

EAA

2021 Kiel, 6-11 Sept.

Widening Horizons

Virtual Meeting



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27th EAA Annual Meeting (Kiel Virtual, 2021)

ABSTRACT BOOK

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3 STORIES FROM CALCHAQUÍ (NW ARGENTINA): CIRCULATION, ASYMMETRIES, AND ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

Abstract author(s): Lazzari, Marisa (University of Exeter) - Scattolin, Maria (Instituto de las Culturas- Universidad de Buenos Aires & CONICET; Universidad Nacional de La Plata)

Abstract format: Oral

European-led archaeological exploration and research varied enormously across the Americas in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. The lesser known history of these engagements in NW Argentina (NWA) points at root problems that continue to affect international cooperation today. Besides some remarkable records that are still in use today, the collective activities of early European practitioners have impacted enormously on both local researchers and descendant communities' ability to both understand and engage with the region's pre-Columbian past. This complex legacy, characterised by systematic and unsystematic excavations, field diaries and notes, as well as extensive artefact collection and exportation practices of various calibres, was predicated on the alienation of living indigenous communities from their past. This epistemic violence erased, through the will of the camera, the pen, and the spade, the desires and expectations of those who, as hired field labourers and guides, fearfully complied with orders to exhume ancient bodies and artefacts. This steady stream of practices and discourses concealed native peoples behind their objects and shaped Argentina's early scientific archaeology, setting the bases for its development throughout subsequent decades.

From the perspective of the Calchaquí valleys region of NWA, we propose three themes to critically address this legacy: Early travellers; Object Lessons; and Roads and Habitats. The first theme examines the enduring impact of the words and actions of very different figures in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. The second theme the strange relocation stories of two objects, exposing a system of hierarchical and asymmetric practices of heritage management and knowledge production, which continue to undermine contemporary collaboration. The third theme addresses cooperation and collaboration today, through the lens of our experience in the last 13 years, offering conceptual elements for more equitable, integrated, and sustainable international cooperation.

4 ORIGINS AND EARLY EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS

Abstract author(s): Ziolkowski, Mariusz (Centre of Andean Studies, University of Warsaw)

Abstract format: Oral

The International Congress of Americanists is probably one of the most long-lasting scientific conferences in the world. The first one took place in 1875 in Nancy (France). At that time the first 16 points of its statute were formulated, of which the most important for the subject of the present symposium is the first one. It defined the areas of interest of the future meetings, namely: Contribution to the progress of the study of the ethnography, linguistics, and historic relations of the two Americas, especially during the pre-Columbian period.

But the Congress also had a strong political aspect at that time: all the major states sent their official delegates as far away as Japan and Turkey.

The first 10 congresses were held in Europe, but since the eleventh one in Mexico City it has been established that the meetings will be held alternately in Europe and in the Americas. During this initial period there was an interesting evolution of the themes of the presentations and discussions, which reoriented the direction of studies on the New World past.

549 ANCIENT PASTORALIST ADAPTATIONS IN THE EURASIAN STEPPE: THE INTERSECTION OF BIOMOLECULAR AND LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

Theme: 1. Widening horizons through human-environment interconnections

Organisers: Wright, Joshua (University of Aberdeen) - Makarewicz, Cheryl (Institute for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University)

Format: Regular session

The Eurasian steppe is a vast, culturally connected region long inhabited by pastoralist societies that developed highly successful adaptations to its challenging landscapes. Extensive archaeological excavations and survey has uncovered a deep record of mortuary activity set within a rich monumental landscape that brought together spatially disparate communities and served as dynamic arenas of socio-political negotiation. Genomic research revealing major genetic turnovers associated with large-scale population movement and replacements has further distinguished the steppe as a busy geographic locale, a zone of interaction one flowing with people who carried with them their diverse technologies, modes of social organization, and styles. However, surprisingly little is known about the scales and modes of mobility that underscored the reshaping of steppe populations or how livestock husbandry – the backbone of pastoralist societies, emerged and evolved in the varied cultural and ecological contexts of the steppe. Similarly, the ways in which pastoralist diets were shaped by access to other animal and plant resources are generally not well-understood, and the articulation between political organization and economic dynamics has been theorized but not yet studied in detail.

This session seeks to bring together new insights into the subsistence, socio-political, and mobility dynamics of ancient pastoralist communities that inhabited diverse environmental and cultural contexts of the Eurasian steppe. This session welcomes new perspectives derived from excavations and survey, fauna and botanical remains, and the biomolecular and genomic records with

the overall aim of building holistic explanatory frameworks that better resolves why and how pastoralism spread across the diverse environments of the steppe and examine the ways in which pastoralist intensification, diversification, and longevity contributed to the formation of complex societies of the steppe.

ABSTRACTS:

1 COMPARATIVE LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY IN CENTRAL EURASIA: DEVELOPING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PASTORALISM IN LOWLAND AND HIGHLAND RESEARCH

Abstract author(s): Rouse, Lynne (Eurasia Dept, DAI)

Abstract format: Oral

The archaeological study of pastoralism in ancient central Eurasia is undergoing a sea change. Perceptions of pastoral economic, cultural, and political systems developed during the 20th century are bumping up against an increase in the number and types of sites recorded through excavation and survey data, new quantitative data streams from previously-uncollected or -uncollectable types of remains, and theoretical revisions to the concept of "nomadism" in neighboring areas of the Old World. Especially in light of the diverse forms pastoralism and its developments took across ancient central Eurasia, how might we attempt to reconcile our previous and emergent perceptions of pastoralism in the region? This presentation offers a brief overview of the intertwined development of scholarly views of pastoralism and landscape archaeology approaches in the region, illustrated through a comparison of research in lowland and highland zones. These examples help outline the importance of local socio-economic context and analytical scale in (re-)building our perceptions of ancient pastoralism, and ultimately, the ways pastoralist diversity may be incorporated into holistic regional frameworks describing the long-term development of Eurasian social complexity.

2 EURASIAN BRONZE AGE PASTORAL ECONOMY AND PEOPLES 'MOVES

Abstract author(s): Shishlina, Natalia (State Historical museum)

Abstract format: Oral

Creation and development of a new economic model by steppe mobile pastoralists was accompanied by development of new principles of intra-site organization and landscape resource use. New methods and approaches facilitated discovery of a special type of settlements that appeared in the arid areas of the steppe belt of the Russian Plain, i.e. a seasonal campsite.

Analysis of characteristics of the occupation layer, archaeological, archaeozoological and archaeobotanical materials from the discovered campsites, seasonality, radiocarbon dating, isotope data on humans and animals provided an opportunity to discuss subsistence and seasonal migration systems as well as settlement patterns of pastoral groups, which inhabited the Sal-Manych steppes in 5200-2200 calBC. Isotopic markers of animals as well as of humans are also very helpful in reconstructing movements of the population and their herds across the exploited areas. Seasonal migrations of small mobile pastoral groups, whose aim was to search for and exploit rangelands beyond the nearby areas, were traced down.

3 MOBILITY IN THE GOBI-ALTAI MOUNTAINS (MONGOLIA): A DIACHRONIC ANALYTICAL APPROACH

Abstract author(s): Dal Zovo, Cecilia - Parcero-Oubiña, César - González-García, A. César (Incipit-CSIC) - Güimil-Fariña, Alejandro (DIMENSO Spatial Technologies)

Abstract format: Oral

The archaeological research increasingly investigates the mobility of nomadic and semi-nomadic communities in light of their potential role in the development of early trans-Eurasian interconnections. Spatial modelling based on the analysis of genetic, archaeological, and zoo-archaeological information has recently opened stimulating research horizons on pastoral mobility in Central Eurasia. However, the chronological depth of modern paths and routes interconnecting steppe, high-mountain, and arid environments has been scarcely considered in this regard. In this paper, we illustrate our mapping of paths presently or until-recently used by the local herders in the Gobi-Altai Mountains (Bayankhongor Aimag, Mongolia). Moreover, we analyse paths' relation to ancient archaeological features, particularly the (1181) Late Prehistoric mounds located in the same research area. The results of our spatial analysis indicate that there is a consistent pattern of spatial proximity between modern pastoral paths and ritual and funerary structures of the 2nd and 1st millennium BC. This (statistically) significant relationship is open to multiple interpretations that will hopefully contribute to the general discussion. The outcomes of our study namely suggest that the modern articulation of both long-distance and local paths could be rooted in the spatial choices of the Late Bronze and Iron Age people. This diachronic perspective can also help to elucidate the impact of pastoral mobility on the shaping of local and global dynamics in the Eurasian landscape over time.

4 DYNAMICS IN BURIAL CUSTOMS OF THE SINTASHTA CULTURE AND THE BEGINNING OF PASTORALISM IN THE SOUTHERN URALS

Abstract author(s): Schreiber, Finn (Independent researcher)

Abstract format: Oral

Sumptuous archaeological burials capture the imaginations of scholars and the public alike. This is also true for the Sintashta and related Middle Bronze Age cultures, which is famous for an elaborate burial ritual including even traces of some of the earliest chari-