongoing projects have been likewise wide-ranging and multidisciplinary. This session is organized to highlight the exciting scope of this new research. Through highlighting a variety of topics, methods, and time periods, it serves as an opportunity for various researchers and teams working on the archaeology and history of Zambia to gather and discuss recent

research from across the country. Overall, it examines the rich and dynamic relationships between humans, technology, plants, animals, and the broader landscapes within which they all interacted in Zambia. As such, the session welcomes papers from a wide range of methods and disciplines, including — but not limited to — geoarchaeology, historical linguistics, zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, and archaeometallurgy.

Culture, Climate and Cognition: Early Sapiens Behaviour in Southern Africa

RL-15 Silje Bentsen, Turid Nel and Magnus Haaland

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Current archaeological evidence, although limited, highlights the period 120-50 kya as being a watershed for human cognitive, technological, and social development in Africa. Significant archaeological efforts during the last decade have led to a better understanding of this formative period in human prehistory, yet more research is needed to better understand the cultural and cognitive capacities of early Homo sapiens and to what extent the environment contributed to our species' development. Consequently, the Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour (SapienCE) was established in 2017 as a Centre of Excellence at the University of Bergen, Norway. SapienCE brings together researchers from multiple disciplines including archaeology, psychology, and climate studies to examine early Homo sapiens behaviour through a highly interdisciplinary framework. In this session members of SapienCE present some of our current results and invite researchers working on similar issues in southern Africa to share their perspectives.

Studying Technological Change: Beyond Simple Correlation and Towards Social Explanations

RL-16 Geeske Langejans, Gerrit Dusseldorp, Sebastian Fajardo and Paul Kozowyk

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In this session we explore the methodology for studying prehistoric technological change as well as our ability to determine causal mechanisms for prehistoric changes in the past. We welcome a broad spectrum of papers dealing with driving forces, mechanisms, and the effective transmission and maintenance of technological change. As a guide we pose the following questions: 1) what are the forces driving observed technological changes? and 2) can (and if so how do) we use the archaeological record to approach the social processes that underlie (widespread) technological change and the maintenance of technological know-how? In the example of the Still Bay culture in South Africa, it is proposed that the introduction of these laurel leaf points (~75,000 BP) coincided with an environmental change and that they may represent an adaptation to changing substance behaviour. However, despite regional technological differences within the Still Bay, the supra-regional similarity in form may also suggest large-scale social cohesion. How do we reconstruct the drivers for this technological change? Can we go beyond simple environment-technology correlations and what evidence is needed to do this? What demographic/environmental/social/etc. requirements are needed to transmit a new technology to a larger group? Similar questions can be asked when dealing with the introduction of a new food crop, a novel form of pottery, or changes in rock art practices.

Why Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology (Still) Matters, Fifteen Years On

RL-17 Charles Arthur and Patrick Roberts

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Fifteen years ago, Peter Mitchell argued for the contemporary relevance of hunter-gatherer archaeology. In recognition of Peter's influence and support of research across the continent, we take up his call and invite scholars across Africa (and indeed beyond) to present on the diversity of hunter-gatherer archaeological records and showcase their relevance for understanding the emergence, expansion, and persistence of our species. Questions of identity and interaction and what it means to be a person, responses to climate change and extinction, and ways of relating respectfully to the non-human world are just three of the fundamental

themes to which hunter-gatherer archaeology can speak over a range of temporal and spatial scales including in the twenty-first century. We also invite reflection on defining exactly what hunter-gathering is. Are we talking about modes of subsistence, or ways of seeing and being in the world? Whatever standpoint is taken, we suggest that by comparing and contrasting hunter-gatherer records across space and time, archaeology can provide crucial insights relevant to the entirety of humankind.

The Common and the Precious: Socio-Economic Inferences on Southern African Hunter-Gatherer Communities Through the Study of Their Mineral Resources

RL-18 Laure Dayet, Guilhelm Mauran and Patrick Schmidt

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Mineral resources were long exploited by hominins: anvils, cutting tools, hammerstones, projectile points, grindstones, pigments, etc. Their exploitation requires them to be transported from the geological sources where they are available to the places where they are used, normally human occupational sites. In this respect, raw materials are major proxies of human mobility and territoriality. At a broader scale, long-distance acquisition through mobility or the exchange of resources or manufactured goods may reflect group interactions and networks. The choice of certain technologies to process mineral resources (heat treatment, pressure flaking, etc.) yields important information on the social organization of groups (level of technical skills, specialization, etc.). Functional and symbolic preferences for certain raw materials may represent essential markers of human cultures. Raw material characterization and sourcing have gradually developed over the past decades and are now powerful tools for addressing these issues. In southern Africa, raw material studies have the potential to shed new light on hunter-gatherer socio-economical organization through time. We invite contributors to explore different lines of research within this region by presenting their methodological approaches, their data, and their reflections at a theoretical level in order to discuss the interactions of past communities with their environment and with each other.

Populations and Interactions in the Southern African Late Holocene

RL-19 Tim Forssman and Iris Guillemard

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Southern Africa's late Holocene sequence integrates a wide array of identities and cultural sequences that frequently overlap. Hunting and gathering societies, for example, lived in contrasting environments and expressed variation in terms of material culture, mobility patterns, and exploitation of natural resources. From around 2000 BP, evidence of sheep occurs in Later Stone Age contexts that some suggest indicates the arrival of livestock herding, stone-tool producing communities. It is followed a few centuries later by the appearance of agropastoralist communities associated with several widespread migrations. Archaeological, linguistic, and genetic studies have highlighted the many interactions occurring between groups of people during this time. Beyond these interactions, the internal dynamics of diverse societies are also considered as factors of change, notably regarding the adoption of food-producing economies. This session aims to review the archaeological sequence of the late Holocene in order to investigate the relationships between societies practising different or episodic subsistence strategies and engaging in various forms of social, economic, and political networks across southern Africa. Theoretical perspectives on how to conceive of past populations, by moving away from essentialist conceptions, will be encouraged. Researchers from different fields, including archaeology, rock art, anthropology, linguistics, and genetics are invited to contribute to the discussion.

Rock Art Research: Ontologies and Contact

RL-20 Sam Challis

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Rock art provides a window into the worldview of the artists who created it — if only we can see past our own preconceptions. Even if one were to argue that images were a reflection of “everyday life”, one would

have to concede that they could only be interpreted with an appreciation of how the artists understood being in the world. In Africa we are fortunate enough to have access to some, if not all, of the Indigenous idioms that may obtain in contexts of art belonging to “traditional” belief systems. In step with the ontological turn this session invites papers that utilize material gathered from ethnographically relevant groups in an attempt to understand rock art. Furthermore, it recognizes that rock art created by groups coming into contact with others likewise portrays the concerns of the artists in terms of their own cultural idiom, though often altered as a result of interactions and all that these entail. It therefore also encourages papers that take cognizance of the changes to Indigenous idioms that contact brings.

METHODOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL SYMPOSIA

African Timeline: Which Geochronological Perspective?

ME-01 Eslem Ben-Arous, Chantal Tribolo, Sallie Burrough, Simon Armitage and Jean-Luc Schwenninger

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The importance of absolute chronology for understanding human past, including cultural and environmental changes, does not need to be demonstrated. Meanwhile, chronological tools (Radiocarbon, Luminescence, U-series/Electron Spin Resonance combined, AAR, Ar/Ar, K/Ar, etc.) are constantly improved and these enhancement have benefited, among others, the study of the Stone Age in Africa. This session is dedicated to a non-specialist audience and will present these recent methodological improvements. Examples of their application to the African Stone Age chronological framework throughout the Quaternary will be shown.

Chronology and Dating of Rock Art

ME-02 Adeline Bonneau and David Pearce

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A long-term difficulty in studying rock art worldwide is the lack of chronology and absolute dating. The problem is, if anything, more acute in Africa. Without clear chronologies it is difficult to correlate rock art with other archaeological and historical sources and, indeed, to perform subtle temporal and spatial studies of the art itself. The last decade has seen developments in dating methods and a considerable increase in the number of ages available for rock art images. In this session, we invite papers dealing with new data obtained on rock art in Africa (whether with relative or absolute dating), new methods for the investigation of its age, and discussions on the methods, their results, and their implications for African archaeology.

Remote Sensing and GIS Approaches to African Landscape Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: Current Trends and New Research

ME-03 Nadia Khalaf and Akinbowale Akintayo

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Remote sensing is developing as an important tool for archaeologists working in the African continent. The main advantages of this tool include: the discovery of sites, documentation, the protection of key areas, assessment of risk over time, and cost efficient analyses of large landscapes. This technology comes at a pertinent time as the effects of climate change, urban and rural development, looting, and conflict threaten vast areas. Remote sensing not only provides repeated, regular imagery, important for measuring these risk factors, but can also provide an opportunity for exploring connections between the site and the landscape, including human-environment interactions. Protecting these sites is not only important for future generations exploring the past, but can also become valuable economic assets as sustainable development strategies. The use of this technology can, however, be restricted by expertise, funding restraints, and lack of personnel. Working towards an automated open-source approach is therefore key. This session

welcomes papers from speakers using a range of geospatial methodologies including: 1) remote sensing for site detection, particularly the use of high resolution imagery, declassified satellite imagery, and LiDAR; 2) geospatial analysis for risk mapping and management of sites; 3) open source remote sensing to assess landscape change; 4) GIS and remote sensing methods for studying human-environment dynamics; and 5) automated approaches for site detection.

Geoarchaeology and Palaeoecology of Prehistoric Open-Air Sites in Alluvial and Lacustrine Landscapes

ME-04 Michael Toffolo, Kristen Worth and Britt Bousman

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The interpretation of the archaeological record at prehistoric sites depends primarily on its degree of preservation. In this regard, caves and rock shelters may offer long sequences of relatively undisturbed deposits that help the preservation of artefacts and sedimentary matrix. However, sheltered sites are not always available and often provide a biased view of some important human activities, such as foraging behaviours typical of hunter-gatherer groups that took place in the wider landscape. This information may be retrieved from open-air sites, although these are located within active sedimentary systems that may alter or obliterate traces of past occupations. Such gaps in our understanding hinder the interpretation of human-environmental interactions at key stages of human evolution. There is thus a need to better characterize the depositional and taphonomic contexts of open-air sites by looking at both their macro- and microscopic records, especially where sediments are affected by the action of water. This symposium therefore aims at exploring geoarchaeological and palaeoecological approaches that can improve the assessment of the archaeological record at prehistoric sites in alluvial and lacustrine landscapes. Methods may include (but are not limited to) micromorphology, infrared spectroscopy, absolute dating, stable isotopes, phytoliths, pollens, and high-resolution spatial analysis.

The Role of Biomolecules in Reconstructing the African Past

ME-05 Cristian Capelli, Riaan Rifkin and Simon Underdown

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The study of ancient and modern biomolecules has revolutionized how we understand the human past, allowing us to directly test hypotheses about past populations that could previously only be inferred from other lines of evidence. Revealing new species, challenging assumptions about admixture, and highlighting that processes such as animal and plant domestication are even more complex than we had assumed from traditional lines of archaeological evidence are among the results obtained. The aim of this session is thus to bring together researchers from a wide range of fields, including archaeologists, geneticists, human biologists, anthropologists, and population biologists to explore how the analysis of biomolecules can help us to understand a wide range of questions about human evolution, population structure, disease (both chronic and infectious), the migration of groups and species, and the domestication of animals and plants familiar to us today.

Glass in African Archaeology: Material and Materiality

ME-06 Abidemi Babatunde Babalola

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Material culture such as ceramics, iron objects, and stone artefacts often take the most space in archaeological enquiries in Africa. These materials not only occupy the forefront of the archaeologists' interpretative models for reconstructing Africans' past but also, by default, are designated "indigenous or local" materials. Given this, glass is relegated to the background or, as often the case, listed or described under the label "imported or small finds." These appellations have significantly limited our understanding of the significance of the occurrence of glass in archaeological contexts in Africa beyond its source(s). Indeed, quantum studies have focused attention on the issue of origin, particularly since the adoption of the

LA-ICP-MS technique for elemental analysis of archaeological glass. What role did glass play in the rise of complex societies? How did Africans technologically engage with glass as a material? How was glass making/working organized? This session aims to bring scholars together to discuss the state of the art in the study of glass in African archaeology. Presentations that address glass from a variety of perspectives engaging either old data for new interpretation or discussing new research findings are welcome. Views from ethnographic accounts that challenge or complement how we interpret archaeological glass are equally encouraged.

Digital Archaeology in Africa: Theories, Technologies, Methods, and Best Practices

ME-07 Stefania Merlo, Justine Wintjies and Vuyiswa Lupuwana

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Digital archaeology, the use of digital data, and the application of information technology and computational tools and methods in the collection, storage, management, and analysis of such data for archaeological research began in the 1960s. It can be argued that the archaeological community has to a large extent been an eager early adopter of these technologies, and since their inception digital methodologies have had a great impact on the archaeological field. Whilst the more complex digital applications such as remote sensing, advanced spatial analysis, agent-based modelling, or Bayesian statistics may not be areas with which most archaeologists deal on a daily basis, the impact that the advent of digital archaeology has made in many aspects of archaeological practice cannot be disputed. Computers of various kinds are ubiquitous and some level of engagement with the digital has become routine. From a creative and visualising perspective, the influence of VR technologies, gaming, geo-spatial mapping, GIS, films, documentaries, and drone cameras, to mention a few, have fed strongly into the types of academic and museum outputs that have come out in the last few decades. Given the significance of these digital methods and technologies, this session invites a diverse range of papers that examine their adoption and use in the context of archaeological practice in Africa and in relation to developmental and social justice issues on the continent. This symposium is interested in exploring digital applications in archaeology through a critical and theoretical lens so as to better reflect on their potential, not simply as creative add-ons to the practice of archaeology and dissemination of the past, but as generative tools that can not only challenge our interpretations of the archaeological record, but also lead to creatively reflexive methodologies whose future impact on the field is yet to be realised. It thus invites critical reflections on the entanglement of theoretical, philosophical, technological, and methodological changes that the digital revolution has made (or not made) to the way we conduct archaeological work in Africa today at global, regional, and local scales. In particular, it invites focused explorations of such issues as: 1) solutions for data acquisition with different techniques and at different scales; 2) reflections on data post-processing, analysis, visualization, and archiving; 3) concerns regarding archaeological data management; 4) the consequences of the digital revolution on human resources and work organisation, as well as the challenges of managing and using digital data; 5) critiques of the perceived improvements that digital technology and digital results bring to archaeological interpretation and its accessibility to the public; and 6) the materialities, visualities, archaeologies, and ontologies of the digital.

Ensuring a Future for Africa's Pasts: Archiving as Practice and Possibility

ME-08 Ceri Ashley, Gérard Chouin and Ann Stahl

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This session considers the urgency, challenges, possibilities, and ethical responsibilities associated with archaeological and ethnographic archiving practices (physical and digital). Ensuring digital preservation and access is commonly mandated by institutions and funding agencies that seek to enhance the **Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse (FAIR)** of data and records. Based in their practical experience, session contributors ask: Who are the audiences for our archives and how do we design archives so that they can be found, accessed, and navigated? What opportunities does the revisiting and digitization of research and museum collections and archives offer us and local communities? How do extant licensing protocols like Creative Commons or Traditional Knowledge Licenses meet the needs of

our practice? What implications do the principles of Interoperability and Reuse have for how we undertake primary description and analysis, and how can we shift practices of archiving from an end-of-project, late-in-career activity to an ongoing dimension of project management and community engagement? What lessons can we glean from the use of existing archaeological and other archives for improving how we build archives today and in the future, particularly in the light of growing concerns and commitments to decolonize professional practice and enhance the relevance of work to contemporary communities?

Heritage Management and Development in Africa: National and/Versus Local Iterations

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The integration of heritage management into sustainable development has been made explicit in different contexts in Africa. At the international level, these include the 2015 UNESCO Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development. At regional and national levels, the African Renaissance calls for new development paths based on indigenous heritage, echoing some liberation leaders. Yet, these official discourses and approaches are only one way of declining heritage management and development in Africa. A number of other, more localized paths have also been tested. None of these approaches and tools are neutral. They reflect specific historicities and are embedded within geo-political contexts and entangled in diverse power relations. This session aims to consider, in a holistic manner, how all of these different approaches to heritage management and development have been implemented at national and local levels, as well as the interfaces and power relations between local communities and states parties in this process. It welcomes papers that: 1) assess critically how international and national discourses on heritage management and development are understood, re-appropriated, and challenged at national and local levels; 2) critically consider more localized approaches to heritage management and development; 3) assess how historical perspectives and methodologies can provide a lens through which to understand approaches to heritage management and development at varying scales; and 4) clarify how power relations play out between state representatives and locals, on issues of heritage management and development.

Engaged Archaeologies and Prospects for Social Justice

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Regional conversations regarding social justice have gained top billing as points of discussion within academic spaces. The political landscape remains a highly contested space from which many sectors of the public continue to feel marginalized and excluded. Contemporary issues within the political landscape relating to land reform, gentrification, social housing, food security, sustainable development, spatial planning, and public monuments are of relevance for archaeologists and heritage practitioners. While archaeological and heritage voices have huge potential to contribute, we have often not been involved, or have failed to drive conversations relating to these social justice issues. The result of this is that the relevance of archaeology in society remains to be fully realised. This session aims to bring into discussion the potential of archaeology as a tool for engaging with society and communities, as well as the possibilities of creating new ways to practise the discipline in a more socially conscious way. We welcome a wide range of papers, including discussions relating to creative collaborations, new research methodologies, reflections on heritage and practice, and papers that explore new approaches for archaeologists wanting to facilitate and drive the conversation forward.

The Past Through the Past: Constructing Identity, Tradition, and Community in Africa

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In many modern societies identity and social boundaries are often constructed through binary oppositions between “past” and “present” or “us” and “them.” In our “present,” the past is frequently conceptualized through a flux of shifting ideas, images, and categories that are associated with material culture from different periods and regions. Fields such as archaeology, art history, and classics, for instance, use material culture to make sense of the past and present it in a more tangible and imaginable form to the present. Since the start of the twenty-first century, historians have been paying close attention, on the one hand, to the genealogy and underpinnings of these interpretative approaches and, on the other, to the ways in which societies have actualized the material traces of the past for political and socio-economic reasons. This symposium sets out to explore the ways in which African societies approached their own past, with a focus on the relationship between identity and material culture. Topics of interest include: how did societies forge new connections with ruins and monuments that were present in the territories they inhabited? In which ways was material culture used to support competing interpretations of the past? Is it possible to identify traces of iconoclasm in the historical and archaeological record of Africa? How were human activities shaped by different concepts of time?