



In Situ

News and Events of the Harvard Standing Committee on Archeology

Community Archaeology in Central Tanzania

Kathryn Ranhorn, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

**"All happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."
Tolstoy, Anna Karenina**

I find Tolstoy's famous quote has surprising implications for archaeology. If we consider the communities surrounding archaeological sites as similar to Tolstoy's 'families,' we might conclude that all happy families are alike, that is, successful community-based programs resemble each other. They may have well-protected sites, autonomous local stakeholders, and well-funded research, for example. But the unhappy families—the communities where archaeology has done more harm than good—seem to be unhappy for any number of reasons: money constraints, unequal distribution of power, natural threats to sites, and more.

When I first began collaborating with Harvard professor Christian Tryon on a project to renew excavations at a painted rock shelter in the Kondoa region of central Tanzania, I immediately began thinking about the many ways the project could fail. My first concern

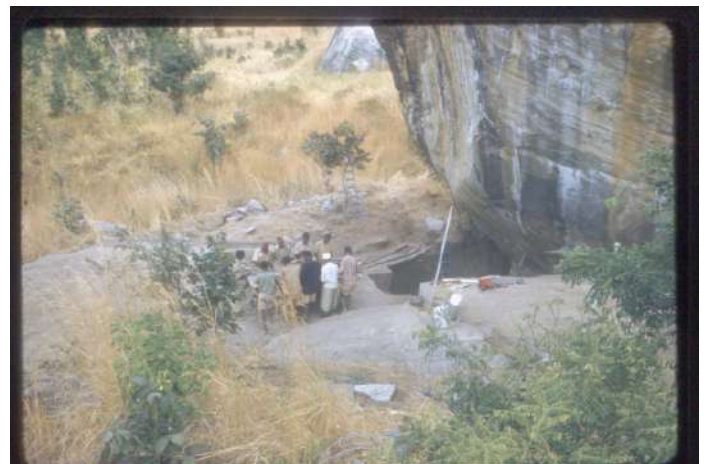


Figure 1: Kisese II 1956 excavation, directed by Ray Inskeep. Sieving procedure on the left and large trench to the right.

came from the rock art itself. The Kondoa landscape is dotted with ancient rock paintings, leading UNESCO to declare the area a World Heritage Centre, attracting tourists from around the world, and sparking the curiosity of art historians and archaeologists, alike, for decades.

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With so much international attention focused on this small rural area, the Rangi agriculturalists who live there now, but who did not make the paintings, eventually developed their own narrative: these paintings, they argue, must be maps that only white foreigners can understand, and they mark the spot where Germans hurriedly buried their gold treasure during and after the first World War, when what is now mainland Tanzania was a German colony. This German gold narrative can be heard across eastern Africa. I personally have heard it from villagers on the border of Mozambique to the shores of Lake Victoria. Treasure hunting, as a result, is alive and well. In Tanzania, citizens can apply for government permits to dig the shelter deposits in search of treasure. When I went to the area in 2015, I was shocked find dozens of painted caves with gutted deposits. The diggers told me that they had found stone tools, fossils, and human remains and that, feeling nervous about handling human bones, they had anxiously tossed it all down the escarpment.

In 2015 I joined a team led by Christian Tryon that radiocarbon dated ostrich eggshell fragments from the archives of previous excavations done in the 1950s, and determined that the deposits at one shelter, Kisese II, actually span a great deal of human evolutionary history, from at least 4,000 to at least 50,000 years ago, with more than 3 meters of sediment below the levels dated to 50,000 years ago. Re-excavations (and re-dating), we decided, would be needed to help us uncover more about the 'deep history' of these early modern humans. But I wondered, if we, as a team of foreign archaeologists, come into this small community lugging shiny equipment—total stations, cameras, laptops—what effect will that perceived wealth have on 'the family'? Will they see us as digging for gold, and try to dig up this site too?

In November 2017 I went to Machinjioni village where the rock shelter is located with our collaborator at Stony Brook University, Dr. Jason Lewis. When we first arrived in the small village, with dirt roads and small brick houses, situated just beneath the giant Kisese II rock shelter, we immediately asked to speak with village leaders, and a meeting of community leaders was organized for the following day. In that meeting, I gave a formal presentation in Swahili (which I've studied and spoken since 2006) and described the history of archaeological research in the area. Louis and Mary Leakey had excavated there in 1951, and later Ray Inskeep had arrived in 1956, and in 9 weeks he dug over 6 meters. The village, which consists of less than 400 people, had no idea that the research had been carried out and were very intrigued.



Figure 2: Our first meeting with community leaders of Machinjioni village, near Kisese II, in 2017.

"What did they find in the site?" they initially asked. I showed photos of the thousands of beads that had been found at Kisese II, made from ancient ostrich eggshell fragments. The beads, in combination with pottery fragments, fossils, and ochre, excited our new friends. One man stood up with a question. "You want to dig there to continue this research, right? The government sometimes sends agricultural researchers, but when they finish a project, they give us the seeds. When you dig this site, what will you leave us? How will we benefit?"

In order for any research to continue at the site, we had to make sure that community benefit was a priority.

The community leaders mentioned that they had already built a primary school, but that the building needed a roof. We helped finish the roof of the building and, in turn, agreed to use the space as a research base during excavations. When the first shipment of roofing materials arrived in the village, people cheered. The entire community came together to work on the project.



Figure 3: The primary school roof construction in progress in September 2017, part of our collaborative community archaeology project. This site became our research base for excavations in October 2017.

One month later, I returned to Machinjioni to launch the first season of new excavations at the site. Village leaders stated that the best way to hire people for the team would be through an open meeting and election. We laid out the exact number of positions available, stated that we wanted equal number of men and women on the team, and the community nominated people and voted. By the end of our first day, we had a team of excavators ready to learn more about this fascinating site.

Over the course of the 6-week excavation we reached our target depth of 2 meters, and found hundreds more ostrich eggshell beads, stone artifacts, pottery, ochre, and fossils. The excavators quickly became accustomed to the research protocol of ‘shooting in’ finds with a total station, and they shared their stories of

‘digging with tiny tools’ with the rest of the village. We converted one room of the school into a research lab, and invited members of the public to see the finds at any time of the day. School children visited regularly, as did government leaders from near and far.

Integral to the project were a number of undergraduate and masters students from the University of Dar es Salaam. These students yearned to leave campus for more experience in the field. Julius Ogutu, having just finished his masters at the University of College London in Qatar, took a leading role. When students came to the site to visit the excavation, Julius was able to describe details about our research in ways that I, as a non-native Swahili speaker, could never do. More importantly, he served as a role model to all students. “Do well in school,” he would tell the primary students, “and one day you can become a researcher like me.”



Figure 4: Kathryn Ranhorn (bottom left), Julius Ogutu (bottom right), Neema Munisi (top left) and Sara Molel (top right) breaking ground at the Kisesa II excavation in October 2017.

When we began to close down for the season, the village purchased a goat for our going away party. More people came to visit and asked questions about research and said official goodbyes. On the day that we drove out of camp there was no stress or feelings of tension. Instead, there were tears. The many women who had managed the camp logistics, who cooked meals, washed clothes, and took care of us when we were sick, cried as they gave us parting gifts of handmade necklaces.

Tolstoy's Anna Karenina principle reminds us that any one of multiple factors can go wrong and ruin a project. Conversely, in order for a

project to succeed, all of these factors need to be avoided. What we have learned in Kondoa is that for our archaeological project to be successful, to protect the site and advance research, we need to ensure all of the following: 1) People who live near Kisese II need to know and understand what researchers are doing. 2) They need to be involved in the decision-making process. 3) They need to benefit from the research. We can't say that the way we are running excavations at Kisese II will make every archaeological community a "happy family." But I suspect that all successful community archaeology projects have all of the above factors, and in that way, they are alike.

Exploring Sicily's Material Past with Classical Studies 112

*Alex Walthall, Visiting Faculty in Department of the Classics, Harvard University
Harvard Undergraduate Students from CLS112 Regional Study: Sicily*

Over Spring Break, students from CLS112 *Regional Study: Sicily*, an advanced undergraduate seminar in the Department of Classics, travelled to Sicily for a week-long journey across the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Along the way, we encountered the material remains of the numerous cultural groups that once occupied Sicily, from the rock-cut chamber tombs of the indigenous Sikel culture to the lavish cathedrals of the Norman kings. Our trip began in Palermo, situated on the island's north coast in the fertile Conca D'Oro, and ended at Syracuse, famed for its prominent Greek temples and theater. Along the way, students gave presentations, focusing on historical and archaeological details of each major site. To best capture the excitement and spirit of discovery, here are some of the highlights of the trip, in the words of the students themselves.

Days 1 and 2: Palermo

Jennifer Lowell

In Palermo, I had the privilege of presenting once the Monreale Cathedral, which was built in

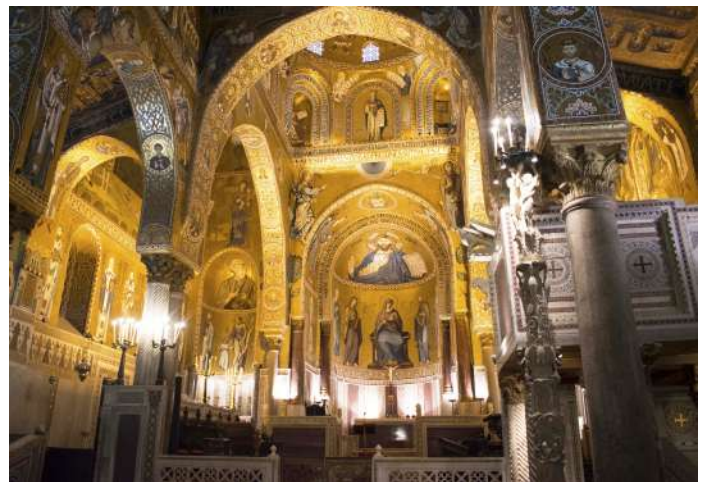


Figure 5: Cappella Palatina in Palermo.

1072 CE by the Norman king William II. On the same day, we had an incredible visit to the Cappella Palatina, built by William's grandfather Roger II, and we compared the extraordinary mosaics that cover the walls and ceilings of both buildings. Together, these two cathedrals offer vivid testimony to the reception of Muslim and Byzantine culture and art in the monumental architecture of the Norman kings.

Day 3: Segesta and Motya*Adrian Weickart and Julie Effron*

At the archaeological site of Segesta, one gets a truly memorably glimpse at cultural interchange in ancient Sicily. Here, I presented on the unfinished Doric temple, constructed sometime in the fifth century BCE, prior to the start of the Athenian's ultimately ruinous Sicilian Expedition. The temple, which is typically "Greek" in form, was built by the indigenous Elymian community at Segesta. Standing before the temple, one hears the eerie howl of the March winds that hasten over the hills from the Tyrrhenian Sea and through the temple's unfluted columns before whipping across the lush vegetation of western Sicily's green slopes. It is an experience for which neither this account nor any book, picture, movie, or classroom could prepare you.



Figure 6: Students approach Segesta Temple.

Later that day, we took a small boat to the island of Motya, which lies just off the western coast of Sicily. There, I presented on the Phoenician settlement founded around the end of the eighth and beginning of the seventh centuries BCE. The island was developed by the Carthaginians and served as a strategic trading post in the Mediterranean. Although a large portion of the city was destroyed during the attack of Dionysius I in 397 BCE, its remaining ruins provide insight into a colony that witnessed

regular cultural and economic exchange among Phoenicians and Greeks.

Day 4: Selinunte and Agrigento*Rufaro Jarati*

Along the south coast, we visited two of the island's largest ancient urban centers, the Greek cities of Selinus and Akragas. Today, Selinunte is an expansive archaeological site, home to the island's most impressive Greek temples, as well as a significant portion of the streets, shops, and fortifications of the ancient city. At Agrigento, we were given a special tour of the recently discovered Hellenistic theater by the archaeologist in charge of the excavations. It was incredible to see such a massive monument only now emerging to see the light of day!



Figure 7: Rufaro Jarati presents about Selinunte Temple.

Day 5 and 6: Piazza Armerina and Morgantina*Sheridan Marsh*

Our journey inland brought us to two remarkable sites in the middle of the island. First, we saw the Villa Casale, an expansive Roman villa of the fourth century CE, which boasts some of the most impressive mosaics of the ancient world. The vibrant colors and lively images, like that of a hunt scene filled with wild animals, really brought this ancient household to life! The next day, we visited Morgantina, the archaeological site where Prof. Walthall directs

excavations. There, we ate panini in the banquet room of a Hellenistic peristyle house and Prof. Walthall led us on a walking tour around the site, sharing his knowledge of ancient Morgantina with us.



Figure 8: Ganymede Mosaic at the site of Morgantina.

Days 7 and 6: Syracuse

Joe Valente and Justin Walthier

On the approach to our final destination on the trip, we stopped at the Euryalos fortress, which overlooks Syracuse and the Epipolai plateau. From there, we had an excellent vantage point for understanding the amazing innovations in defense and military technology in Hellenistic Sicily. The Euryalos is a rare place where one

can see the impact of mathematical theory on military practice, as Archimedes himself oversaw the city's defenses in its final days. Once at Syracuse, we saw the Great Altar and Theater of Hieron, renowned for their size and emblematic of Hieron II's competitive assertion of Hellenistic kingship in the era of Alexander's Successor Kingdoms. The Altar is said to be large enough to host the sacrifice of 450 oxen at one time, though we didn't test that ourselves!



Figure 9: Justin Walthier presents at the Syracuse Hellenistic Amphitheater.

We want to thank the Classics Department for making this unforgettable experience possible and for allowing us to confirm, as D.H. Lawrence once wrote, that "anyone who has once known this land can never be quite free from the nostalgia for it." We will always cherish this unique opportunity to experience first-hand Sicily's rich material culture. Thank you also to our trip leaders, Eliza Gettel, Alyson Lynch, Alex Walthall, and Teresa Wu for being energetic and engaged chaperones.

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An Archaeology of Textual Things

Gabriel Pizzorno, Digital History, Harvard University

Daniel Smail, Department of History, Harvard University

In the past few decades, the efforts of museums and other cultural institutions to digitize and make their collections accessible online have made massive amounts of information about artifacts available to the general public and researchers alike. From Harvard alone, one can obtain detailed information about hundreds of thousands of objects, ranging from those in museums, such as the Art Museums (250,000 objects) or the Peabody (700,000 records), to those of individual projects, such as the Sardis Expedition, featured in the Spring 2017 issue of *In Situ*.

This availability of information about *tangible things*, however, has not been matched by a similar increase in the access to information about *textual things*, that is, objects described in textual sources. Our project, the Documentary Archaeology of Late Medieval Europe (DALME), focuses on the latter, and aims to develop a publicly accessible and fully searchable online database of material culture that will enable researchers to seamlessly integrate object descriptions in contemporary documents, such as inventories, as the textual counterparts of objects found in museum collections and artefacts retrieved from in archaeological excavations.

In its current phase, our project focuses on a corpus of late-medieval household inventories and records of debt collection from France, Italy, and other regions of Europe (Figure 10). This type of record is found in both Europe and the Americas across a period of centuries, making it a stable platform for serial analyses of data that seek to make comparisons across time and space. Inventories usually represent a large proportion of a household's contents, thus

capturing a far broader spectrum of material culture than sources biased toward high-status objects.

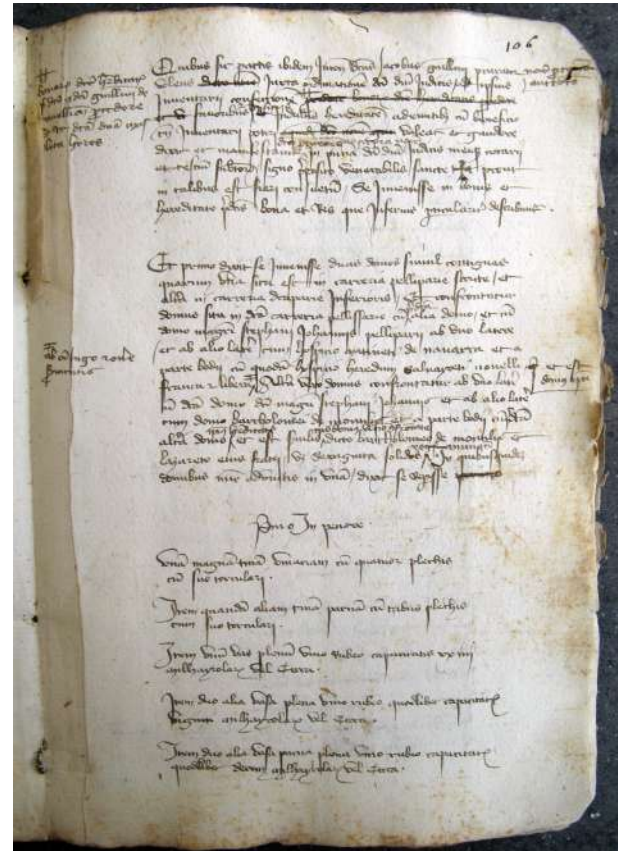


Figure 10: A folio from the inventory of the estate of Guilhem de Cavallhon, a relatively poor resident of Marseille who died in 1405. The inventory was requested by Guilhem's widow and heir, Massileta, in order to decide whether to accept the inheritance (if its debts were too great she might have chosen not to accept it), and conducted by her brother, Jacme Guilhem. (Archives Départementales des Bouches-du-Rhône 145, folio 106r, 12 November 1405)

The project relies on a sophisticated digital architecture that helps us to manage the project's data and documentation. At its most basic, the project's workflow digitization (i.e. generating machine readable versions of the documents), lexicalization (i.e. creating the

auxiliary data necessary to translate them), and parsing (i.e. reading and classifying their contents to generate database records of the objects described therein).

As we parse the documents to detect objects and their attributes, we semantically link these to concepts in a controlled vocabulary. For this we use, and extend where necessary, the Getty Thesaurus of Art and Architecture. By way of example, the words in various languages for the object known in English as a “chest” are each linked to a headword in their respective lexicons; those headwords, in turn, are linked to a higher-order entity bearing the ID “300038992” in the Getty thesaurus (for convenience we call this a “chest”). In this way, a simple search for “chest” will allow the user to find objects known in their particular languages as “cassia,” “capcia,” “caxia,” “archibanc,” and so on, as well as to access broader conceptual categories in the hierarchy, such as “case furniture,” “furniture,” “furnishings,” and so on. The same is true for headwords that describe

attributes. The words “blodeus” and “sanguineus”, for example, are both used to describe a deep, blood red color. The corresponding headwords are linked via the Getty ID “300310722”, “blood red” in English. This way, one can search the database for “blood red” with certainty that the results will include all objects described as such, regardless of the specific terms used. Similarly, by using the Getty taxonomy to which the concept belongs, one could ask the computer to return increasingly broader categories such as all “red colors”, all “chromatic colors”, or all objects with “physical attributes”. It is this taxonomy which lies at the very heart of the DALME database and provides enormous user flexibility in devising queries and analyses.

The simple idea behind our project is that textual sources, however imperfect, provide a useful complement to archaeological evidence. Inventories in particular are an especially valuable source for archaeological work because the systematic biases that generate silences in the

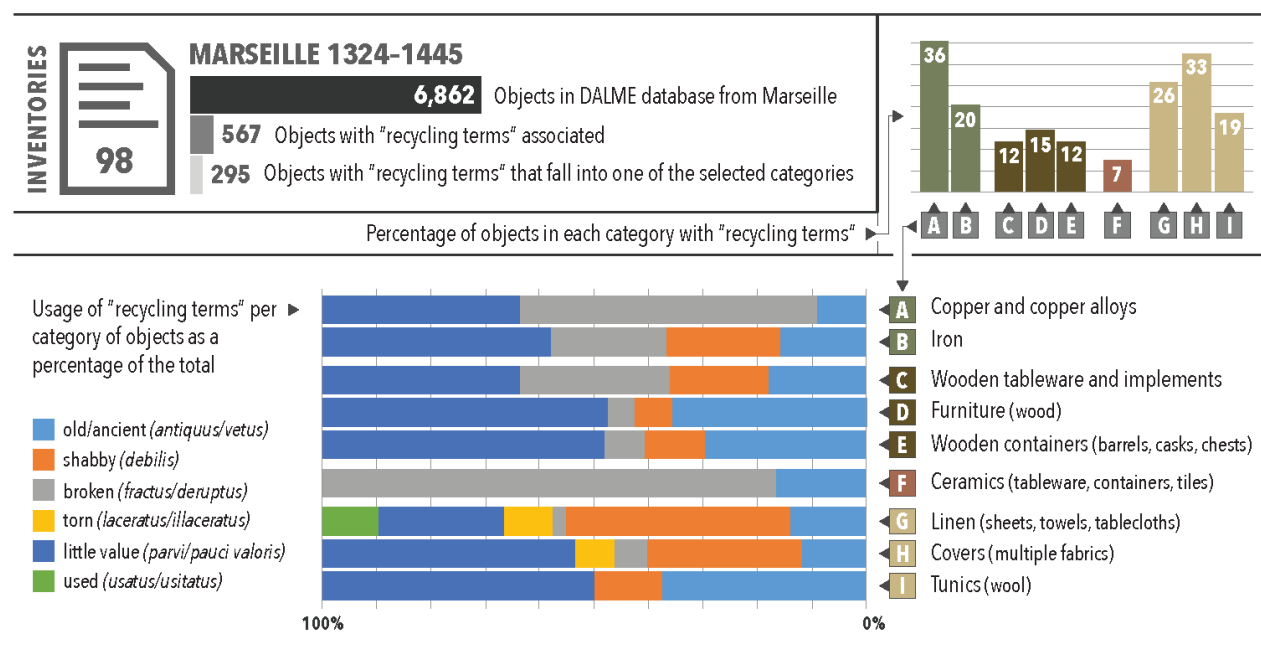


Figure 11: Explicit references to the recycling of objects are rare in our sources, but the frequent use of certain terms and expressions can be used to track implicit attestations of it. This graphic shows the usage of some of those terms for certain categories of material culture from inventories compiled in the city of Marseille between 1324 and 1445.

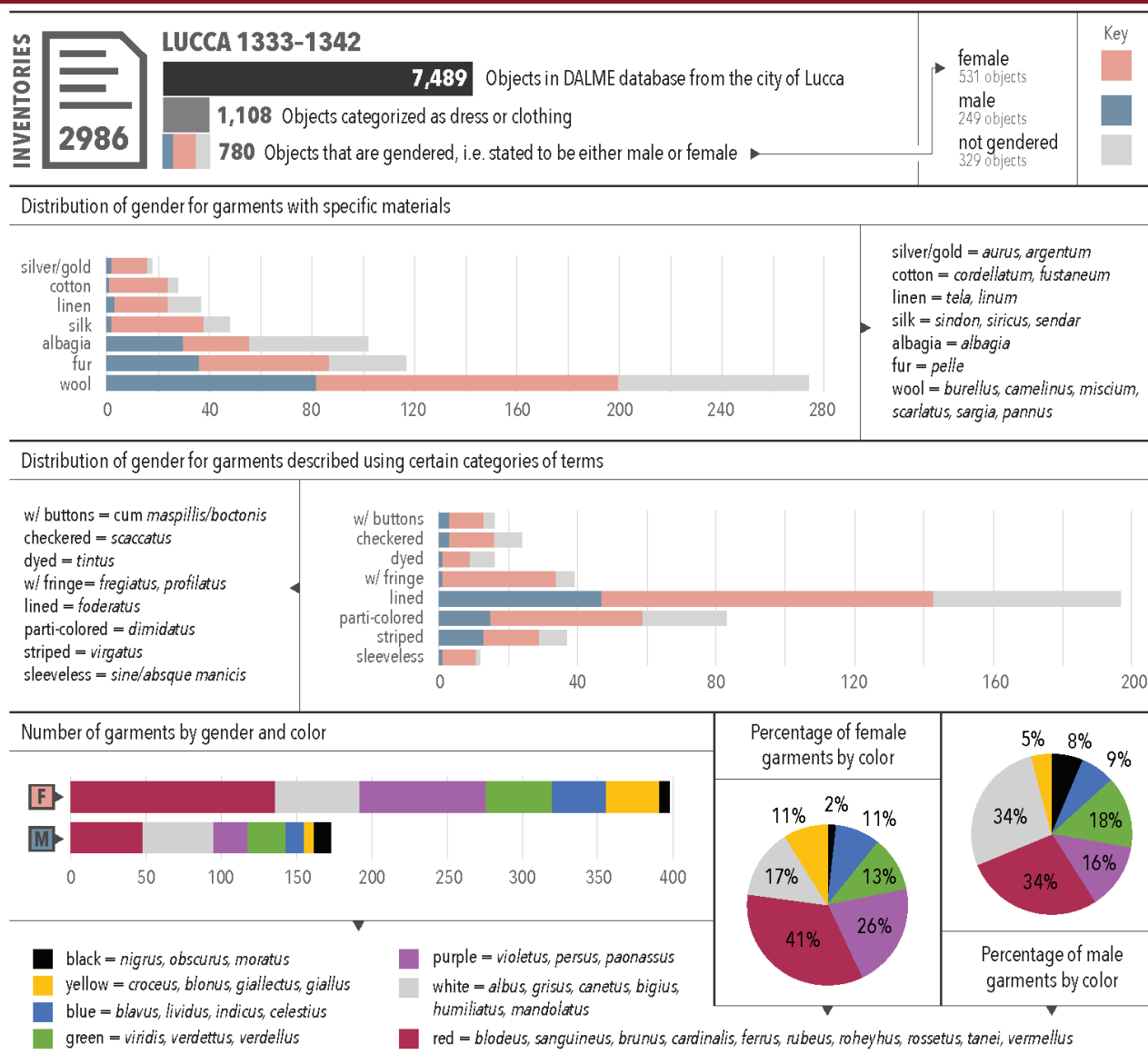


Figure 12: This graphic shows a preliminary analysis of items of clothing from the Italian city of Lucca between 1333 and 1342. Over 70% of the objects are gendered, that is, are explicitly described as being for men or women. A number of interesting patterns emerge from the dataset. If an object in the sample is gendered, it is twice more likely to be female than male. Of the materials in the sample, all but one appear to be gender-biased towards women, only albagia is predominantly used in male gendered items. Just as with materials, certain descriptive terms seem strongly linked to female objects, with fringed and dyed items being almost exclusively worn by women. Lastly, looking at the distribution of colors, red appears to be, by far, the most popular colour for women, while red and white seem equally popular with men. Preference for blue and green is similar for both genders.

textual record are often quite different from the systematic biases that responsible for differential preservation in the archaeological record. Indeed, the comparison of the evidence from each of the two domains will make the systematic biases inherent in each readily apparent.

In the medieval archaeological record, for example, evidence for the reuse of durable objects and materials is found everywhere. However, only some recycling processes leave behind traces that can be seen directly in the archaeological record. Historical sources are often equally fragmentary with respect to the information they offer about recycling, but the types of information provided complement

those found in the archaeological record. To take an example, the usage of certain expressions can be used to track implicit attestations of the phenomenon (Figure 11).

Inventories can also offer valuable information in the case of high-value materials that are more likely to be recycled, such as precious metals. For example, silver belt fittings in the textual sources from Marseille outnumber fittings made of copper alloy by a ratio of about 20:1. Among the extant archaeological finds from Marseille, however, there appear to be no silver belt fittings whatsoever, although we do find the occasional belt composed of copper alloy fittings. Likewise, documentary sources, inasmuch as they often record organic and inorganic materials in equal measure, can provide information that would otherwise be inaccessible to archaeology. An example is provided by the distribution of fabric colors and design details in clothing (Figure 12). Through textual sources, in other words, it is possible to

derive a more accurate picture of the assemblage of typical medieval households. Similarly, the abundance of documentary records can enable us to look for patterns at scales that would be difficult to approach with archaeological evidence alone (e.g. Figure 13).

In conclusion, our goal is to create a framework that allows us to look systematically at material culture in almost any historical context, regardless of whether the information about said objects comes from museums, archaeological excavations, or documents in archives. We view this framework as a guide that would enable us to map historically contingent descriptions of objects into attributes that can be managed alongside those generated by studying material objects themselves. The idea is not so much to provide a translation matrix (that's not possible for everything) but rather a systematic approach for managing assumptions about these objects and make them usable in rigorous research applications.

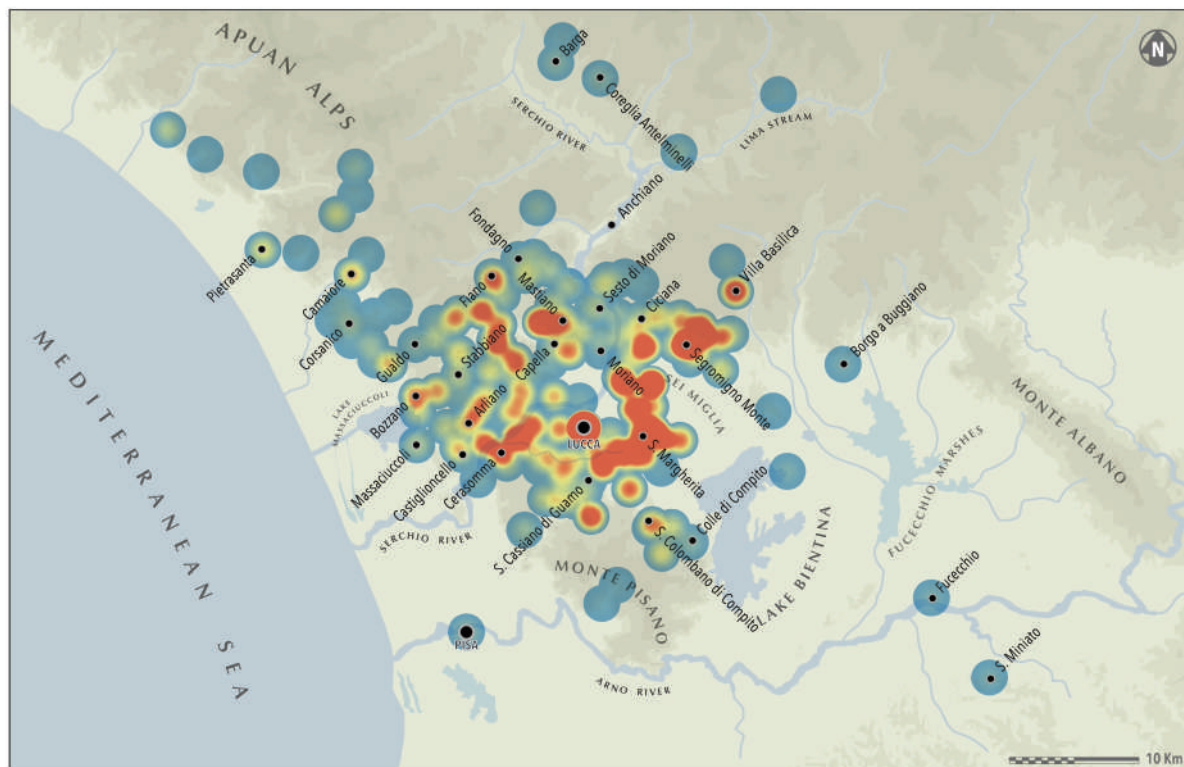


Figure 13: This heat map shows the density of *preda* (an object seized as part of debt collection) throughout the region surrounding the Italian city of Lucca between 1333-1342. The red shades indicate areas where predation was particularly intense.

A Message from the Chair

*Rowan Flad, John E. Hudson Chair of Archaeology
Department of Anthropology, Harvard University*



It is a sincere pleasure to write this message for our fifth issue of *In Situ*, the twice-annual newsletter of the Standing Committee of Archaeology (SCA) at Harvard. I am particularly proud of how this newsletter has evolved over the past three years. This issue really illustrates well the broad set of experiences and activities related to the practice, teaching and presentation of archaeology that are taking place in our Harvard community. I want to express particular gratitude to the Dean of Social Science, Prof. Claudine Gay, who is the oversight dean for the SCA and also to Prof. Robin Kelsey, Dean of the Humanities, who has recognized that many of the faculty, students and researchers involved in the SCA are situated primarily in the Humanities Division, and has therefore supported SCA activities this year as well. We strive to be a truly cross-division and cross-school standing committee, and appreciate the recognition of these efforts in a meaningful material way by the support of these deans and the divisions they manage.

This Spring issue of *In Situ* provides a comprehensive list of all (or close to all) of the archaeology events that took place at Harvard this year. One of our principal goals in the SCA is to streamline the dissemination of information about archaeological events on campus, and also to provide a central resource that those in various units who are planning related events can turn to in order to try to limit conflicts between related events as much as possible. Of course, conflicts are inevitable sometimes, but we think the SCA does manage to limit them so that members of our community can make the most out of the many offerings here. As events arise, we distribute announcements through our website and a list of affiliates and interested members of the community. If you are not receiving these announcements and would like to, I urge you to write us at sca@fas.harvard.edu. We are not able to advertise everything, as some archaeological working groups on campus have a mix of public and more private events but even our abbreviated list shows a vigorous life of archaeological events at Harvard.

Among the many events that we list, some are sponsored directly by the SCA, through logistical support, advertising, and use of parts of our (small) budget. This semester we hosted three exciting events that are described on pages 15-16 of this issue and an additional event by Kimberly D. Bowes of the University of Pennsylvania entitled *The Archaeology of Poverty: How Poor Were Roman Peasants? Did They Get Poorer?*. These events collectively nicely reflect archaeological activities in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences respectively.

Elsewhere in this issue we include two really engaging essays on research being conducted by Harvard affiliates. Kathryn Ranhorn discusses community archaeology in Tanzania as part of the research on Pleistocene and Holocene populations in that area, and Gabriel Pizzorno and Prof. Daniel Smail discuss research on medieval inventories – an archaeology of things within textual contexts. We also are delighted to have two essays by graduating seniors who have completed Secondary Fields in archaeology administered by the SCA: Casey Khang Moore and Allison Oliva. These nicely complement two reports by leaders of student excursions to archaeological sites that took place this Spring semester. One, involving students from the Classics Department, is described by visiting Professor Alex Walthall and includes excerpts from participating students. The other is outlined by Monique Rivera, the Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Anthropology, who joined me on a trip with students to New Mexico to visit sites in March.

I hope everyone has a great summer. I leave for fieldwork in China soon after this issue goes to press, and many other archaeologists are off to make new discoveries. We will have reports on some of this in the next issue in the Fall.

Archaeology Secondaries: Graduating Seniors

Casey Khang Moore
Class of 2018

Being an undergraduate at Harvard University has provided me with a wealth of unique and enriching opportunities. One of the top on that list has been my Secondary in Archaeology and the experiences that have come with it.

When I was a freshman, my approach to an education at Harvard was (and remains) to find the most once-in-a-lifetime opportunities I possibly could, which, that year, happened to include a class that performed an excavation of Harvard Yard in continuation of an exhibition and project at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology called "Digging Veritas." Being a first year in New England after spending most of my life on the western coast of southern California, this chance at exploring the rich and complicated history of one of the oldest

institutions in America was deeply meaningful and a lot of fun. Engaging in an act of public archaeology so early in my college career really allowed me to think deeply about issues of representation, responsibility, and ownership. The summer after junior year, I found myself in Aarhus, Denmark, working with the Moesgaard Museum on an excavation of a Viking Age pithouse as part of the Harvard Summer School's Viking Studies Program. This was the summer of my life, affording me opportunities to travel, experience, and grow that I would never have been able to afford otherwise.

I've always enjoyed the study of people, and there's something poetically beautiful about the tangible act of unearthing the mysteries of the past. The Archaeology Secondary program at Harvard has truly changed my life, and I'm so happy to have had the opportunity to be a part of it.



Figure 14: Casey Moore (second from right), Class of 2018, excavating a Viking Age pithouse as part of the Harvard Summer School's Viking Studies Program.

Archaeology Secondaries: Graduating Seniors

Allison Oliva
Class of 2018

I was an unlikely candidate for an archaeology secondary. I came into college with my four years mapped out, determined to concentrate in either Molecular and Cellular Biology or Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology with a secondary in Economics. Four years later, I have still never taken an economics course, instead drawn into the world of archaeology in my freshman fall by Profs. Loren and Capone's Archaeology of Harvard Yard course. In this course, I learned about archaeology by actually participating in a real excavation. Over the year-long course, I grew close with both the course staff and my fellow students and found a place in my first year on campus that felt extremely comfortable. At the same

time, I fell in love with the process of piecing together the stories of students who tread the paths of Harvard yard before me and felt an incredible connection to them both by reading their diaries and historical accounts and by physically holding objects like cuff links and pipe stems that my 17th century counterparts would've used in their daily lives. As I continued through college, I found ways to combine my loves of biology and archaeology in several courses that introduced me to the field of archaeoscience. Looking back, archaeology classes have been some of the most enjoyable that I've taken at Harvard, and I will be forever grateful that I attended a liberal arts oriented school that encouraged me to pursue my unconventional combination of interests.



Figure 15: Allison Oliva, Class of 2018, will be continuing her education in medical school next year.



Figure 16: Allison Oliva's and partner, Casey Moore's, excavation unit from the Harvard Yard Archaeological Project in the 2014-2015 season.

Department of Anthropology, Undergraduate Archaeology Field Trip

Monique Rivera, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Department of Anthropology

During Spring Break (March 10-16th), I joined six anthropology concentrators and Professor Rowan Flad, on a weeklong excursion through New Mexico and Arizona. Joining us as the tour guide for the trip was Ph.D. student Wade Campbell, whose archaeological knowledge, first-hand experience growing up in the four corners region, and ability to share native histories and traditions was impressive and greatly appreciated.

This particular trip was a diversified gateway for most participants. Some of our students had participated in archaeological field schools in the past, most had taken at least one archaeology course, and all have taken courses in anthropology, but for some it was the first time visiting the Southwest, and for others, it was the first time seeing mountains and vast landscapes. For me, it was an opportunity to learn more about archaeology in practice and to get a great familiarity of the vast and diverse archaeological and ethnographic histories of native populations in the American southwest.



Figure 17: Wade Campbell leads a discussion with the students.

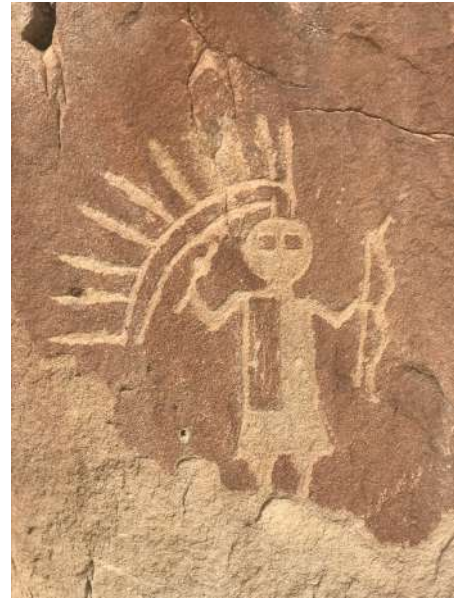


Figure 18: An example of the petroglyphs seen on the tour. For all, it was the first Anthropology Undergraduate Program field trip.

The week started with a trip to Chaco Canyon. We were joined by Rob Weiner who led us on the tour of Chaco Canyon. His deep understanding of Chacoan ritual, cosmology, and road systems was impressive. The sites of Pueblo Bonito, Una Vida, and Peñasco Blanco were awe-inspiring.

After our first day visiting Chaco, we visited Aztec ruins and walked through the 900-year old ancestral Pueblo Great House and experienced the reconstructed Great Kiva. Continuing the theme, we drove along the gas roads and descended upon the Dinétah Pueblitos to get a rare glimpse at Ancestral Puebloan and Navajo-rock-art. We explored Crow Canyon, Tapacito Ruin, and Pork Chop Pass and received a private tour with an in-depth explanation behind the various petroglyphs.

With the departure of Rowan, Wade led us

for the rest of the week. Along the way, we stopped at Acoma Sky City, the oldest continuously inhabited community in North America, to learn more about the Acoma Pueblo on a breathtaking mesa-top settlement. Here, we walked ancient foot-paths and visited The Sky City Cultural Center & HAAK'I Museum where there were two exhibitions: Growing up Pueblo and Without Reservations: The Cartoons of Ricardo Cate.

Wade's mother joined us as we traveled through Navajo Nation: walking the ancient footpaths of Canyon de Chelly National Monument and viewed Spider Rock, White House Ruins and learned about the deadly four-day battle between Spanish colonists and the Navajo people at Massacre Cave. A stop in Navajo Nation wouldn't be complete without a visit to Window Rock and the Navajo Nation Zoo and Botanical Garden. We had the opportunity to share bowls of Navajo Blue Corn

Mush and Navajo Fry Bread and learn more about college student life at Dine College.

For the rest of the week, we climbed into ancient kivas to witness the painted murals at the ruins of Kuana Pueblo at Coronado Historic Site and climbed the 140 Ft vertical ascent ladders into Alcove House at Bandelier National Monument. The trip concluded with a trip to Sante Fe Plaza and a visit to Meow Wolf.

For me, I am grateful for the opportunity to spend time with faculty, graduate and undergraduate students in spaces outside of the Tozzer and Peabody Museum. I have a greater appreciation for the native people of the Southwest and the complex histories they share. The trip was sponsored by the office of the Dean of Social Science, Claudine Gay. It was a really great opportunity for students to get a broader, embedded and contextualized idea of anthropology and archaeology in practice.

Standing Committee Sponsored Events

Texts and Technology: Ancient Texts and Modern Materials Science at Nuzi, Iraq

Joseph A. Greene, Harvard Semitic Museum

During spring semester, the Harvard Standing Committee on Archaeology, the Semitic Museum, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Department of Anthropology, convened a half-day workshop focused on the interdisciplinary study of archaeological materials and ancient texts from Nuzi, a late second millennium B.C. town in Iraq excavated by Harvard in 1927–1931.

This workshop brought together a group of specialists and graduate students in Mesopotamian history, archaeology, art history, cuneiform texts, and the analysis of ancient materials for intensive exchange of ideas and hands-on examination of the finds from Nuzi.



Figure 19: Participants on the Nuzi Conference at the Semitic Museum listening to one of the presentations.

The aim was to encourage cross-disciplinary research and the application of analytical techniques to archaeological materials unimagined when Nuzi was first dug. To promote the

exchange of ideas and the formulation of new questions, the program was organized in a series of 15-minute presentations followed by similarly brief remarks from discussants in turn followed by a general discussion moderated by the session chair.

The archaeological site of Nuzi offers the exceptional combination of a large corpus of well-provenanced ancient texts, broad horizontal exposures of contemporary architecture (both palatial and residential) and a rich variety of artifacts and ecofacts from late second millennium B.C. Mesopotamia. At the close of the excavations in the early 1930s, finds from the site were divided between the Iraq Museum and the American expedition. The American division came primarily to Harvard to be shared out among the Semitic, Peabody and the Fogg Museums. Thus, Harvard has been an important nexus for study of Nuzi since the

beginning of excavations there in late 1920s.

The 2018 Nuzi Workshop aimed to foster ongoing collaborations between textual scholars, archaeologists, and materials scientists both within and beyond Harvard, and to promote new collaborations involving, for instance, historical geographers of late second millennium Mesopotamia and archaeologists using satellite imagery to study ancient Mesopotamian landscapes. The Workshop, the first of what is planned to become a series of regular gatherings at Harvard, was also intended to establish model for the study of ancient sites and regions in the Near East where there are similar constellations of archaeological, textual and material science data. The ultimate goal is to engage both present and future generations of scholars in such modes of interdisciplinary investigation.

Nuzi Conference Program

Session 1:

Gojko Barjamovic, NELC (Chair)

The Archaeology of Nuzi (Yorghen Tepe) and the Nuzi Collection at Harvard

James Armstrong, Research Associate, Semitic Museum

The Landscape of Nuzi and its Hinterland

Jason Ur, Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University

Nuzi Archaeological Plant Remains: Beyond the List of 'Cereals, Nuts, Fruits and Woods' in the Nuzi Final Report

Wilma Wetterstrom, Research Associate, Harvard Herbaria

Discussant

Robert Hunt, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Brandeis University

Session 2:

Joseph A. Greene, Semitic Museum (Chair)

Nuzi Studies, a Personal Retrospective

David Owen (Professor emeritus of Assyriology, Cornell University)

Nuzi Tablets as Material Objects

Dennis Piechota, Conservator, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, U-Mass Boston

Whither Nuzi and Nuzi Studies?

Mark Weeden, Senior Lecturer, School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London

Discussant:

Peter Machinist, Hancock Professor emeritus, Harvard NELC

On April 5th, 2018, John Robb of Cambridge University presented a thought-provoking talk on the necessity of developing theory and methodologies to understand the "system of relations" between things and people and how meaning is created in these systems. Robb highlighted how "unloved things," such as paperclips, tend to fall through the cracks in archaeological and historical analyses, but how these materials are vital links in examining these material systems. Robb concluded by calling for an end to studies that examine singular objects and for new studies that focus on thingworlds.

Stalking Invisible Objects: Analyzing Thingworlds in History and Archaeology

John Robb

Department of Archaeology, Cambridge University

THU 16.28



About the Photo: The universal, invisible un-object in archaeology: the undecorated body shard

The human past is a material past, but we have never really understood material history. In large part this is due to a mismatch between what most material culture theories offer and what students of the past actually need. In this paper, following a quick, idiosyncratic and opinionated review of current material culture theory, Robb will argue that we need to shift from approaching objects philosophically to approaching them historically; this means innovating new methodologies which focus upon material culture's most important qualities, the cumulativity and relationality which make a normal assemblage of objects a social reality of depth, persuasiveness and efficacy, a thingworld.

Sponsored by: Department of Anthropology, Department of History, Standing Committee on Archaeology, Medieval Material Culture Program, Committee on Medieval Studies

Thursday 5 April, 4:00-5:30pm | Haller Hall, 102 Geological Museum, 24 Oxford Street



In this April 11th event, Johannes Krause of the Max Planck Institute presented genomic data on pathogens collected from individuals in a post-Conquest mass grave in Oaxaca. Results from this study indicated these individuals died from epidemic, infectious disease. Krause highlighted the importance of this study from a medical perspective--understanding the evolution of pathogens associated with epidemics and populations' reactions to these diseases--as well as the prospects for this research in historical and archaeological studies focused on the spread disease in sedentary societies.

Affiliates of the Standing Committee

Associated Faculty

Suzanne Blier (HAA / AAS)
David Carrasco (Anthropology / Divinity School)
William L. Fash (Anthropology)
Matthew Liebmann (Anthropology)
Richard H. Meadow (Peabody Museum / Anthropology)
David Reich (Harvard Medical School)
Christian Tryon (Anthropology)
Eugene Wang (HAA)

Active Emeritus Faculty

Ofer Bar-Yosef (Anthropology)
C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky (Anthropology)
Peter Machinist (NELC)
Irene J. Winter (HAA)

Associates, Visiting Faculty, Visiting Fellows

Adam Aja, Harvard Semitic Museum
Briget Alex, Human Evolutionary Biology
Abidemi Babatunde Babalola, Anthropology
Gojko Barjamovic, NELC
Nick Blegen, Anthropology
Mark E. Byington, Korea Institute
Patricia Capone, Peabody Museum
Jennifer Carballo, Peabody Museum / Anthropology
Nicholas Carter, DRCLAS
Changyu Diao, Anthropology
Yuan Duan, Anthropology
Fei Deng, Harvard-Yenching Institute
Barbara Fash, Peabody Museum
Eurydice Georganteli, HAA / Medieval Studies
LeeAnn Barnes Gordon, Peabody Museum

Joseph A. Greene, Harvard Semitic Museum
Lexy Hartford, Anthropology / SCA
Theresa Huntsman, Harvard Art Museums
Laura Lacombe, Peabody Museum
Tonya Largy, Peabody Museum
Diana Loren, Peabody Museum
Laure Metz, Anthropology
Elizabeth M. Molacek, Harvard Art Museums
Rocco Palermo, Anthropology
Ilaria Patania, Anthropology
Ajita Patel, Peabody Museum
Gabriel Pizzorno, History
Jen Poulsen, Peabody Museum
Kathryn Ranhorn, Anthropology
Linda Reynard, Human Evolutionary Biology
Naomi Riddiford, Anthropology
Kate Rose, Anthropology / SCA
Kara Schneiderman, Peabody Museum
David Sena, EALC
Ludovic Slimak, Anthropology
Mehrnoosh Soroush, Anthropology
Maggie Spivey-Faulkner, Harvard Society of Fellows
Alex Walthall, Department of the Classics
Jian Xu, Harvard-Yenching Institute
Bahadır Yıldırım, Harvard Art Museums
Qiushi Zou, Anthropology

Seniors with a Secondary in Archaeology

Regan Kology
Phoebe Lakin
Casey Moore
Allison Oliva
Hannah Warntjes

Affiliates of the Standing Committee on Archaeology include faculty and staff across the entire university. Our members and affiliates work with and in a range of museums and department on Harvard's campuses.

2017-2018 Standing Committee Events

September:

Monday, September 11th, 2017

Bimetallism and Empire in Persian Anatolia
Aneurin Ellis-Evans, University of Oxford

Wednesday, September 13th, 2017

Mapping Slave Runaway Landscapes in Hispaniola, 1521-1822
Theresa Singleton, Syracuse University

Friday, September 15th, and Saturday, September 16th, 2017

Afro-Latin American Archaeology: Enhancing a Creative Community for Anthropological Inquiry Conference

Monday, September 18th, 2017

Two Ways of Knowing: Creating Ancient Maya History through Inscriptions and Archaeology
Simon Martin, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Tuesday, September 19th, 2017

Cracking Bones, Gnawing Flesh, and Pondering Hearts: Body, Mind and Medicine in Ancient Mesopotamia
Ulrike Steinert, Freie Universität Berlin

Wednesday, September 20th, 2017

The First Neolithic Urban Center on China's Loess Plateau: Discovery and Investigation of the Shimao Site
Sun Zhouyong, Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology

Tuesday, September 26th, 2017

Tales of the Moche Kings and Queens: Elite Burials from the North Coast of Peru
Jeffrey Quilter, Harvard University

Wednesday, September 27th, 2017

Cultural Transmission and Lithic Technology in Middle Stone Age Eastern Africa
Kathryn Ranhorn, Harvard University

Thursday, September 28th, 2017

Inside the Tombs of Saqqara: The Ancient Egyptian Burial Site Revealed
Ramadan B. Hussein, University of Tübingen

October:

Monday, October 9th, 2017

Zooarchaeology Laboratory Open House

Wednesday, October 11th, 2017

Young Investigator Symposium

An Archaeology of Food Choice during the Columbian Exchange in Banda, Ghana

Amanda Logan, Northwestern University

Tales of Hopi Pottery: The Legacy of Historic Museum Collections

Lea S. McChesney, University of New Mexico

Thursday, October 12th, 2017

Divine Creatures Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt
Salima Ikram, Yale University

Tuesday, October 17th, 2017

The Archaeology of Iron Age Dry Stone Wall Structures of South-Western Kenya
Christine Ogola, National Museums of Kenya

Wednesday, October 25th, 2017

Jomon Food Diversity, Climate Change and Long-term Sustainability: Lessons from Prehistoric Japan
Junko Habu, University of California, Berkeley

November:

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Day of the Dead Museum Open House and Evening Celebration at the Peabody Museum

Saturday, November 4th, 2017

Day of the Dead Family Celebration

Tuesday, November 7th, 2017

Renewed Investigation of Shanidar Cave, Iraqi Kurdistan: From Excavating Boxes of Chocolate to Cultural Heritage Management of a Gold Mine in a Minefield
Andreas Nymark, Birkbeck, University of London

Wednesday, November 8th, 2017

Fort Center's Iconographic Bestiary: Notes from a Reanalysis of the Site's Wood Assemblage
Margaret Spivey, Harvard University

Decoding Maya Hieroglyphs with 3D Technology

Barbara Fash, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

Thursday, November 9th, 2017

State Archaeology and Private Museum: A New Approach to Represent Heritage Values of Local People
Qiaowei Wei, Shanghai University

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017

Egypt's Old Kingdom: The Latest Discoveries at Abusir South
Miroslav Bárta, Czech Institute of Egyptology

Wednesday, November 15th, 2017

UpNorth: Exploring the Environmental Context of the Peopling of Northern Europe at the End of the Last Ice-Age
Rhiannon Stevens, University College London

Friday, November 17th, 2017

The Archaeological Sequence from Mumba Cave (Tanzania) and the Question of Regionalization in the African Middle Stone Age
Knut Bretzke, University of Tübingen

Exploring Processes of Racialization in Nineteenth Century Nantucket, Massachusetts

Nedra Lee, University of Massachusetts, Boston

"Let the Indian Paint His Own Picture": Alice Fletcher and Cultural Representation Paradoxes

Robert Baron, New York State Council on the Arts

2017-2018 Standing Committee Events

Thursday, November 30th, 2017

The Legendary Yeland State in Southwest China, What, Where, and By Whom? Rethinking the Roles of Historical Writing and Archaeology in Reconstructing Ancient History
Jian Xu, Sun Yat Sen University

Anthropology 1210, Archaeology of Ancient China: Student Presentations

December:

Wednesday, December 6th, 2017

All the World Is Here: Anthropology on Display at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair
Ira Jacknis, University of California, Berkeley

January:

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018

Land, Labor, Water: The Agro-Environmental History of a North Coast Peruvian Valley
Ari Caramanica, Harvard University

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018

Archaeology Refocused through Epigraphy
Connor Armi, Harvard Extension School

February:

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018

MorgantinaVR: Visualizing Material Culture in Virtual and Augmented Reality
Alex Walthall, University of Texas, Austin, and Luke Hollis, Archimedes Digital

A Door Must Either Be Shut or Open: The Production of Imperial Space on the Neo-Assyrian Monumental Doors from Balawat
Yan Jian, Peking University

Thursday, February 8th, 2018

Written in Bone: The Bioarchaeology of Social Organization in Late Prehistoric Europe
Jess Beck, University of Cambridge

Monday, February 12th, 2018

New Discoveries at Wadi al-Jarf
Gregory Marouard, University of Chicago

Wednesday, February 14th, 2018

Shaping Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: From the Rise of Relations to the Challenge of Posthumanism
Craig Cipolla, Royal Ontario Museum, and Oliver Harris, University of Leicester

Thursday, February 15th, 2018

Molecular Archaeology: From Microbes to Milk
Christina Warinner, University of Oklahoma

The Archaeology of Poverty: How Poor Were Roman Peasants? Did They Get Poorer?

Kimberly D. Bowes, University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, February 22nd, 2018

Agricultural Strategies and Environmental Change in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean
John Marston, Boston University

March:

Thursday, March 1st, 2018

Increasingly Anthropogenic Landscapes: How Human-Environment Interactions Shaped the Origins of Agriculture
Monica Ramsey, University of Cambridge

Evolution of Settlements and Socio-Economic Features in the Bukhara Oasis between Antiquity and Medieval Period

Rocco Rante, Louvre Museum

Friday, March 2nd, 2018

Technological Change on the Proto-Silk Roads
Rowan Flad, Harvard University

Archaeology, Classics, and Social Justice: The Life and Legacy of John Wesley Gilbert (1864-1923), African American Classicist and Archaeologist, Educator, and Advocate

State of the Field 2018: Archaeology and Social Justice

Monday, March 5th, 2018

The Importance of Middle Eastern Archaeology to Middle Eastern History
Rocco Rante, Louvre Museum

Wild Diagnosis: Human Health and the Animal Kingdom

Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, University of California, Los Angeles

Wednesday, March 7th, 2018

Longue Durée Water Histories and Geospatial Technologies: Case Studies from Iran and Iraq
Mehrnoush Soroush, Harvard University

"Total History": Time, Empire, and Resistance from Alexander the Great to the End of the World

Paul J. Kosmin, Harvard University

This Land is Our Land: The Antiquities Act and the Battle for Public Lands

John Leshy, University of California, Hastings College of the Law

Thursday, March 8th, 2018

Discussion with Graduate Students
Haicheng Wang, University of Washington, and Wa Ye, University of California, Los Angeles

Monday, March 19th, 2018

The Mint in the Life of Medieval Venice
Alan Stahl, Princeton University

Ancient Egypt in Africa: New Excavations at the Island Fortress of Uronarti

Laurel Bestock, Brown University

Tuesday, March 20th, 2018

Medieval Seals and the Rhetoric of Materiality
Brigitte Bedos-Rezak, New York University

Modern Humans' Earliest Artwork and Music: New European Discoveries

Randall White, New York University

2017-2018 Standing Committee Events

Wednesday, March 21st, 2018

Beyond the Winter Palace of Capitalism: From Epochs to Assemblages in the Archaeology of Capitalism/Colonialism in Highland Guatemala
Guido Pezzarossi, Syracuse University

Numismatic Archaeology: Interpreting Coin Finds from Excavation Contexts
Alan Stahl, Princeton University

Thursday, March 22nd, 2018

Medieval Seals: Materiality, Meaning, Agency
Brigitte Bedos-Rezak, New York University

The Medieval Mediterranean Melting Pot
Alan Stahl, Princeton University

Itinerant Objects: British Museum and the Ottoman Response to Antiquity
Belgin Turan Özkaya, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

Saturday, March 24th, 2018

Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard

Tuesday, March 27th, 2018

Life on the edge of a Hellenistic City: Recent Excavations at Morgantina (Sicily)
Alex Walthall, University of Texas, Austin

Thursday, March 29th, 2018

Stone Tools in Paleoanthropology: A New Approach
John Shea, Stony Brook University

Teotihuacan and the Making of a World City
Deborah L. Nichols, Dartmouth College

April:

Monday, April 2nd, 2018

Symposium: Recent Research in Chinese Archaeology
Yuanyuan Duan, Sun Yat Sen University; Qiushi Zou, Wuhan University; Fei Deng, Fudan University

Wednesday, April 4th, 2018

When God Was a Keychain: Consumer Goods and Indigeneity in Hokkaido Japan
Zoe Eddy, Harvard University

Thursday, April 5th, 2018

Stalking Invisible Objects, Analyzing Thingworlds in History and Archaeology
John Robb, University of Cambridge

Analyzing Egyptian Pyramids in the Digital Age
Yukinori Kawai, Nagoya University, Japan

Friday, April 6th, 2018

Digital Humanities: An Afternoon Symposium

The Neolithic that Never Happened: The Tenuous Line Between Cultivation and Agriculture in Amazonia
Eduardo Neves, Universidade de São Paulo

Tuesday, April 10th, 2018

Eduardo Matos Moctezuma Discovers Himself: Excavations of the Great Aztec Temple
Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, Director Templo Mayor Project, Mexico

Society for American Archaeology Practice Talks
Rowan Flad, Harvard University; Ilaria Patania, Harvard University; Chengrui Zhang, Harvard University

Wednesday, April 11th, 2018

Death By Contact: Ancient Pathogen Genomes from Epidemics in Early Mexico
Johannes Krause, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Wednesday, April 18th, 2018

Nuzi Conference
Texts and Technology: Ancient Texts and Modern Materials Science at Nuzi, Iraq

Sunday, April 22nd, 2018

Ancient Engineering
Zoe Eddy, Harvard University

Monday, April 23rd, 2018

Are South Asians a Single Population? Insights from Culture, Genetics and Disease
Venkatesh Murthy, Harvard University (Chair)

Tuesday, April 24th, 2018

From Site to Sight: Anthropology, Photography, and the Power of Imagery
Melissa Banta, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

Cultural Heritage in China: Present and Future
Liu Shuguang, State Administrator of Cultural Heritage

Saturday, April 28th, 2018, and Sunday, April 29th, 2018

New Directions in the Study of Tibetan Buddhist Art History

May:

Wednesday, May 2nd 2018

The Social Lives of Cowries
Barbara Heath, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Thursday, May 31st, 2018 and Friday, June 1st, 2018

Spectroscopy of Cultural Heritage Materials: Choosing the Right Technique



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