

NEW FRONTIERS IN ANTHROPOCENE ARCHAEOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

ORGANISERS:

ANNEKE JANZEN & PATRICK ROBERTS



THURS 9 - FRI 10 MAY 2019

Max-Planck-Institut für
Menschheitsgeschichte

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History



New Frontiers in Anthropocene Archaeology

The single biggest challenge of our generation is the human transformation of the Earth, increasingly witnessed in the form of climate change, habitat destruction and mass species extinctions. Scientists have suggested that these impacts have become so substantial that we have now entered a new epoch, the Anthropocene, in which humans have emerged as the dominant geological force on the planet.

Archaeology and related disciplines like palaeoecology and historical ecology provide a unique, long-term perspective on the Anthropocene and the emergence of significant cultural niche construction. Historicising human environmental impacts provides insights into present-day activities and their long-term legacies, helps to model and predict anthropogenic impacts, and assists us in better understanding and defining pre-industrial baselines. In addition, disciplines like archaeology, which garner tremendous public attention, help to raise the profile of, and provide novel perspectives on, anthropogenic environmental change.

Research into anthropogenic environmental change is currently thriving, supported by a new wave of researchers not afraid to cross the boundaries between different disciplines. This workshop brings together researchers whose work addresses the historic and prehistoric role of humans in shaping regional and global ecosystems.

Note: talks will be 20 minutes and 10 minutes for Q and A.

Note on sustainability

In an effort to lessen our impact we encourage all of our participants to bring refillable water bottles to the workshop. There is a water cooler (which also dispenses carbonated water!) in the library. However, bottles of water will also be provided. We will also be serving vegetarian lunches both days.

Thursday, 9 May 2019

- 9:00-9:30 Registration & coffee, Villa 14
- 9:30-9:45 Welcome: Nicole Boivin, Director, Department of Archaeology, MPI-SHH
- 9:45-10:00 Introduction to the workshop, Anneke Janzen

Session 1: Empires and Urbanism in the Anthropocene

Chair: Andrea Kay

- 10:00-10:20 Patrick Roberts, MPI-SHH
Comparing prehistoric urban resilience in tropical South and Southeast Asia
- 10:30-10:50 Julie Hoggarth, Baylor University
Classic Maya Population Expansion and Impacts on the Environment:
Archaeological Perspectives on the Anthropocene
- 11:00-11:20 **Coffee (Library)**

11:30-11:50 Michael Storozum, Fudan University
A Window into the Anthropocene: The Ecology of Empire Along the Yellow River

Session 2: Past into the Present: Legacies of Land Use

Chair: Ayushi Nayak

12:00-12:20 Yoshi Maezumi, University of the West Indies
Legacies from the past: An interdisciplinary approach to reconstruct past human land use

12:30-1:30 **Lunch (Library)**

1:30-1:50 Steven T. Goldstein, MPI-SHH
The Anthropocene as an age of stewardship: perspectives from East Africa's savanna ecosystems

2:00-2:20 Alicia Ventresca Miller, MPI-SHH
Pastoralists as ecosystem engineers in ancient Central Asia

2:30-2:50 Sophia Hansson, Aarhus University
Blast from the Past - The fate of legacy pollutants from historical mining and their potential bio availability to contemporary biota

3:00-3:30 **Coffee (Library)**

Session 3: New Methods in Documenting Anthropogenic Impacts

Chair: Kristine Richter

3:30-3:50 Ricardo Fernandes
Investigating the Anthropocene using IsoMemo

4:00-4:20 Yiming Wang, MPI-SHH
Global markers of the Anthropocene: tracing demographics of humans and their domesticates with faecal biomarkers

4:30-5:00 Victor L. Caetano Andrade, MPI-SHH
The Amazon in the Anthropocene

5:00-5:30 Discussion

6:00-7:00 **Dinner Break at Köz**

7:00-8:00 Closing remarks on using new methods to document anthropogenic landscape changes

Friday, 10 May, 2019

9:30-10:00 Coffee will be available in Villa 14

Session 4: Climate, Land Use, and Subsistence

Chair: Elissa Bullion, MPI-SHH

- 10:00-10:30 Peter Coutros, University of Puget Sound
Archaeology as climate science: Whence the Anthropocene?
- 10:30-11:00 Anna Shoemaker, Uppsala University
Adaptation and resilience to climate change (ARCC) in eastern Africa
- 11:00-11:30 Christopher Kiahtipes, University of South Florida, Tampa
Perspectives on the Anthropocene from African archaeology and paleoecology
- 11:30-12:00 Andrea Kay, University of Queensland, MPI-SHH
Western African population dynamics linked to changes in food-production and environment over the Holocene
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch (Library)**
1:00-1:30 **Workshop Photo (Front Lawn)**

Session 5: Human-Animal Relationships in the Anthropocene

Chair: Thomas Larsen, MPI-SHH

- 1:30-1:50 Patrick Faulkner, University of Sydney
Intertidal foraging and historical ecology in the Mafia Archipelago, eastern Africa
- 2:00-2:20 Anneke Janzen, MPI-SHH
Conservation on the savanna: Reconstructing species biogeographies in the Anthropocene
- 2:30-2:50 Kristine Richter, MPI-SHH
What's the catch: Environmental reconstruction and aquatic resource exploitation in the Anthropocene
- 3:00-3:20 Noel Amano, MPI-SHH
Subsistence economies of early agriculturalists in the Philippines: Insights from zooarchaeology
- 3:30-4:00 **Coffee PM (Library)**
- 3:30-5:00 Discussion; Anneke Janzen & Patrick Roberts
- 6:00-7:00 **Dinner Break at Addis Ababa**
7:00-8:00 Closing remarks: Archaeology of the Anthropocene