

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**  
School of Humanities

# PGRAS 8

28.05.2009



Organised by  
I. Antoniadou, V. Démou & K. Ruebens

# PGRAS 8

28.05.2009

Vedia Izzet <i>Introduction</i>	09.30 – 09.35
<b>1:Representation</b>	
Sara Perry <i>The Archaeological Eye: Mobilising Vision at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, 1926-1946</i>	09.35 – 09.55
Alexandra Walker <i>Beyond the Looking Glass: The Value of a Hands-On Approach in Encountering the Past in the Museum</i>	09.55 – 10.15
Gemma Tully <i>Archaeology and Community Archaeology: Ancient Egyptian Daily Life Scenes in Museums</i>	10.15 – 10.35
Boel Bengtsson <i>Sailing Rock Art Boats – Reassessing Seafaring Abilities in Bronze Age Scandinavia</i>	10.35 – 10.55
Questions – Discussion	10.55 – 11.10
<b>Coffee Break</b>	11.10 – 11.40
<b>2:Movement</b>	
Paty Murrieta Flores <i>Travelling in a Prehistoric Landscape: Exploring the Influences that Shape Human Movement</i>	11.40 – 12.00
Leif Isaksen <i>Linking Archaeological Data</i>	12.00 – 12.20
Carolyn Coulter <i>Cross-Channel Relations Between England and Northern Europe A.D. 350-1200: with Special Reference to the Stone Trade</i>	12.20 – 12.40
Questions – Discussion	12.40 – 12.55
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12.55 – 14.00

# PGRAS 8

28.05.2009

	<b>3:Roman &amp; Saxon</b>
14.00 - 14.20	<b>Pina Franco</b> <i>Ceramics from Portus: Provenance and Representation of social groups</i>
14.20 - 14.40	<b>Ben Jervis</b> <i>How Did Saxons Use Pots (and Why Should We Care)?</i>
14.40 - 15.00	<b>Christian Lewis</b> <i>Location, Location, Location: the Significance of Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery Distribution on the Isle of Wight</i>
15.00 - 15.20	<b>Jonathan Dicks</b> <i>The Social and Economic aspects of Romano-British villas</i>
15.20 - 15.35	<b>Questions - Discussion</b>
15.35 - 16.05	<b>Tea Break</b>
	<b>4:Anthropological Archaeologies</b>
16.05 - 16.25	<b>Clara Fuquen Gomez</b> <i>Logboats of the Tribuga Gulf in the Pacific Coast of Colombia</i>
16.25 - 16.45	<b>Jude Jones</b> <i>Where Night's Black Bird Her Sad Infamy Sings: Translating Tudor and Stuart Concepts of Death from the Language of Tomb Effigies</i>
16.45 - 17.05	<b>James Cole</b> <i>The body as Material Culture, the Social Brain, Orders of Intentionality and Relations through Identity to the Archaeological Record of the Palaeolithic</i>
17.05 - 17.20	<b>Questions - Discussion</b>
17.20 - 17.40	<b>Jon Adams</b> <i>Conclusions</i>
17.40	<b>Wine Reception</b>

# Presentations



# The Archaeological Eye: Mobilising Vision at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, 1926-1946

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Sara Perry

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This presentation stands as a brief look at the history of archaeological visualisation in the context of its production, circulation and consumption in one of the first archaeology departments in the UK; namely, the Institute of Archaeology at the University of London. Drawing on preliminary results from archival research at University College London, the University of London, the British Library, English Heritage and the Museum of London - and on interviews with key archaeologists affiliated with the Institute, I aim to trace the intimate networks between people and pictures present in early classrooms, departmental exhibitions, presentations and collections. My goal is to expose visual representations as vital actors which manifoldly prompt action, define and measure “expertise,” and add social and financial value to individuals and the Institute of Archaeology itself. As one case study from my larger PhD thesis on visualisation and the academic professionalisation of British archaeology, this paper rejects the common claim that the primacy of visual culture is unique to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and after. Rather, it is argued here that visibility has been deeply implicated in the discipline since the time of its foundation, having, in part, made possible both scholarly practice and professional archaeologists.

# Beyond the Looking Glass: The Value of a Hands-on Approach in Encountering the Past in the Museum

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Alexandra Walker

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The value of touch and object handling in museums is a growing area of research, but also an area that is little understood. Despite having a range of senses with which we experience the world around us, museums have traditionally relied on sight as the principle means of communicating information about the past.

For most people, a visit to the museum is met with objects locked away in glass cabinets and signs instructing visitors “please do not touch”. But what kind of message is this sending to the public? And what impression do they get of *their* heritage? Why are conservators and curators allowed to handle the past, but not the general public?

This research aims to pull apart the hierarchical nature of touch in the museum and prove that a “hands-on” approach to learning is essential for our understanding and indeed our appreciation of the past. It aims to prove that handling objects can not only enhance our understanding of the past, but can also provide memorable and valuable experiences that will stay with the individual for life.

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# Archaeology and Community Archaeology: Ancient Egyptian Daily Life Scenes in Museums

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Gemma Tully

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Following the community archaeology ethos, my research seeks to include multiple voices in the interpretation and presentation of the past. Focusing on the representation of daily life in ancient Egypt in the Western museum, I have been working with Egyptian communities and Western museum audiences to develop new strategies for Egyptology exhibitioning. Revealing that neither Western museum visitors nor many contemporary Egyptians are satisfied by the content and methods through which Egypt is represented in the museum, this paper will, therefore, elaborate on my findings to suggest new approaches for Egyptology display. Revealing the gaps in public knowledge, popular misconceptions and cultural misunderstandings, I aim to show how Egyptology can offer audiences something that crosses time and culture, addresses stereotypes, and maintains relevance with our lives today.

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# Sailing Rock Art Boats – Reassessing Seafaring Abilities in Bronze Age Scandinavia

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Boel Bengtsson

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This study is based on Bronze Age boat imagery contained within the vast archives of Scandinavian rock art material. Given the almost complete lack of boat finds within the archaeological record for this period, the pictorial evidence provided by rock art remains our best source of information for understanding the significance and usage of the boat within the Nordic Bronze Age society. In the archaeological record there is increasing evidence to suggest the occurrence of direct long distance voyaging over open waters. However, hitherto, the imagery of boats with masts and sails in the rock art has largely been ignored, mainly because it is believed the type of boats available could have withstood the extra forces a sail would have incurred. This has been shown by my own experimental sail trials in Bronze Age type vessels not to be the case.

In the broadest sense the aim of this thesis is to explore the origin of the sail in the North and the implications a potentially longer continuity in its use might have for our understanding of Bronze Age seafaring abilities as well as for detecting change and continuation in the 'Nordic' society leading up to the Late Iron Age.

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# Travelling in a Prehistoric Landscape: Exploring the Influences that Shape Human Movement

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Paty Murrieta Flores

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“We move, are moved or we die”. Fernandez (1979) begins one of the classical researches in social science with this statement. His assertion was true in the context of his research, but has been also relevant for other sciences that attempt to understand the complexity of movement. It can be said that as human beings, the desire to “explore” the world has been with us from the beginning of our existence. From the basic act of looking for food and water, to travelling many kilometres to trade goods and engage in commerce, humans have had to travel at various geographic scales.

Due to movement’s importance not only for implied economic consequences, but also as a key to understand the development of diverse social aspects such as technology, political complexity and even social inequality, human movement had become a central concern for archaeology and anthropology. Several studies have already shown the complexity of the phenomena and the difficulties inherent to this area of research. Between the complications identified it can be mentioned the limitation in the available archaeological data, the lack of understanding of the variables and factors that influence and constrain human movement, the difficulty of finding and choosing adequate analytical tools to analyze movement which present extremely complex relationships; and finally, the inherent difficulty to model human movement and mobility even with the use of the most current and sophisticated spatial technologies such as *Geographic Information Systems*.

This paper explores the complexity of human movement at a landscape scale, delving into the main variables and factors that might have influenced mobility during prehistory and the implementation of spatial technologies for its study.

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# Linking Archaeological Data

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Leif Isaksen

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The concept of Linked Data [1] - information structured using a variety of public schemas and data sources - is becoming increasingly popular as a way of integrating heterogeneous online resources. However, successful integration of legacy datasets requires the separation of the instances, terminologies and (frequently implicit) ontologies that constitute them so that each can be dealt with appropriately. This paper will discuss recent doctoral research seeking to provide practical solutions to this process and give some early examples of its potential benefit to archaeology.

A number of different databases pertaining to amphora and marble origin and distribution have been collated as part of the University of Southampton/British School at Rome 'Roman Ports in the Western Mediterranean' Project [2]. Initial results have created a guided process by which excavation information is extracted, integrated and enriched with additional data (coordinates, feature types, etc.) within a single RDF database using the Geonames [3] and Pleiades [4] webservices. The data can then be plotted easily using services such as Google Maps or used for more sophisticated spatial analysis in order to better understand the flow of ancient trade networks.

[1] <http://linkeddata.org/>

[2] [http://www.bsr.ac.uk/BSR/sub\\_arch/BSR\\_Arch\\_05Roman.htm](http://www.bsr.ac.uk/BSR/sub_arch/BSR_Arch_05Roman.htm)

[3] <http://www.geonames.org>

[4] <http://pleiades.stoa.org>

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# Cross-Channel Relations between England and Northern Europe A.D. 350-1200: with Special Reference to the Stone Trade

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Carolyn Coulter

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Archaeologists and historians of the early medieval era have described the North Sea as a unifier and means of communication. The aim of my research is to examine cross-channel relations and England's place in Northern Europe from the Late Roman period to Anglo-Norman times (A.D. 350-1200) through a study of the stone trade. Stone artefacts merit special attention as objects of trade, because they are highly visible in the archaeological record and their source can often be determined with some precision. My study focuses on personal possessions and is divided into two sections:

- Basic commodities (lava querns, schist hones, soapstone)
- Dress items (amber, jet)

I seek to establish typological and regional differences, to explore the mechanisms of distribution, and the reasons why these items were imported. An important aspect of my investigation involves examining stone imports in context with similar items made from local materials and with the exchange of other foreign imports, such as pottery and glass. This will lead to an evaluation of craft specialization, redistribution and the rise of the professional trader.

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# Ceramics from Portus: Provenance and Representation of Social Groups

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Pina Franco

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Ceramics assemblages in classical Roman archaeology have mainly been interpreted as evidence of “material trade”, and fit well into the paradigm of the Roman economy. A major emphasis of this trend has been the representation of the macro-scale of contacts between the Roman provinces, and the development of commercial relationships through time.

Despite the importance of this tradition of study little attention has been paid to looking at the material to understand the lives, social constraints of production and choices of those social structures and social groups involved in the manufacture of the vessels.

A recent focus of debate in pottery study is technology. Researchers stressed that technology is the process by which the production and reproduction of material culture is guaranteed and therefore a process by which human choices, cultural values and expression of identities can be investigated.

This research focuses on the amphora vessels from the archaeological site of Portus. A major emphasis is given to those amphorae produced in North Africa and exported to Portus. The study aims at understanding on one side which African town-ports were supplying Portus, and on the other, the social implications of technological variables represented in the sherds from contexts at Rome’s Imperial port.

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# How Did Saxons Use Pots (And Why Should We Care)?

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Ben Jervis

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Research on early medieval pottery has primarily focussed on two themes; production and trade. Generally any analysis of an early medieval pottery assemblage leads to two main conclusions, firstly that most of the pottery is locally made, with a few higher quality vessels being present from production centres such as Ipswich or continental sources and secondly that there is little variability in form through time. As a reaction to this archaeologists become concerned with the minutiae of pottery fabrics, trying to spot the most subtle changes in pottery production to add weight to any interpretation of the pottery. Little concern is given to the way pottery was actually used in the past and this is what I shall consider today.

Over the past few months I have analysed several thousand sherds of pottery from Hamwic (mid-Saxon Southampton) and the late Saxon and Anglo-Norman town of Southampton, studying evidence of usewear such as abrasion and sooting. Coupled with data regarding the context of the pottery finds, what we already know about their manufacture and environmental evidence, I will suggest categories of pottery which may have had some relevance to those people who actually used it. Using these new interpretations I will then progress to question the existing perspectives taken in the analysis of this material, to evaluate the role of pottery both in the early medieval period and in our interpretations of it.

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# Location, Location, Location: the Significance of Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery Distribution on the Isle of Wight

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Christian Lewis

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Drawing upon my current doctoral research examining the wider social impact of early Anglo-Saxon mortuary practice, this paper aims to illustrate my attempts to model a holistic digital representation of the early Anglo-Saxon landscape and to identify and explore areas of potential significance attached to locations chosen for the burial of the dead. I aim to highlight methodological challenges and to explore recent developments. In addition, using my study region, the Isle of Wight, I will also consider the location of the island cemeteries and the contribution (or indeed impact) that these burial sites might have made toward early Anglo-Saxon identity and the use of boundaries, both physical and imagined, in the creation of a culturally constructed funerary landscape. Moving further up the scale, I will discuss overall spatial distribution, before finally, moving along the scale further still, by considering the possible social significance of the island in respect to both mainland England and early medieval Continental Europe.

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# The Social and Economic Aspects of Romano-British villas

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Jonathan Dicks

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The nature of rural settlement patterns and the economy during the Roman occupation of Britain from the Claudian invasion of AD 43 to the end of the fourth century in Hampshire and West Sussex formed the basis of this paper. The Roman occupation of Britain had a significant impact on the social, economic and cultural development of the rural villas and farmsteads of the South Downs and coastal plains. This impact can be seen in the adoption of Roman architectural features in their buildings and the acceptance of new culinary habits on their pottery. The more successful and wealthy farmers of the Chalk Downlands embraced a greater conversion to these influences particularly during the third and four centuries. The affluence of the villa owners can be associated to the fertile humic rendzinic soils of the chalk downlands with the near by Roman roads providing easy communications to the major *civitates* of Chichester (*Noviomagus*) and Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*). By contrast the agriculturally poorer soils of the clays were less productive and the villa owners less affluent.

The use of pottery in the domestic environment was a common feature to all villa/farmsteads. It has been assumed that villas represent a socio-economic stratum of Romano-British society and therefore the pottery assemblages associated with these sites contained a similar range of fine wares (table) and coarse wares (kitchen). The fundamental premise of this paper is that the more affluent villa owners acquired a greater proportion of fine wares.

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# Logboats of the Tribuga Gulf in the Pacific Coast of Colombia

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Clara Fuquen Gomez

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Despite the cultural richness and biodiversity of the Pacific coast of Colombia the maritime cultural heritage has not yet been studied. It is a region characterised by the presence of different ethnic groups (Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups - Emberá and Waunaná, as well as a small presence of mestizos) that have been sharing this wild territory since the arrival of European colonisers and African slaves 300 years ago. Anthropological studies have approached the cultural practices of different ethnic groups but none have dealt with the maritime character of such communities. The geographic conditions, wilderness and isolation of the coast make the access to the region very difficult, particularly in the northern part of the Pacific coast (Chocó). The Tribugá Gulf offers an interesting case study about maritime practices in non-western societies. In this area, logboats represent not only an essential element in the material culture of local communities but also a cultural node that serves as point of contact between different ethnic groups. Processes such as the production, use, transformation, giving of symbolic meaning, and interchange of traditional watercraft play a role in the interethnic relationships between the groups that share this territory. Furthermore, those processes raise concerns about environmental issues such as the sustainability of the use of the resources involved. All these traditions face a challenge for their survival due to the increasing pressure of modernity exerted by mainstream society.

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# Where Night's Black Bird Her Sad Infamy Sings: Translating Tudor and Stuart Concepts of Death from the Language of Tomb Effigies

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Jude Jones

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One of the chief functions of archaeology is to encounter and to explore the meaning of objects. But inevitably, the meaning of objects in the present involves considerable dislocation from their meaning in the past. Past meanings appear essentially elusive, only vaguely capable of apprehension, especially when they are connected to abstracted concepts of life and death. How therefore does one approach these non-empirical abstractions in a discipline which is wedded to materiality? How does one re-locate this immateriality and begin to translate it?

Most recently many archaeologists of representation have come to view the object as an agent operating alongside the human with a degree of existential parity. In this respect the representational effigies which surmount Tudor and Stuart table tombs are particularly resonant. Insofar as they replicate the human body at a specifically liminal moment (as passing between life and death) they assert their existence in much the same way as the living do. If this idea is accepted, it becomes possible to apply theoretical insights gleaned from the writings of anthropologists and art historians to produce a conflation of representational viewpoints which has allowed me to reconfigure my perceptions of the early modern relationship with death both in the abstract and the particular.

Using some of Alfred Gell's approaches regarding the anthropology of art and Nigel Llewellyn's concepts of Natural and Political Bodies it became easier to venture further towards an understanding of the relationship existing between mortuary materiality and abstraction in early modern English society.

This paper is thus a discussion of what this process has thrown up. It suggests that the intense semiotic construction and the visceral impact of Tudor-Jacobean tombs and their effigies can be understood as representations of a society's intimate connection with death – a society in which the abstraction of death itself can be seen to act as an agent. It also implies that modern theoretical thinking can act as a useful medium of translation for a re-appreciation of past ontologies.

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# The Body as Material Culture, the Social Brain, Orders of Intentionality and Relations Through Identity to the Archaeological Record of the Palaeolithic

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James Cole

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The aim of this Ph.D. is to relate the biological cognitive measurements of the Social Brain Hypothesis and the orders of intentionality to the archaeological record of the Palaeolithic in relation to the body. This project centres on the fundamental shift of thinking about human archaeological remains as separate entities to the material culture to human remains as part of material culture. In order to do this an identity model has been constructed that allows a correlation between categories of identity to a cognitive scale reflected within the orders of intentionality. The identity model focuses on the role of the body in identity creation and contributes to debates on the origin of grammatical language. I aim to test the identity model against a series of case studies focused on Palaeolithic lithic assemblages and hominin remains. Research concentrated around the body and identity in regards to the Palaeolithic can contribute to existing theories and hypotheses that are aimed at understanding what it means to be human.

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# Posters



# From A to A and Back Again: the Loopy Engagements of Archaeologists with Contemporary Art

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Vasko Démou

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The study of ancient art has been central to archaeological research since the inception of the discipline. However, it was not until fairly recently that scholars realised the potential that experimenting with the art of their time could have for their work. The last two decades have witnessed the publication of books and articles by archaeologists describing how they have used existing artworks as material culture to understand the role of archaeology in contemporary society, or created new ones to interpret the past and communicate their theories to their peers and the public. Bravery, innovation and good intentions aside, these experiments are not without problems and have not so far been critically discussed in their entirety.

The purpose of this thesis is three-fold: a) to bring together and evaluate these experiments by both acknowledging their merits and pointing out their methodological and theoretical problems and shortcomings; b) to propose a theoretical framework for the use of contemporary art by archaeologists on the grounds of this evaluation; and c) to demonstrate the viability and usefulness of such a framework for archaeology, using as a case study the Acropolis of Athens.

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# How representative is the data collected by the Portable Antiquities Scheme for understanding the spatial distribution of artefact types and human activities in the past? A geo-statistical investigation.

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Katherine Robbins

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The Portable Antiquities Database (PAD) is a rapid growing resource which contains information on over 390,000 artefacts. It provides the first large scale comprehensive database from which to examine the distributions, typologies and other aspects of a wide range of different classes of artefacts. Although the PAD is increasingly being used by academic researchers for studies of particular artefact classes and the identification of previously unknown archaeological sites, there has so far been little detailed research on the nature of the data itself. In particular, there is an urgent need to understand those factors that influence the geographical distribution of the data and the relationships between collection practice, artefact type and space. Through studies of bias as a function of collection practice per se and a spatial statistical analysis of the data held on the PAD, this doctorate will consider how representative of actual past distributions of material this database is, and what factors define the bias inherent in the record.

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Not  
Presenting





# Dangerous Encounters and Intimate Meanings: Alternative Pasts in Western Greece

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Ioanna Antoniadou

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In western Greece the production of the past lies exclusively in the hands of official archaeologists appointed by the state. The space for non-professional encounters with and perceptions of the material past is set in a realm of unofficial and illegal acts, categorised as 'looting'. But do such acts actually amount to archaeological destruction and money-making? The answer is no. There are individuals who, despite all dangers, pursue their urge to hunt, discover and intimately interact with the material past, and create a form of personal archaeological experience and knowledge. This paper examines such everyday connections between locals and material remains of the past and considers the intimate meanings that they produce. Ultimately, this paper explores how these people challenge official archaeological authority, produce a past that bears a personal significance, and - most importantly - is interacted with and interpreted in a variety of modes.

# Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Relating the Development of Milling Practices to Social Organisation in Iron Age and Roman Wessex

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Lyn Cutler

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Querns and millstones are an important class of archaeological artefact. By converting corn into usable food they perform an essential function in human subsistence - yet they are poorly understood. Saddle querns, rotary querns and/or larger millstones are found on a wide range of sites dating from prehistoric to medieval. They relate to food preparation which in turn is linked to eating habits and ultimately identity.

The project aims to identify the social implications of milling practices and changes in subsistence strategies over time. Specific questions, such as the transition from milling and baking as combined activities, to their separation as trades, will be addressed. Technological changes will be analysed in order to understand why, for instance, saddle querns were used alongside rotary in the Iron Age, or why small rotary querns, ubiquitous in the Iron Age and the early Roman period, were superseded by flatter and larger versions during the later Roman period. Investigating the relationship between hand mills and mechanical mills will identify economic strategies and the social context of different modes of production.

This research will also evaluate the origin and distribution of millstones. Examining artefact biographies from quarry to deposition will provide insight into trade and exchange networks, economics, and changes in social organisation. With the aid of petrological analysis, the study will examine trade links within Britain and with north-west Europe to determine how and to what extent this occurred.

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# How Mesolithic Coastal Communities Perceived Environmental Change in the Southern North Sea

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Betsy Dewing

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My research into how Mesolithic coastal communities perceived environmental change in the Southern North Sea focuses on understanding the entanglements engendered by this question. The complex issues of scale – the epistemological scales of approach to this study, the ontological scales of the rates and types of change that would have been possible to perceive in both the spatial and temporal dimensions, the varying scales of environmental change, daily oscillations to catastrophic events – cannot be separated into convenient Cartesian Dualisms, nor can one scale be justifiably privileged over any other. The principle of Symmetry, with its unique fit to Mesolithic Archaeology, its rigorous grounding in previous research and its balanced approach to intertwined datasets, is, therefore, the guiding theoretical background to this study.

Currently, I am looking at the issues of symmetrically integrating field work with the conceptual questions of this dissertation; the practical, therefore, not to stand independent from the theoretical. Romney Marsh, in Kent, provides a strong history of carbon-dated palaeoenvironmental research in a region with many known Mesolithic archaeological finds. By compiling a comprehensive database of borehole and archaeological data collected from and surrounding Romney Marsh, and displaying this data in RockWorks and ArcGIS, I intend to conduct a desk-based assessment of the region and to determine where further field work will most beneficially serve as a firm scientific basis to underlay the conceptual questions being posed of Mesolithic coastal community perception of environmental change.

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# The Human-Dog Relationship in Early Medieval England and Ireland (c. AD 400-1250)

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Amanda Grieve

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In 1974 Ralph Harcourt published a seminal paper reviewing the metrical data for archaeological dog remains excavated from British antiquity. Harcourt's results from the Anglo-Saxon period illustrate that the degree of skeletal variability had reduced after the end of the Roman occupation, with an increase in the average size. More than thirty years later, many more dog bones have been excavated and reported on. This research project will explore the human-dog relationship in early medieval England and Ireland (c AD 400-1250).

The key areas being considered include dog functionality, their morphology, and treatment. As well as examining the influences that may have led to changes in people's perception of dogs during this time period, e.g. the introduction of Christianity to England and Ireland. The research project combines archaeological, historical and anthrozoological information in an attempt to forward our understanding of the human-dog relationship in early medieval England and Ireland.

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# San Vitale and A Single Voice: Opening the Ears of Archaeology

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David Knight

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I am investigating whether sixth century social and cultural dynamics can be archaeologically identified by including the study of acoustics in the context of extant Late Antique Christian architecture. I am focusing on the issue of sound in Late Antiquity, Archaeoacoustics, as a new and timely addition to the methods of Archaeological investigation. 'Looking' at sound helps to refigure how we visualise architecture and, by extension, helps also to refigure the social aspects of the historic past.

The research I am completing therefore brings together the disciplines of Archaeology and Acoustic Studies in order to test whether we can specifically improve our understanding of how and why the development of the centrally planned domed congregational church reached such heights of popularity and characterizes the 'Byzantine' East while the Roman longitudinal basilica remained favoured in the West. Did expressions of new and 'other' architectural forms fuel Constantinople's ascendant identity over old Rome, Milan and Ravenna, or were there more reflexive two-way exchanges between West and East not generally acknowledged? I challenge what we mean by 'Byzantine' while dealing specifically with the cultural exchanges between different Christianities, communities and cities in the development of ecclesiastical acoustic architecture in the sixth century.

This research makes an important contribution to our understanding of Late Antique society by asking whether structured movements of people through the resonant space of a centrally planned church was a social way of communicating symbolic and cultural meaning to unified, divided and rival communities.

The interdisciplinary combination of Archaeological visibility studies and acoustic analysis adds to the growing academic interest in a methodology that brings immaterial sound and the aural experience together into the praxis of Archaeology and balances its material and visual biases.

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Prof. Simon Keay

PT/VII

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# The Social and Cultural Significance of Roman City Walls

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Isobel Pinder

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Urban monumental structures were the dominant material presence that defined and expressed the Roman imperial system in Italy and the provinces. Cities differed in their interpretation and use of public buildings, but they were an important common thread in the spread of urbanism throughout the Roman world. Much research has been undertaken in recent years on the social and cultural significance of these structures. City walls, however, have largely remained subject to a positivist and functional approach.

My research aims to show how the importance of Roman city walls goes well beyond a purely defensive purpose or physical presence and to explore how, in common with other public buildings, walls embodied social and cultural messages which changed and developed over time. I stress the importance of contextualising city walls within the overall structure of public space and its use and of analysing the symbiotic relationship between city walls, urban space and the wider landscape. My research explores how communities might use city walls to express their sense of identity and status. To complement an overview of the meaning of city walls, I am using a combination of GIS visibility analysis and phenomenology to examine in detail the city walls of a number of urban communities in central Italy.

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# Network Analysis of Roman Transport Routes in the Imperial Roman Mediterranean

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David Potts

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This research is designed to explore the nature of the relationships between Portus, Rome, and other selected ports in the Mediterranean and to establish patterns and the changing nature of trading networks derived from the distribution of known Roman artefacts.

It is envisaged that the project will produce two major results. Firstly, useful information about possible Roman trading routes and contacts in the Mediterranean, with respect to seasonal changes and external trade relationships which will provide a basis for future theoretical and practical research in the area. Secondly, an improved set of IT tools for the development of network analysis in archaeological research into this and other forms of analytical research.

The current generation of network analysis of transportation networks within the archaeological sphere focuses on a methodology derived from the centrality and closeness of the individual nodes within a static network representation. In this analysis the purpose of the nodes is often overlooked, possible interactions omitted and changes to network configuration ignored.

This research proposal suggests that networks should be examined within the concept of a software agent which can be programmed to mimic the different actions of a theoretical population, in the context of changes of season and movement of resources abstracted from known sources, to quantify and characterise the inter node relationships.

Software agents are derived from the concept of the *finite state machine*, which is often used in gaming technologies to create the concept of an intelligent opponent which reacts to input states and responses from a preconfigured set of output actions. The interaction between multiple instances of different software agents may illuminate aspects of network analysis that may not be obvious when using traditional analytical methodologies.

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# The Backwater Boats of Kerala: Identity, Place and the World of Munruthuruthu

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Jesse Ransley

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Drawing on ethnographic research in present day Kerala, south-western India, this research reflects on the multivalent relations between people and their watery world in Munruthuruthu, a boat-building village in the backwaters of Ashtamudi Estuary.

Formulated in response to critiques of the dominant field practice and reductive epistemologies of traditional boat studies, this work addresses boats as the means through which the social meanings, interactions and negotiated relationships that enmesh them can be illuminated. By focusing on specific, fine-grained research questions, the social narratives of particular boats are revealed. It is thereby possible to move from questions concerning: (1) the construction methods, social relationships and processes involved in building boats; or (2) the daily journeys and work undertaken in boats; to conceptual ideas, such as: (a) the production of place and social identities; or (b) the inter-subjectivity of human-environment-object relations.

Thus this 'traditional boat study' is an exploration of the entangled relations between people and their watery world. For in Munruthuruthu people conceive the world through movement and work, by a mixture of embodied interactions with water, weather, and the many inanimate and animate things around them. Moreover, just as people shape their world physically and conceptually, it shapes them. People are made socially and physiologically through inhabiting the world, by continual interactions with water, weather, sand, mud, fish, birds, plants, people, boats, materials and tools. These 'creeping entanglements of life' (Ingold 2008:1809) create the biographical bundle of skills, meanings and memories that make up a person. Yet entanglements with inanimate and animate things and persons make boats just as they make those who build and use boats. Boat biographies are also formed by accumulated interactions, by memories, meanings and transformations over time. They are entwined with the biographies of people, places and other things in the complex web of mutually-transformative, meaning-creation relations which produces the world of Munruthuruthu.

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# Macro-Regional Variability in the European Middle Palaeolithic, with Specific Attention to the Low Countries

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Karen Ruebens

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This PhD focuses on the bifacial tool types present in lithic assemblages from the more recent phase of the Middle Palaeolithic (MIS 5d-3) in Western Europe (including Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Britain) to assess the presence of large-scale regional behavioural differences.

The aim of this PhD research is to look at Middle Palaeolithic stone tool variability from a new perspective by using a pan-European approach, including lesser-known areas like Belgium and The Netherlands, to look at macro-regional differences, by focusing on the bifacial tools present in Western Europe. The aim of this research is not only to shed new light on the relationship between the Mousterian/MTA and Micoquian/KMG, but also to assess the reality of the current pattern of macro-regional variability by analysing the so-called 'mixed' assemblages (comprising both MTA and KMG bifacial tool types), which have not yet been analysed in detail before.

As a result this PhD will provide a new opportunity to gain a better understanding of some aspects of Neanderthal behaviour, such as: variability, regionalism, group interactions, migratory movements and knowledge transfer through time and space.

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# The Settlement Pattern in and around the Tiber Delta: Some Issues and Implications from the Archaeological Evidence

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Kristian Strutt

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The delta of the River Tiber presents a number of challenges in relation to understanding the changing pattern of settlement in the region. Much of the archaeological work in the area has focused on the urban settlements at Ostia and Portus, and the hinterlands of these cities from the perspective of major monuments in the form of villae, aqueducts and roads. Geomorphological analysis of the delta has principally revolved around the pre- and post-harbour conditions at Portus, but a number of limitations have existed both in terms of analysing the changing environment of the lower Tiber and the visibility and extent of evidence for a whole range of settlement in the delta area and in the surrounding hills overlooking the Maccarese and Laurentine Plains. This paper will present a number of the issues associated with ongoing analysis of archaeological and environmental data from the region, exploring some of the limitations of the existing material for assessing the extent and nature of the archaeological record, looking at the reasons behind the variability of the data, and the broader implications of that these issues have for the ongoing research.

# *Piscationes in Mauretania Tingitana:* Marine Resource Exploitation in a Roman North African Province

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Athena Trakadas

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The northwest Maghreb region occupies a unique geographical position. Spanning the corner of the African continent, the region's coastlines border two major and diverse marine ecosystems, the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, which are joined by the narrow Straits of Gibraltar. To the east and south-east, the Rif and Atlas ranges have acted as effective geo-political boundaries for much of the region's development, prohibiting terrestrial movement and contact between peoples and creating an 'island'-like orientation. In antiquity, it was largely due to this orientation that populations exploited the rich waters of the region, what Pliny calls "*in Mauretaniae maritimis*". Fish, shellfish and other marine invertebrates were sought not only for fresh consumption but were also processed to manufacture salted dried goods, fermented sauces and purple dyes; in addition, the remains were re-used for a variety of purposes.

The primary objective of this study is to determine the methods, products and areas of this marine resource exploitation within the particular environment of the northwest Maghreb, focusing on the period between the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to late 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, when the region constituted the Roman province of *Mauretania Tingitana*. The study compiles archaeological data (marine animal remains, fishing equipment, and finds related to fish-salting practices) and descriptive data (written sources, iconography and ethnography). By examining and contextualising the extant data, the broader examination ultimately aims to determine the ways in which the practice and role of fishing and consumption of its products were affected by the Roman conquest and occupation of the province. What emerges is a portrait of a fundamental industry whose position in the social and economic life of the settlements of *Mauretania Tingitana* has been consistently underappreciated by most scholars.

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# Monastic Lifestyle and Changing Ideologies: the Migration of the Medieval Religious Orders into Britain.

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Eleanor Williams

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Through a shared ethos, geographically widespread dependants of various medieval monastic Orders were united under a 'common rule' (codes of practice). This prescribed in arguably ambiguous terms, how the followers should live their daily lives. The numerous reforms and subsequent amendments to these rules, evidence the changing ideologies of the Orders as they advanced across Europe.

This study focuses on the migration of three such principal Orders, from their founding houses in Continental Europe into Britain: the Benedictines, Cistercians and Augustinian Canons. Although unified to some extent under a basic common belief system, documentary sources testify to their distinct philosophical perspectives and resulting lifestyles - a distinctiveness that many authors argue becomes less defined through time.

British skeletal material representing individuals from the three groups will be directly compared with those from corresponding cemeteries in the founding countries of France and Italy. This will provide a key input into a multifactorial study that will unite osteological (including pathological and isotopic analyses), documentary and artefactual evidence, with the aim of reconstructing the changing dietary and behavioural attributes of the monastic lifestyle, as the Orders spread geographically.

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# Archaeology in Quebec: A Socioeconomic Portrait

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Nicolas Zorzin

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Archaeology in Quebec is a young profession. Despite this fact, archaeology is today firmly established in the cultural landscape, and in the professional network of the Canadian province. During the forty last years, the profession has been fluctuating between periods of fast development, and periods of severe decline. In the end, archaeology always adapted to the economic changes, and most of commercial archaeology companies continued their rise. However, until now, an important component of the profession remained poorly known and never studied: the archaeologists themselves.

Within the framework of my doctoral research, dedicated to the study of commercial archaeology as a commodity of capitalism, I intend here to contextualise my research within the realities of my case study in Quebec. To do so, I will make a quantitative study of the socio-economic realities of Quebec archaeologists. This present paper is an attempt to better comprehend the archaeological discipline, and to include and understand better the present and future stakes of the corporate archaeology.

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