SCHEDULE OF TALKS

SUDAN STUDIES

POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

04 MAY 2019

OXFORD Edition

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Sudan Studies Postgraduate Conference Program

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08:30  Registration
09:00  Introduction

Session 1

09:15  Uffe Steffensen (University of Berlin) The Domestication of Death in the C-Group Community at Aniba: A comparative study of the domicile and mortuary architecture.

09:30  Fatima Elbashir & Abdallah Ahmed Elbashir (University of Khartoum) A Multi-analytical approach of characterization of archaeological pottery excavated from some archaeological sites, Sudan.

09:45  Vlastimil Vrkal (National Museum, Czech Republic) The decorative program of the Palace of Amanishakheto at Wad Ben Naga.

10:00  Loretta Kilroe (University of Oxford) Ancient Lifeways. The ceramics of a rural New Kingdom Nubian settlement in the Northern Dongola Reach.

10:15  Kate Fulcher (British Museum) Black funerary coatings from a burial at Amara West.

10:30  Questions

10:45  Coffee & Posters

Session 2

11:15  Anna Davies-Barratt (University of Durham) Respiratory disease in the Middle Nile Valley: the impact of environmental and sociocultural change from the Neolithic to Medieval periods.

11:30  Giusy Capasso (University of Naples "L'Orientale") Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Eastern Sudan. The contribution of dental anthropology.

11:45  Iwona Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin (University of Manchester) Accidental trauma or birth-related injury: A case study from a Late Meroitic cemetery at Korti, Sudan.

12:00  Abagail Breidenstein (University of Michigan) Paleogenomic Investigation of Ancient Nubian Populations.

12:15  Questions

12:30  LUNCH (provided)
13:30 KEYNOTE: Dr. Julie Anderson, Assistant Keeper at the British Museum, Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan.
Always full of Surprises: Reconstructing the ancient Kushite landscape in Dangeil, Sudan.

Session 3

14:45 Elena D’Itria & Gilda Ferrandino (University of Naples "L' Orientale) The amulets of the Kerma culture in the National Museum of Sudan: from database to linked open data.

15:00 Mahmoud Emam (Cairo University) Meroitic and Post-Meroitic Amulets from the third century BC to the sixth century AD: preliminary study.

15:15 Chloé Ward (University College London) The Sudan Archive’s Governor General Reports-Sieving for Archaeology.


15:45 Questions

16:00 Coffee & Posters

16:30 KEYNOTE: Dr. Claudia Naeser, (University College London).
Majority Muslim communities, archaeology and the pre-Islamic past: Finding new ground for engagement

Session 4


17:30 S. Callegher, F. Iannarilli, F. Pancin (University of Venice) Digging a Royal City. Eight years of Ca' Foscari University of Venice research at Jebel Barkal.

17:45 Stefano Costanzo (University of Milan) The stratigraphy of Mahal Teglinos (Jebel Taka, Kassala): a Holocene record of climate changes in the far Eastern Sudan.

18:00 Liliane Mann and Ben van den Bercken, (Leiden University) Shokan revisited: some preliminary results

18:15 Murtada Bushara Mohammed (National Corporation for Antiquities and Museum) The Northern Cemetery of Sanam at Et-Tameer, Third excavation season (April-June 2018)

18:30 Questions

18:45 Closing remarks

19:00 Wine Reception
POSTERS


2. Ismail Hamid Mohamed Elnour (University of Birmingham). Intangible Cultural Heritage around the Archaeological Sites of the Napatan Region.

3. Zachary Stancombe (University of Cambridge) Reassessing the historiography of Nubia and Punt through New Kingdom iconographical sources.

4. Jędrzej Czerep (Polish Institute of International Affairs) Decoding Sudan’s and South Sudan’s political culture(s).

5. Mariusz Drzewiecki (Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw) Archaeological investigations on the outskirts of large cities – North Omdurman case study.

6. Samah Bushra. The Intergenerational Conflict Among the Sudanese Community in Britain


9. Iwona J. Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin (University of Manchester) Environmental changes and the Collapse of the Kushite Kingdom of Meroe, Sudan: A contributing factor? Results of stable isotope analysis of human remains from selected archaeological sites.

10. Shahaduz Zaman¹, Mohamed Elsheikh¹² and Ahmad Fahal² (Brighton and Sussex Medical School¹, United Kingdom, University of Khartoum²). Rapid Ethnographic Assessment to Artificial Animal Enclosure in Wad-ELNimear Village, Sinnar State, Sudan.

11. Pieter Tesch
The Domestication of Death in the C-Group Community at Aniba

Uffe Steffensen (University of Berlin)

The Aniba area in Lower Nubia is unique since, it includes both the largest C-Group cemetery (Cemetery North) recovered to date, and a rare case of a C-Group settlement site with traceable stratification. Together, this makes it possible to conduct a comparative study of the parallel development in domestic and mortuary architecture of the C-Group from the Old Kingdom into the Middle Kingdom. Similar features used in both types of architecture suggest that, besides the opposing use and symbolism between: on the one hand, the domestic space for the living, and the other hand, the mortuary space for the deceased/ancestors, a plausible binary symbolism is at play, in which domestic architectural elements were symbolically applied to the grave structures. Ethnographic studies of recent mortuary rituals from East and West Africa show that ritual elements of the funeral ceremony can take place in and/or around the domestic space, and domestic symbolism is applied both in the funeral rites and materialised in the grave-structure. Therefore, these studies may provide tools by which symbolic concepts can be interpreted in the mortuary architecture at Cemetery North, Aniba in a sequential light.

A Multi-analytical approach of characterization of archaeological pottery excavated from some archaeological sites, Sudan

Fatima Elbashir Siddig & Abdallah Ahmed Elbashir (University of Khartoum)

In this research multi-analytical techniques namely Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), X-ray Diffraction (XRD), Scanning Electron Microscope-Energy Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX), Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), were used for characterization of potsherds excavated from different Neolithic sites (Esh-shaheinab, Kadero and Jebel-Um-Marahi), and Meroitic sites (Abu-gelli, Kawa and Royal city), Sudan, were performed. Mineralogical composition of pottery was studied by both FT-IR and XRD approaches. Furthermore, analysis via Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was the complementary study to estimate the firing temperature from characteristic thermal reactions in potsherds. Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) coupled with an Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) were used to study the internal morphology and chemical composition of the pottery. FT-IR results shown that, major bands around 1035 cm\(^{-1}\) directs the obliteration of octahedral sheet of the majority of the samples have (Si-O) band suggested that, the firing temperature was in range of 700-800 °C and the XRD results, revealed that, the pottery consists mostly of quartz, feldspar and plagioclase. Clay minerals (mainly illite) and organic materials were identified as the minor phases, while carbonated materials (mainly calcite) were seen as major phases in some samples. A relatively low vitrification degree along with the poor sinterization behaviour defined in SEM-EDX analysis and the TGA curves proposed that, the firing temperature of the potteries did not exceed 850 - 900 °C range. The organic residue was analysed firstly by using FTIR, and then GC–MS. The most predominant organic constituents of the samples were monocarboxylic acids and their oxidation products. The organic substantial composition was consistent with the existence of lipids of animal origin. In addition, the GC-MS results show that, some of the pottery were used for preparing ruminant fats and storing vegetable.
Between 1958 and 1960, archaeological excavations at the Meroitic site of Wad Ben Naga in the Shendi Reach uncovered a complex administrative and residential building, known since as the Palace of Amanishakheto (WBN 100). Since 2010, the structure has seen re-excavations by the Archaeological Expedition to Wad Ben Naga of the National Museum, Czech Republic, focused on specific archaeological problems. The study presents the newest findings concerning the decorative program of the palace, namely specific architectural elements, and preserved sections of reliefs, which once decorated the interior of the structure. The study relies on largely unpublished finds of stucco and sandstone relief fragments from 1958–1960 excavations, which could be partly assembled and provided a new and unparalleled insight into the iconographic repertoire of this type of royal building. The significance of these scenes, depicting royal as well as divine figures, in the context of a royal palace will be discussed. Recent excavations in the exterior of the structure brought additional evidence on the decorative program, as they allowed to reconstruct the external appearance of the palace based on further finds of architectural elements and decorated plasters.

**Ancient Lifeways:**

**The ceramics of a rural New Kingdom Nubian settlement in the Northern Dongola Reach.**

Dr. Loretta Kilroe (University of Oxford)

A British Museum–Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project has worked for 3 seasons at Site H25, a small settlement first identified by the Northern Dongola Reach Survey among the now extant Alfreda Nile paleochannel. The site contains domestic, industrial and storage structures dating from the Kerma Moyen to the Early Napatan period. A huge quantity of ceramics have been recovered from the site, with both Egyptian wheel-made and local hand-made traditions visible. This material offers an insight into activities of a rural community in Nubia over the political transition between the Kerma and Pharaonic periods. The presence of numerous Egyptian storage jars may suggest the site acted as a key distribution centre, while distinct Nubian decoration attests to the continuation of distinct Nubian traditions. I will discuss the pottery found across this site, and its potential for understanding the community who lived here.

**Black funerary coatings from a burial at Amara West**

Dr. Kate Fulcher (British Museum)

During the New Kingdom, Egyptian burials sometimes included the application of a black liquid to the wrapped body and / or coffin, presumably as a ritual that took place during the funeral. Lumps of a friable black substance and a layer of black coating from a coffin fragment found in a 20th Dynasty tomb G321 at Amara West in Sudan appear to be evidence of this Egyptian funerary procedure. The black substances have been scientifically analysed and compared to black funerary coatings from Egyptian coffins of the 22nd Dynasty in the British Museum. The components of the Amara West coatings are consistent with the Egyptian ones and include resin probably imported from the Levant, and bitumen from the Dead Sea. The tomb itself is high status and contained both Egyptian and Nubian elements; the enactment of this funerary ritual in a mixed cultural context outside of Egypt demonstrates the importance of the practice and its significance in communicating status within the culture at Amara West.
Respiratory disease in the Middle Nile Valley: the impact of environmental and sociocultural change from the Neolithic to Medieval periods.

Anna M. Davies-Barrett (Durham University)

In human skeletal remains, inflammation caused by respiratory disease can be detected by the presence of new bone formation in the sinuses (sinusitis) and on the inner surfaces of the ribs (lower respiratory tract disease). While many factors influence the prevalence of respiratory disease, particulate pollution plays a major role in irritating and inflaming the respiratory tract, increasing susceptibility to respiratory conditions. Thus, evidence for respiratory disease in human skeletons from archaeological populations can provide a past perspective on exposure to particulate pollution from various environmental and sociocultural sources. Evidence for respiratory disease was recorded in twelve sites from the Middle Nile Valley, ranging from the Neolithic to Medieval periods (5000 BC – AD 1500). Results demonstrate an increase in the prevalence of respiratory disease between the Neolithic and later time periods. The highest prevalence rates were found in the urban Medieval site. In Sudan, increasing aridity from the Neolithic period until the modern day may have led to a growing exposure to environmental particulate matter from airborne dust and sand. Additionally, the impact of agricultural intensification, increased population density, and craft specialisation, particularly in urban environments, all likely affected the increase in prevalence rates observed in the Middle Nile Valley.

Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Eastern Sudan. The contribution of dental anthropology

Giusy Capasso (University of Naples "L'Orientale")

Since 1980, the Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan aims at reconstructing the past of this region whose cultural sequence goes from the 6th millennium BC to the 1st millennium AD. For this area, the archaeological evidence dates the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition to the 4th millennium BC. Ongoing bioarchaeological studies, encompassing anthropological, archaeobotanical and archeozoological data, are actively contributing in understanding the bio-cultural effects of this phenomenon. The anthropological analyses, focused on the comparative study of the dental samples from the Mesolithic site of UA50 (5th millennium BC) and the Neolithic one of K1 (3rd millennium BC), show an increase in oral pathologies in the latter phase, in line with the archaeological and bioarchaeological evidence of a change in subsistence activities: for Mesolithic times, the exploitation of gastropods was recorded, while, evidence for the Neolithic K1 points to a regular introduction of domesticated vegetables in the diets, with a subsequent increase of carbohydrate consumption, one of the key factors in the onset of oral pathologies. This first evidence will be further investigated by adding more samples from future excavation campaigns and by analysing dental calculus inclusions in order to obtain more specific information on the diet of these human groups.
Accidental trauma or birth-related injury: A case study from a Late Meroitic cemetery at Korti, Sudan

Dr Iwona J. Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin (University of Manchester)

Skeletal trauma in infants and young children is rarely observed in archaeological populations, particularly injuries that could be associated with a difficult birth or physical abuse. To differentiate such cases from accidental injuries, the type, location and distribution of skeletal trauma need to be considered, and modern clinical cases consulted for diagnosis. This presentation will discuss a case of suspected birth-related injury (a fractured left clavicle) observed in skeletal remains of an infant from a Late Meroitic (late 1st to 4th centuries AD) cemetery at Korti, in the present-day Sudan. The skeletal remains of the infant (5-7 months old) were examined both macroscopically and radiographically for evidence of trauma. Based on that examination, it could be concluded that the injury sustained by the infant was likely birth-related.

Paleogenomic Investigation of Ancient Nubian Populations

Abagail M. Breidenstein (University of Michigan)

The Nile River Valley has a rich history of human occupation from prehistory through the modern era and recent studies have uncovered vast and complex ethnic, linguistic, and geographic diversity for this region. More specifically, the historic and ancient populations of Nubia were mobile with broad trade contacts and dynamic histories of conquest and colonialism, which likely contributed to their genetic ancestry. Focusing on the region known as Upper Nubia, this paper presents an effort to begin reconstructing Nubian demographic history via ancient and modern human DNA data. Utilizing paleogenomic data, or ancient DNA, from 88 ancient and 157 modern individuals spanning from the Meroitic period to the modern era, genetic clues are employed to reconstruct population dynamics and understand the mobility and interactions of these groups across the landscape. This methodology has the ability trace human migrations in “real-time” and to reconstruct past population history with enhanced resolution.

The amulets of the Kerma Culture in the National Museum of Sudan: from database to linked open data

Elena D’Itria & Gilda Ferrandino (University of Naples "L'Orientale")

The amulets of Kerma culture currently held in the National Museum of Sudan were brought to light during the excavations conducted by G.A. Reisner between 1913 to 1916. The systematic study of these unpublished collection, which is still in progress, gives the first insights into their production and significance. The majority of them consist of schematic faience amulet-beads that represent hippopotamuses, ladders, baboons, crocodiles, flies, lions and scorpions. An important achievement of the project consists of the digitization of the amulets. The whole corpus of digital data related to the amulets (artefacts, chronology, archaeological contexts, functions, etc.), organized in a relational database, will be mapped on a metadata schema. For some categories the value encoded in the original database will be substituted with URI according to the Link Open Data approach, to allow the online publication. The new values will be selected by International Thesaurii or Vocabularies (AAT, Geonames, DBPedia, etc.). For the information storage and the retrieval system is most important the use of Linked Open Data, connecting the recorded items to places, concept, time period, provided by different Thesaurii ad hoc. Thanks to Linked Open Data users could easily search and access all available data with standard descriptions and consult a variety of attached multimedia documentation. Standardization will also allow users to approach at the search of data by means of lists, without knowing the framework, language and criteria used to organize data.
Amulets are one of the most significant artefacts of the Meroitic civilization, where hundreds of them were found in the royal and non-royal tombs, and several were also found in the Meroitic settlements of Upper and Lower Nubia. The significance of these amulets is that they reflected the continuing or transformation of the concept of the believing in the symbolism. The archaeology of the Post-Meroitic period was first recognized in the cemeteries of northern Lower Nubia and designated the ‘X-Group’. While the identification of Post-Meroitic period in Upper Nubia proved rather more problematic than in the north. Even 25 years ago, very little was known of this period. However, some general features of this period are now becoming apparent. Regardless of the richness of grave goods in upper and lower Nubia in the Post-Meroitic period, it seems that the usage of amulets has been transformed. The aims of this research project are to present a typological study for Meroitic and post-Meroitic amulets, analyse their distribution from a genderism perspective, and determine their method of manufacture from a variety of materials. Furthermore, shed light on their indigenous and external influences.

The Sudan Archive’s Governor General Reports — Sieving for Archaeology

Chloë Ward (UCL)

As well as personal photographs, letters, and diaries, Durham University’s Sudan Archive contains a number of official reports on the finances, administration and condition of the Sudan. These reports were submitted on a nearly yearly basis (between 1902 and 1952) by the Governor General of the Sudan to the British High Commissioner in Egypt. They deal with many aspects of life and administration in the Sudan and often include separate reports submitted by governors of provinces and heads of departments. From an archaeological perspective, the reports submitted by the Education Department are particularly relevant. These normally include information on archaeological research conducted in the Sudan in any given year, and in some cases, lists of objects obtained by museums or collections. This paper will explore the archaeological information in these reports, as well as the Governor General reports more widely. This will focus on the variability of the reports and the type of archaeological research discussed in them over time. As well as what the reports can reveal about archaeological material uncovered in the Sudan during the early 20th century. The accessibility of the information will also be considered; as well as the use of the material in archaeological research.
Museum’s documentation consider as a very important step at the archaeological work stages; especially when its related to preserving of archaeological materials (artefacts), storing and showing for coming generations. The significance of this research expressed on the documentation of archaeological materials. This research is showing the current documentation system of National Cooperation for Antiquities and Museums in Sudan (NCAM), and its compares with global ways and means consequence until observed form those whom matter lays on palace and there are differences in this inhibited working until we benefit from using of the modern technology for assisting in the range of documentation and storing archaeological materials. It’s became necessary to employee modern digital technology as much as we can and to make it useful and applicable in the Sudan, and how it’s useful for analysing, studying and extraction of findings. As well as, it’s benefits in saving this heritage. This study attempts to show the processing of archives documentation cards (labels) that used in the stores of (NCAM) to study its different sides, then to submit some suggestions and solutions for curators. Moreover, clarification the necessary of documentations’ studies which can help with the issue of museum’s documentation.

Christian cultural heritage in Sudanese Islamic communities?
The case of Hajer Maqall on Mograt Island

Dr. Petra Weschenfelder (University of Vienna)

Some researchers in Sudanese archaeology assume that Sudanese communities living around Christian sites are not interested in engaging with Christian heritage. I argue that this is not necessarily the case. Instead, we as researchers might to often have concentrated on our own storyline focusing on the Christian period use of the sites. Yet, the modern communities might cherish and commemorate the site for its role in later periods. The medieval fortress of Hajer Maqall on Mograt Island will illustrate my point. At first sight, the sorrowful state of the site in winter 2018 made us think the contrary - yet, my community project with an ethno-historical approach showed aspects of the site’s history that the local communities consider meaningful. I argue that even if the stories do not relate to the Christian Period, we should not disregard them. Instead, we should rather connect to the stories if we want the local communities to engage with these sites. Moreover, they might even point us into directions that we had not considered before and thereby enrich our research.

Digging a Royal City: Eight years of Ca' Foscari University of Venice research at Jebel Barkal

S. Callegher, F. Iannarilli, F. Pancin (University of Venice)

The Italian Archaeological Mission in Sudan has been working at Jebel Barkal since 1973, investigating a specific area of ancient Napata; here, king Natakamani (1st century AD) planned an impressive royal district, implementing the existing Napatan landscape and creating a new vast Meroitic sector. The last seasons have been particularly productive thanks to the support of the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP), that allowed us to conduct more extended excavations thus inspiring also new prospects for research. In particular, a two-year postdoctoral work about the updating of Jebel Barkal documentation and bibliography is going on, preliminary to the final publication of the project. Furthermore, two postgraduate researches are currently in progress: one concerning plasters and pigments used in the decoration of the royal palace of Natakamani, and the other regarding its architectural features with a comparative approach. This paper intends to give an overview of the activities conducted in Sudan by the Italian Mission of Ca’ Foscari University since 2011, principally focusing on the latest excavation campaigns and on the results of the above-mentioned lines of investigation.
The stratigraphy of Mahal Teglinos (Jebel Taka, Kassala): a Holocene record of climate changes in the far Eastern Sudan.

Stefano Costanzo (University of Milan)

When browsing the literature about Holocene African climate changes, the far eastern region of the sahelian belt seems to be under-represented. But new data are elucidating the Holocene environmental dynamic occurred in Easter Sudan in the Holocene. This study is based on the geoarchaeological analysis of the well preserved archaeological context of Mahal Teglinos, a secluded valley in the north-eastern outskirt of the Taka Mountains. In particular, considerations on the relationship between a palustrine deposit and human settlement of the region give interesting insights on the regional timing of the African Humid Period. This is a work in progress, started in the early '90s under the activities of the Italian Archaeological Mission to the Sudan, Kassala (IAMS) and resumed with the Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan (IAEES) 2014-2019.

Shokan revisited: some preliminary results

Ben van den Bercken and Liliane Mann (Leiden University)

In October 1962 a team from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities (RMO) started excavations at the Late Meriotic village of Shokan (Ash-Shaukan), about 2,5 km north of Abu Simbel. The excavation was part of the UNESCO International Campaign: “Save the Monuments of Nubia” which was instigated by the building of the Aswan High Dam. The site, situated on the western bank of the Nile, consisted of circa thirty house complexes that were inhabited - according to the excavators - between the 1st and 4th century AD. In the 4th century the village disappeared beneath the desert sand, to be rediscovered and disappear again under the water of Lake Nasser in the 20th century. Almost all objects discovered by the excavation team were donated by the Egyptian government to the RMO. The field documents of this excavation, which were never properly analysed or published, also ended up in the RMO. Intrigued by the unfinished story of this village we would like to try to make life in this Late Meroitic village visible again and make it accessible to everyone.

The Northern Cemetery of Sanam at Et-Tameer, Third excavation season (April-June 2018)

Murtada Bushara Mohamed (National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, Khartoum, Sudan)

In 1912-13 the Oxford Excavations in Nubia at Sanam, led by Francis Ll. Griffith, revealed the largest non-royal Kushite cemetery to be discovered in the Napata region, located to the south of the ancient town of Sanam. Nearly one century later another cemetery located to the north of Sanam at et-Tameer was discovered by chance and rescue excavations were conducted there by the Jebel Barkal Museum Archaeological Mission in 2004-5 and 2009-10. For the second campaign, in 2013-14, the excavation at et-Tameer was incorporated into the QSAP Dam-Debba Archaeological Survey Project (DDASP). As it is located within the project area, the site has been recorded as DS 100 et-Tameer (Mahmoud Bashir 2015, 161). After this season the site was separated from the DDASP and, by mistake, another site (Ambakol) was assigned the same record DS 100 (Fawzi 2015, 159). In order to eliminate this confusion the cemetery, as it is located to the north of Sanam, will be referred to as the northern cemetery of Sanam at et-Tameer. Due to a lack of funds archaeological work at et-Tameer was suspended, only to be reactivated this year funded mainly by Mahmoud Suliman Bashir and partly by the author. Since the beginning of the work 22 tombs have been uncovered, all given the abbreviation TR. As some of these tombs share certain architectural features with those in royal and non-royal cemeteries in the Napata region, we hope that the excavations will contribute to a better understanding of the chronology of non-royal tombs in this region and elsewhere.

Dr. Francesco Michele Rega, (University of Naples, “L’Orientale”) & Stefano Costanzo, (University of Milan)

During the Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan’s 2019 field season, a geoarchaeological survey was made by the authors in the area of Gash Delta. The aim of the survey was to understand the possible source areas of raw stone materials, especially those used for macro-lithic tools and the stone stelae characterizing the site of Mahal Teglinos (K1). Observations made on such finds arose the idea that the raw materials probably came from elsewhere. Three possible source areas were surveyed for this purpose: the slopes surrounding K1 site, a modern gneiss quarry and the bed of the river Gash. Different lithotypes have been identified, some of them compatible with what observed in Mahal Teglinos’ archaeological contexts. Samples were collected for further analysis.

Intangible Cultural Heritage around the Archaeological Sites of the Napatan Region

Ismail Hamid Mohamed Elnour (University of Birmingham)

The relation between the two components of cultural heritage, namely the tangible heritage and the intangible heritage, is intertwined and complex. It is difficult to draw a distinction between the two, as the tangible asset is part of cultural expression while the intangible heritage also needs physical manifestation. Currently, there is, on the one hand, a lack of intensive action in integrating cultural heritage in its totality. On the other hand, the archaeological site as a tangible heritage aspect has met with an additional challenge, namely the lack of involving local communities and their conceptualizations such as their assigned value and their interpretations to this heritage. This research investigated and examine the intangible cultural heritage of the local communities of the Merowe region associated with Jebel Elbarkal archaeological sites, particularly their oral history, oral literature, traditions, customs, story-telling and their cultural practices, to identify the cultural values and the ways of seeing the archaeological sites of the region. At the top of that, as an identity, self-identity formation and social reality always are embodied by and within a discourse, which controls and is produced by cultural and social structures is presented through intangible culture, this research investigated how the Jebel Elbarkal local communities’ intangible culture provides them with a sense of identity.

Reassessing the historiography of Nubia and Punt through New Kingdom iconographical sources

Zachary Stancombe (University of Cambridge)

Using depictions of Nubians and Puntites in the Egyptian New Kingdom, it is possible to view the real bias which affected the imagery. This can then be utilized to study the historiography of Nubia which suffers from being based on racially prejudiced work. I aim to explain the reasons behind the historiographical bias which affects the study of Nubia, especially in comparison to Egypt. The comparisons of two African states Egypt interacts with reveals the real reasons behind the depictions and literature concerning Nubia. This, combined with an understanding of social bias’s affecting scholars, allows an analytical study of the historiography to progress further study more effectively.
Decoding Sudan’s and South Sudan’s political culture(s)

Dr. Jędrzej Czerep (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Political culture remains on the margins of politological, historic or economic analysis of Sudan and South Sudan, despite its major influence on dynamics of developments both within and between the two states. In the Sudanese contexts decoding unwritten codes of conduct and reconstructing patterns of political behaviour repeatedly adopted by subsequent generations of political actors offers additional – and sometimes decisive – interpretative keys for understanding modern history of the Sudans, both in top-down and bottom-up dimensions. Particularly, approach centralising political culture offers significant advantages in explaining increasing similarities in directions towards which both Sudanese and South Sudanese systems evolved in first years after the South won independence.

Archaeological investigations on the outskirts of large cities – North Omdurman case study

Mariusz Drzewiecki (Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Places which twenty years ago were considered as small villages in some distance from the towns are now part of urban centres. The present-day far outskirts, in future, will become one with the cities. In such zone, between the village of Sheikh el-Tayib and Shaheinab, which lay to the north of the city of Omdurman, a team of researchers from Polish Academy of Sciences and Al-Neelain University have been working in 2018. The idea was to document archaeological heritage while it’s still available. Primarily, archaeological surveys were introduced, recording altogether 135 archaeological sites in 10 km area between the two villages. The oldest finds date to the stone age and the youngest to the 19th and 20th century. The list includes large cemeteries, settlements, rock art, stone quarries etc. Selected sites were investigated in detail. The focus was placed on three regular forts preliminary dated to Late-Meroitic/Post-Meroitic period. The question that we are trying to answer was who built the forts – last rulers of Meroe or the first kings of Alwa.

Project funded by the National Science Centre, Poland (agreement no UMO-2016/21/D/HS3/02972)

The Intergenerational Conflict Among the Sudanese Community in Britain

Samah Bushra

According to London Sudanese Community, most parents who were born in Sudan, and similar numbers of British-born young Sudanese have expressed difficulties in communication between each other. This paper demonstrates the conflicted relationships between generations in Britain. It puts light on the causes and results of this conflict and attempts to suggest resolution. It also considers the role of the official Sudanese communities in narrowing this intergenerational gap. This paper uses qualitative research methods. It conducts Interviews with participants from the two generations. It refers to observations produced by number of research studies analysing the Sudanese community in UK as one of the biggest migrants’ communities. This paper claims that the main factor of the conflict between the two Sudanese generations in Britain is that the older generation has failed to accommodate the British values starting with the individual liberty .It also claims that although the UK Sudanese communities have worked to tackle the intergenerational gap ,the steps for resolution are yet shy .This paper investigates the reasons behind these steps being not challenging enough to make change or to solve the conflict.
Rhythm in improvised music performance: Musical outputs informed by translations of Sudanese and South Sudanese rhythms in the structure of drum set sound exploration

Beau Stocker (University of York)

This practice-based research is a series of translations employing traditions of East African rhythm in improvised music exploration on the drum set and live electronics. The poster proposal of this work, exemplified in the connections cultivated through study experiences living in Khartoum Sudan, presents discourse of Sudanese and South Sudanese rhythmic traditions virtually non-existent in western improvised music influences. Research audio and video examples, centred around the integration of rhythm into improvised music concepts as structural tools, also explores the development of concepts that utilize the various timbres of the drum set structured by a select few East African rhythms as a basis for musical pieces with ensembles. Both these elements converge into treatise of the resulting musical outputs of developmental sessions comprising duo, trio and solo album recordings. Comparison of these outputs illustrates trends in current percussion performance practice in improvised music as related wider artistic context. In addition to this, accounts of former colleagues and percussion experts, in both Sudan and South Sudan, are included as a means to interrogate this research through another lens.

A theory on Spatial Analysis of Domestic Architecture in Khartoum: Transitional Praxis of Colonial and Post-Colonial Eras

Gadsiah Ibrahim (University of Khartoum)

Khartoum domestic architecture of post-independence has undergone a series of spatial changes to cope with shifting political and social context. These changes have not been examined yet, except through eclectic approaches, leaving most of the architectural dimension untouched yet. Following the transition through eras, this thesis incites the praxis formation of spatial organization and its relationships in domestic spaces as well as the formal composition. The study explores eighty representative samples to reveal the hidden patterns, employing the Space Syntax method of analysis; to decipher spatial transition and identify patterns, a formal analysis has been integrated to correlate the composition to configuration to identify patterns of space utilization, and to test the configurational invariances. To interpret the social meaning, and respect the historical context, several interviews were conducted. These analytical comparisons have shown the changes occurred across the samples, their level of integration, and spatial/patterns changes that help in understanding the real transformations of colonial’s integrated space to more post-colonial’s segregated space, with increasing need for privacy; and consequently leads to more interior-oriented spaces, deep composition, transition-centred units, with more differentiated spaces. The merging of use and the reduction of the segregation are not parallel occurrences, with much intersections of religious convictions, sexual inclinations, and political leanings. However similar studies of these kinds of changes will result in investigating the issues in domestic architecture that have not yet been revealed.
Mycetoma is a neglected tropical disease, affecting young and poor people. Sudan is the most affected part of the globe. Mycetoma believed to be transmitted through thorny pricks, that surrounded the traditional animal enclosures. For risk reduction, Mycetoma Research Center with a donation from a Sudanese engineering company constructed 72 modern animal enclosures in Wad-ELNimear village. Despite being free of charge, this the last intervention did not yield expected benefit since only two villagers preferred to keep their animal in this new enclosure. Focused ethnography was conducted in Wad-ELNimear Village, Sinner State – Sudan to explore villagers’ views about their animal and animal enclosures. It was found that animals form a significant part of economic, social and cultural lives of Wad-ELNimear villagers and most of their activities evolve around those animals. According to the views of the villager’s artificial animal enclosures lack personal touch, sense of ownership, it does not serve the multifunctionality of the traditional enclosures, require more work than the traditional one to keep the animals there, and may facilitate disease transmission. Understanding of the end user’s socio-cultural context is crucial prerequisite for any community intervention.

Environmental changes and the Collapse of the Kushite Kingdom of Meroe, Sudan: A contributing factor? Results of stable isotope analysis of human remains from selected archaeological sites

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The collapse of the once-powerful and prosperous Kushite Kingdom of Meroe (c. 300 BC – AD 350) in the present-day Sudan, remains unclear and open to speculation. The available historical and archaeological evidence points to several likely causes for the decline and eventual fall of the kingdom in the 4th century AD; the most frequently cited factors being political and economic instability, and social unrest. More recently, the environmental changes caused by overexploitation of the natural environment have been postulated as a contributing factor to the kingdom’s demise. In order to investigate the environmental changes as a causative factor for the collapse of the Meroitic kingdom, human remains from mortuary deposits from the central and southern regions of the Sudan were examined. Stable isotope analysis of carbon, oxygen and strontium was applied to obtain information on the environmental conditions, dietary regimes and movement of people during the Meroitic (c. 300 BC – AD 350) and Post-Meroitic Period (AD 350 – 600). The results of this research will add depth to our understanding of the causative factors behind the collapse of the Meroitic kingdom, and human-environment relationship in the past.

Pieter Tesch

The Middle Nile is the eastern end of the Sahel/Sudanic belt as well as the western end of the Horn of Africa, from Antiquity until today, with many impulses coming from the west, instead of the east and the north. Modern Sudan in Northeast Africa is the home of (Tropical) Africa oldest civilisations, but is now a Sahelian nation that is today a members of the Arab League, just like Mauritania in the Northwest. Their respective colloquial Arabic dialects and culture are very African. But what about the languages and cultures of the peoples who speak languages belonging to the Afro-asiatic language groups such as Berber/Amazigh or those who speak ‘Cushite’ languages such as Beja, are they not as ‘African’ as the Nubians are in culture and language? Is this not kind of residue of the ‘Hamitic myth’ in reverse. New concepts of Trans Saharan Africa has developed, but as they seem to concentrate on the western and central Saharan-Sahelian regions, the eastern seems to be forgotten in the writings and studies on Trans Saharan Africa. And can one speak of a Trans Saharan Africa before the arrival of the Arabs and Islam in the Sahara and subsequently in the Sahel?