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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

Abstract Book

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Author's affiliation is stated in brackets following the author's name; where authors share the same affiliation, it is only stated once.

Index of Authors includes all session organisers and only the main authors of contributions.

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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting – Abstract Book

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research in ways that are accessible, engaging and meaningful, and lead (and mentor) by example; otherwise they risk reproducing the structural inequalities inherent in the academy. By identifying key areas for improvement in the practice of environmental archaeology and suggesting ways to address perceived shortcomings, I will attempt to establish a responsible research program focusing on human-environmental interactions on the island of Newfoundland in Canada. I will do this by presenting a pilot project aiming to examine the legacies of cultural and ecological interactions at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of L'Anse aux Meadows to be critically appraised by the audience.

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INTERDISCIPLINARITY. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT BETTER!

Abstract author(s): Nilsson Stutz, Liv (Linnaeus University)

Abstract format: Oral

Archaeology has a long history with interdisciplinarity. Through collaborations across the board, archaeology has been a frequent borrower of theories and methods from other disciplines, and the development of these relationships can be read as a history of the trends shaping the field throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. It can be said that archaeology, to a large extent has become defined by its partners, not by its own core.

In recent years, archaeology has rekindled its relationship with the natural sciences, following a general trend of a desire for hard facts, abandoning the Humanities said to be "in crisis" (as a backlash against postmodernism) and also following the reward system of the Academy where the natural sciences offer better grant prospects and heavier impact factors. This kind of interdisciplinarity is, without a doubt, valuable, but it also has its limitations, in particular in how it affects the research process and the research questions by narrowing them down to fit the natural science model. Another problem with the dominating interdisciplinary models in archaeology is that they are limited to a dyadic relationship which misses out on the possibilities of really engaging with a broad range of disciplinary perspectives.

This paper takes a critical look at the mechanics of these relationships and how they affect the field of archaeology. It makes the case for a more radical way for archaeology to embrace a broader set of disciplines going forward, in particular by deepening its relationship to the social sciences, and advocates for the importance of disciplinary literacy."

7

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT. THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSLATION IN INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

Abstract author(s): van Helden, Daniël (University of Leicester)

Abstract format: Oral

While boundaries between disciplines are indeed historical relics, and therefore not a natural given, to call them arbitrary is perhaps an overstatement. In archaeology we are used to the idea that although human behaviour is not law-governed in the same way that natural processes are, neither are the results of this behaviour random. Thus, while many outcomes are possible from a historical situation, they are not equally probable. I would argue that, even though the exact position of disciplinary boundary is arbitrary, coarse divisions do exist with the sciences (understood inclusively to contain the humanities as well as the natural sciences).

It is these underlying divisions that really characterise the challenge of interdisciplinarity. People communicate and think in different ways in different fields. This should not be overstated, it does not reflect some Kuhnian incommensurability, but through training people are 'disciplined' in ways that are specific to their chosen field. This divergent disciplining is like speaking different languages; it is not impossible to communicate, but it takes effort. Most problems with interdisciplinarity reduce to such communication difficulties; from misunderstandings within projects to different ways of communicating results (i.e. problems with publishing in outlets that are judged by disciplinary codes).

Fundamentally, the only solution to a communications problem is more communication. Using real-life examples, I will argue that there is a crucial role for 'translators' in truly successful interdisciplinary work. It is such translators that, through speaking multiple disciplinary languages, enable bridging the, very real, communication gaps. Without them, interdisciplinarity is often just juxtaposition of different disciplinary results without much connection between them.

Interdisciplinarity has real potential, but it requires explicit, dedicated, attention to communication to be more than a fashionable buzzword.

8

METHODOLOGICAL ANARCHISM AGAINST INTERDISCIPLINARITY: BREAKING DOWN METHODOLOGICAL WALLS

Abstract author(s): Ribeiro, Artur (Christian-Albrechts-Universitat)

Abstract format: Oral

It seems that any archaeological project that wants to be funded and noticed by peers requires incorporating something called "interdisciplinary research". A brief perusal through the titles and abstracts of the sessions at this EAA conference shows that around 40 to 50 of them contain the word 'interdisciplinary' or some other variation of this term. Yet, to paraphrase Alexandra Ion, one should ask: how interdisciplinary is interdisciplinarity?

This paper will argue two points: first, interdisciplinary research, as it is practiced in archaeology today, is detrimental to the progress of the discipline. Interdisciplinarity has simply become a buzzword that attracts funding by making archaeology more scientific.

By being more scientific, the chances of publishing in high-ranking journals is enabled, which in turn, guarantees further funding. Additionally, the methods of the human and cultural sciences are suppressed in interdisciplinary research – the objects of analysis traditionally studied by the human and cultural sciences are reduced to proxies or quantifiable metrics, which are then used primarily to reach consilience with the hypotheses established by the natural sciences.

Second, this paper will also argue that the use of natural science techniques does not provide a more accurate, objective, or factual perception of the past, as opposed to the human and cultural sciences, only a different form of knowledge. In short, what is needed in archaeology is not necessarily interdisciplinarity, but rather methodological anarchism. From a methodological anarchist standpoint, what is valued is the information that can be obtained regardless of method or discipline. Additionally, methodological anarchism favours different forms of knowledge, not just more knowledge of the same kind. Finally, methodological anarchism breaks down walls concerning what is conventionally or implicitly considered "high-quality" research, opening up the discipline to ideas and methods that have been ignored for far too long.

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PLANTS MEET ARTIFACTS: DEVELOPING INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO IDENTIFY PLANT PROCESSING AND USE IN ARCHAEOLOGY [ARCHAEOLOGY OF WILD PLANTS]

Theme: 5. Theories and methods in archaeology: interactions between disciplines

Organisers: Arranz Otaegui, Amaia (Dept. of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen) - Cubas, Miriam (Dept. of History and Philosophy, Universidad de Alcalá) - Rosenberg, Danny (Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa) - Ibáñez, Juan José (Instituto Milá i Fontanals, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

Format: Regular session

Archaeologists have long searched for methods to identify the use and function of prehistoric artefacts. The increasing application of use-wear, molecular and experimental approaches to the study of pottery vessels, flint and ground stone tools have provided crucial new insights into prehistoric tool use. However, whereas analytical methods to identify animal-derived resources are relatively well established, direct evidence for plant processing, use and consumption continues to be largely "hidden" in the archaeological record.

The aim of the session is to bring together specialists on the study of different archaeological artefacts (e.g. pottery, ground stone and flint tools), archaeobotanists (plant macro- and microremains), biomolecular archaeologists (organic residue analyses) and researchers specialized on experimental archaeology to discuss current approaches to identify the preparation and use of plant resources in the past.

We encourage problem-based interdisciplinary case studies that combine multiple lines of evidence to solve a particular question or hypothesis. Presentations highlighting the potentials and limitations of the different methods in use will also be welcome, as well as those applying new techniques or material studies (e.g. charred food crusts). Research themes are open (e.g. food preparation, processing, cooking, raw materials...), and contributions from all periods and geographic regions are generally welcome.

At the end of the session, we will organize a round table to discuss sampling and study protocols that allow multi and inter-disciplinary approaches to be implemented and guarantee the comparability of results between sites.

ABSTRACTS

1

STRIPPING GRAINS – AN EARLY CEREAL PROCESSING TECHNIQUE REVEALED THROUGH USE-WEAR ANALYSIS AND EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Abstract author(s): Groman-Yaroslavski, Iris - Barshay, Katerina - Koporovsky, Maya (University of Haifa; Zinman Institute of Archaeology)

Abstract format: Oral

Flint sickle blades begin to appear on a regular basis in the Levant during the Late Epipaleolithic period ca. 15,000 BP. They are considered a Natufian innovation in the southern Levant, representing intensification in the exploitation of cereal resources. In a use-wear analysis conducted lately on sickle blades from several archaeological sites, a feature in the shape of transversal striations associated with the cereal use-wear polish was noticed and investigated. This feature appears on items from a Natufian context through the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period, indicating the use of the specific technique of stripping to remove the grains from the stems after the harvest. Experimentation replicating such an activity, applied to wild barley and domesticated emmer wheat explains the purpose and advantages of this technique. Using different types of sickles, equipped with different types of cutting blades, the stripping technique was found to be efficient for separating the grains from the stems and also acts as a threshing device for dehusking. We propose a new reconstruction of a processing sequence, characterizing the earliest stages of inventing cereal harvesting and processing technologies, before the age of threshing floors and tribulum. We present indicative microscopic traces and results of the experimental program, compared to some archaeological examples from the southern Levant.

9 need for a combined approach for the study of ‘foodcrusts’ using digital microscopy, Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and organic chemical analyses. Preliminary results from the INDUCE Project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), on ‘foodcrusts’ preserved inside hunter-gatherer vessels from sites located in North-East Europe are presented here. These show differential use of pottery vessels for the processing and preparation of plant and animal foods and shed light on culinary practices during the Early Neolithic in Europe.

9 WHAT’S IN THE COOKING POTS? - SEM AND LIPID ANALYSES ON FOODCRUSTS FROM THE EARLY NEOLITHIC IN THE NETHERLANDS

Abstract author(s): Kubiak-Martens, Lucy (BIAX Consult, Biological Archaeology & Environmental Reconstruction, Zaandam) - Demirci, Özge (Groningen Institute of Archaeology, Groningen) - Lucquin, Alexandre (BioArch, Department of Archaeology, University of York)

Abstract format: Oral

This research aims to understand the use of pottery from one of the Early Neolithic Swifterbant Culture sites -S4 (4300-4000 cal BC), in the Netherlands by combining different methodological approaches to the study of charred foodcrusts and to pottery analysis. The broad-spectrum subsistence economy of the site included wild and domestic animals, aquatic food resources, local cereal cultivation, and the gathering of wild plants. Although the early pottery from this site has been extensively studied, its function and the extent of its use have remained the subject of an ongoing discussion.

Food residues, either found firmly encrusted on the pottery or extracted as lipids that were absorbed into the pottery, are considered to reflect the original vessel contents. They provide an optimal source of information about how people prepared their daily meals and what pots were used. The study of food crusts and the analysis of the extracted lipids, however, is a complex matter and a single research method is never sufficient to fully understand daily cooking practices in prehistory.

Therefore, in our research, three different disciplines, each with its own highly sensitive methodology, were combined to identify the use of the S4 pottery. The SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) was used to study tiny fragments of cereal and other plant tissues that survived the processes of food preparation and cooking. Bulk stable isotope analysis of the foodcrust and the lipid residue analysis on the pottery were used to detect and differentiate specific biomarkers for ruminant, non-ruminant, aquatic and dairy food resources. The results from these three disciplines were joined together in our search for a better understanding of the use of Swifterbant pottery. This is the first time in Dutch archaeology that these methods were combined and successfully applied to a series of examples from the Early Neolithic Swifterbant sites.

10 INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALYSES OF TUBER GATHERING, PROCESSING AND CONSUMPTION: EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN ACTION

Abstract author(s): Pedersen, Patrick - Arranz-Otaegui, Amaia - Jörgensen-Lindahl, Anne (Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen)

Abstract format: Oral

Ethnographic evidence shows that underground storage organs (USO) represent one of the most important plant-foods consumed by modern hunter-gatherers. At the early Natufian site of Shubayqa 1 (14.4-14.2 ka cal. BP, northeastern Jordan), thousands of club-rush tubers (*Bolboschoenus glaucus*) were identified in two fireplaces, indicating their recurrent roasting. To understand how these plants were gathered, processed and consumed, an interdisciplinary framework was designed where experiments with modern equivalents formed the basis. The work combined ethnographic data, taphonomic analyses of modern club-rush tubers, and use-wear analysis of the experimental groundstone and flint tools. To start, club-rush tubers were gathered by lake Burqu, the closest modern lake area to the site. The best season for tuber collection was evaluated, and different gathering methods tested. The tubers were peeled in multiple ways: by hand, using flint tools and by roasting. The clean tubers were subsequently processed using both mortars and grinding slabs, and the resulting plant products evaluated in terms of the size and shape of the particles. The tuber flour was mixed with wheat flour at different proportions and the dough cooked on the ashes of a fireplace and on top of heated basalt stones. The results of these experiments allow us to evaluate some of the options for the gathering, processing and cooking of club-rush tubers in the past. The experimental plant remains as well as the lithics produced during the different experimental stages will be essential to interpret the archaeological remains found at Shubayqa 1.

11 INVESTIGATING LATE-NEOLITHIC HUSKING TRAYS THROUGH INTEGRATED USE-WEAR AND PHYTOLITH STUDIES

Abstract author(s): Taranto, Sergio (Department of Prehistory, Autonomous University of Barcelona; LTFAPA. Laboratory of Technological and Functional Analyses of Prehistoric Artefacts, Department of Classics, Sapienza University of Rome) - Portillo Ramirez, Marta (Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, Archaeology of Social Dynamics - 2017SGR 995, Institució Milà i Fontanals - IMF, Spanish National Research Council - CSIC, Barcelona) - Gomez Bach, Anna - Molist Montaña, Miquel (Department of Prehistory, Autonomous University of Barcelona) - Le Miere, Marie (Associate Researcher, Archéorient, CNRS-Université Lyon 2) - Forte, Vanessa - Lemorini, Cristina (LTFAPA. Laboratory of Technological and Functional Analyses of Prehistoric Artefacts, Department of Classics, Sapienza University of Rome)

Abstract format: Oral

The so-called husking tray is a pottery shape attested during the 7th and the first half of the 6th millennium BC in the Near East. These vessels are large trays with surfaces crossed by scored patterns. It has been hypothesized a functionality related to cereal-processing and bread making, further supported by ethnographical and experimental evidence.

The Neolithic site of Tell Sabi Abyad (northern Syria) has provided diverse ceramic material including storage vessels, as well as a wide range of macrobotanical remains such as hulled barley, emmer wheat, lentil, chickpea and flax. The results of use-wear and phytolith analyses from a selection of husking tray assemblages from the Late Neolithic settlement are discussed here. Use-wear distributions over their surfaces showed patterns related to the detachment of plant foods such as ‘bread-like’ materials, according to experimentally-produced records. In turn, phytolith results indicated the nature of the plant material adhered to the vessel surfaces which is dominated by Pooideae grasses. Multicellular or anatomical connected phytoliths from the husks of wheat and barley were common in these assemblages. Overall, these results suggest a functionality related to the processing of cereals into bread. This integrated approach further supports the hypothesis that husking trays were used for baking to better understand Late Neolithic culinary practices.

12 IDENTIFYING ANDEAN CROP PROCESSING AND CONSUMPTION IN THE AREA OF QUEBRADA DE HUMAHUACA (ARGENTINA) UNDER INCA DOMINATION

Abstract author(s): Musaubach, Maria (Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales. Universidad Nacional de Jujuy; InDyA - CONICET, UNJu, UNT, Gob. de Jujuy) - Scaro, Agustina (INECOA - CONICET, UNJu; Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales. Universidad Nacional de Jujuy)

Abstract format: Oral

Cooking practices were an integral part of the political, social and productive life of pre-Hispanic communities. During the Inca domination, new cooking and commensality practices were put into practice for the first time, which brought together new forms of status and social recognition. This paper focuses on Andean crop processing techniques and consumption during the Inca period. Through inter-disciplinary analyses of plant-foods and ceramic vessels we investigate culinary practices associated to domestic and non-domestic elite contexts and evaluate the role of different foods for the Inca communities of the area of Quebrada de Humahuaca (North of Argentina). The analysed materials were recovered at two major archaeological sites in the southern part of Quebrada de Humahuaca, called Pucara de Volcán and Esquina de Huajra. They are conglomerated settlements with an Inca occupation dated to circa 430 BP. In order to study culinary techniques we followed and developed two main approaches: archaeobotanical studies of plant micro-remains and use-wear analysis of pottery. The first study was carried out on grinding stone tools recovered in Pucara de Volcán and dental calculus of two individuals buried in Esquina de Huajra. Use-wear analysis was carried out in ceramic vessels from both sites, and abrasive and non-abrasive processes were considered to infer functional aspects linked to plant processing activities. These analyses are complemented with the contextual study of the materials, to highlight differences between domestic and non-domestic contexts. The results of this study highlight that Zea mays (maize), Phaseolus sp. (beans) and tubers were important ingredients of ancient recipes. The presence of diverse grinding stone tools indicates the preparation of flour. Finally, vessels with traces of soot and abrasive processes point out to the processing of stew-like foodstuffs.

13 MOTE: AN ANCIENT RECIPE IN ANDEAN KITCHENS. EXPERIMENTAL AND TAPHONOMIC ANALYSIS

Abstract author(s): Musaubach, Maria (Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales. Universidad Nacional de Jujuy; InDyA - CONICET, UNJu, UNT, Gob. de Jujuy) - Scaro, Agustina (INECOA - CONICET, UNJu; Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales. Universidad Nacional de Jujuy)

Abstract format: Oral

Mote or muti is a traditional Andean recipe that can be traced to pre-Hispanic kitchens. This culinary practice consists of boiling maize grains that were previously dried and peeled with lime or plant ashes (nixtamalization). According to early Spanish sources, this dish forms the dietary staple of common people. Currently, this recipe is also prepared with wheat grains, although maize remains the most important ingredient. Given the difficulty to reconstruct past cooking practices, in this opportunity, food processing pathways of mote preparation in Quebrada de Humahuaca (South-central Andes) are presented to generate indicators for its identification in the archaeological record, concerning both plant macro and micro-remains and the culinary equipment used.

A combined approach that includes ethnobotany, ethnography, experimentation, and archaeological methodologies led us to recre-

APPROACH TO PLANT-CRAFTS TECHNIQUES FROM THE BASAL MAT IMPRINTS OF BRONZE AGE CERAMICS IN THE NORTHEAST OF IBERIAN PENINSULA

Abstract author(s): Piqué, Raquel - Bodganovic, Igor (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Departament de Prehistòria) - Homs, Anna (Independent researcher) - López-Bultó, Oriol (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Departament de Prehistòria) - Palomo Pérez, Antoni (Museu d’Arqueologia de Catalunya) - Romero-Brugués, Susana - Tzerpou, Evdoxia (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Departament de Prehistòria)

Abstract format: Oral

Prehistoric evidence of plant crafts is scarce in the Iberian Peninsula. The few sites that have provided samples of baskets are restricted to the Southeast of Iberia where dry conditions have favoured the conservation of plant-based implements as textiles, baskets, and ropes. In the Northeast of Iberia, the environment is not appropriate for this type of the conservation and the examples are still rarer, but it should be mentioned the waterlogged early Neolithic site of La Draga (Banyoles) or bronze age contexts of the Cova dels Moros d’Alins (Alins) where fragments of baskets have been preserved. Indirect evidence of craft plant techniques are the imprints of mats and baskets in the base of ceramic pots. They appear in Northeast of Iberia in chronologies of Early Bronze age (circa 2000-1500 BC). Although these pots have been usually studied from the perspective of pottery little attention has been paid with respect to their significance in terms of crafts technology. The objective of this paper is to study mats imprints to provide light on the evolution of plant crafts technology in Northeast Iberia. We combine 3D scanning and experimentation to identify the craft technics of Cova Fonda (Salomó), Cova de Vallmajor (Albinyana), Cova del Foric (Os de Balaguer) and Banys de la Mercè (Capmany) where several pieces with basal mats imprints have been recovered. The imprints allow identifying coiling techniques and details of the production process of mats.

USE OF PLANTS BY THE FUNNEL BEAKER CULTURE COMMUNITIES IN POLAND

Abstract author(s): Sobkowiak-Tabaka, Iwona - Rennwanz, Joanna (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Centre for Prehistoric and Medieval Studies, Poznań)

Abstract format: Oral

Plants played an extremely important role in the Funnel Beaker Culture (TRB). Apart from their primary value as a source of food, they were used in many different fields of life of TRB communities at that time. In this paper we present the findings from several archaeological sites of sedimentary type from Poland.

We selected materials, each time precisely related to the archaeological context, such as macroscopic plant remains, fragments of ceramic vessels and daub containing plant imprints, mineralized plant tissues chose from clay, and numerous charcoals. These sources were obtained primarily from economic pits of various purposes and the remains of residential buildings. Both stereoscopic and scanning electron microscopes were used to identify them. We try to indicate the compatibility of sources and methods used, especially in the case of reanalysis of archival materials.

In the paper, we discuss the importance of plants in the economy of the TRB community, especially in the context of their cultivation, storage and processing. A particularly interesting was to learn the technique of ceramic vessel production in terms of the organic admixture used, the use of plants, including fibrous species and wood, at various stages of construction of residential houses and accompanying infrastructure, linking them with the calendar of economic activities, as well as a detailed case study indicating the use of plants for medicinal purposes.

We present new data, including the first identifications of some species for TRB culture from present-day Poland.

a. COMBINING USE-WEAR AND RESIDUE ANALYSES OF GRINDING STONES AND EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES TO DETERMINE PLANT USE AT EARLY NEOLITHIC GÖBEKLI TEPE

Abstract author(s): Dietrich, Oliver - Dietrich, Laura (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) - Meister, Julia (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)

Abstract format: Poster

The well-known site of Göbekli Tepe (9.600-8.000 cal BC) consists of monumental round to oval buildings with richly decorated T-shaped pillars, erected in an earlier phase, and smaller rectangular buildings, built around them in a partially contemporaneous and later phase. Among the finds from the site, the number of tools related to food processing, including grinding slabs/bowls, hand-stones, pestles, and mortars, is striking. We analyzed more than 7000 artifacts. This high frequency is unusual for contemporary sites in the region. Using an integrated approach of formal, experimental, and macro- / microscopical use-wear analyses we show

that Neolithic people at Göbekli Tepe have produced standardized and efficient grinding tools, most of which have been used for the processing of cereals. Additional phytolith analysis confirms the massive presence of cereals at the site, filling the gap left by the weakly preserved charred macro-rests. The organization of work and food supply has always been a central question of research into Göbekli Tepe, as the construction and maintenance of the monumental architecture would have necessitated a considerable work force. Contextual analyses of the distribution of the elements of the grinding kit on site highlight a clear link between plant food preparation and the rectangular buildings and indicate clear delimitations of working areas for food production on the terraces the structures lie on, surrounding the circular buildings.

COLLABORATIVE SYNTHESIS: THE EAA-SAA HUMAN MIGRATION PROJECTS

Theme: 3. Sustainable archaeology and heritage in an unsustainable world

Organisers: Altschul, Jeff (Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis; SRI Foundation) - Richards, Julian (Archaeology Data Service, University of York) - Kintigh, Keith (Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis; Arizona State University)

Format: Regular session

In 2019, the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) sponsored a Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis (CfAS) design workshop on human migration as understood from a long-term perspective. The workshop included 15 participants from seven countries, representing work on six continents, ranging from the Paleolithic to homeless migrants, with expertise that varied from aDNA to ethnography. The objective of the workshop was to develop proposals for collaborative synthetic projects that focused on establishing the factors stimulating human migration, the conditions and processes implicated in the success of the incorporation of immigrant groups at their destination, and how these new understandings might inform contemporary public policy. Three project ideas emerged from the workshop: (1) climate migrants of the past, present, and future; (2) leveraging archaeology for migrations of the present (LAMP); and (3) long-term effects of past migrations on human security. In this session we will discuss the origins and outcomes of the workshop, update the status of each project and how EAA members can become involved. Presenters also will inform on the importance of using archaeology to understand contemporary migration with case studies from Hungary and statements from the EAA and SAA.

ABSTRACTS

THE ORIGIN AND OUTCOME OF THE EAA-SAA DESIGN WORKSHOP ON HUMAN MIGRATION

Abstract author(s): Altschul, Jeff (SRI Foundation; Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis)

Abstract format: Oral

In 2019, the Coalition of Archaeological Synthesis (CfAS) held a design workshop on understanding human migration from a long-term perspective. The workshop, co-sponsored by the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), grew out of a frustration that the public debate shaping migration policy was not informed by research into the deep-rooted social processes that affect migration. To change this dynamic, EAA and SAA turned to CfAS, which uses a model of collaborative synthesis that relies on face-to-face interaction by small, diverse groups of experts to provide evidenced-based results that inform on issues facing modern society. CfAS invited 15 participants, representing seven countries and research from six continents. Starting from the United Nations’ position that every person is entitled to human security, the participants outlined three conceptual projects for which archaeological data are essential: (1) establishing global, historic variation in rates of migration at regional and community levels; (2) examining how the characteristics of past migrations affect different dimensions of human security; and (3) identifying the social conditions that make societies more vulnerable to climate-related migration. In this session, each of these projects will be presented in greater detail along with their current status. We also discuss what we have learned through this process and how it will shape the future direction of CfAS and the Center for Collaborative Synthesis in Archaeology. Finally, we will hear from the leadership of the SAA and EAA about the importance of synthetic research on issues of relevance to modern society.

CLIMATE MIGRANTS OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Abstract author(s): Aldenderfer, Mark (University of California, Merced) - Bird, Douglas - Douglass, Kristina (Pennsylvania State University) - Gauthier, Nicolas (University of Arizona) - Ingram, Scott (Colorado College) - Scaffidi, Beth (Arizona State University)

Abstract format: Oral

The world’s Indigenous peoples are among those most dramatically affected by the increasingly rapid pace of global climate warming and many will become climate-related migrants, losing both their homelands and lifeways. Although contemporary social scientists have studied climate-related migration and its outcomes intensively, little consensus has been reached to define the most significant social and environmental factors that promote or constrain migration and that may have been responsible for creating conditions of vulnerability in the societies confronted by climate change. This situation has been worsened by a failure to consider the historical contexts of migrations and the ways in which past decisions have affected modern outcomes. Our project, one of the three proposals initiated by the 2019 CfAS workshop on migration, proposes that comparative, synthetic archaeological research offers a powerful way to explore systematically the interaction of social and ecological factors within contexts of climate-related migra-