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5TH SUDAN STUDIES RESEARCH CONFERENCE
WARSAW EDITION
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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<i>Chair: Samantha Tipper [Bioarchaeology]</i>	- 5 -
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DAY 01: 04 SEPTEMBER 2021 [SATURDAY]

09:00 – 09:45 REGISTRATION [FOR ATTENDEES IN WARSAW]
09:45 – 10:00 WELCOME

CHAIR: MARIUSZ DRZEWIECKI

10:00 – 10:40 OPENING LECTURE

Dobrochna Zielińska (University of Warsaw)
Between Byzantium and Africa.
Understanding Medieval Nubian Culture Through its Art

10:40 – 10:55 LATE REGISTRATION

10:55 – 12:10 SESSION: ART/TRADITIONS

10:55 Ibrahim Hanaa
Toward the methodology of studying the pipes in the area of Sennar - Sudan

11:10 Elsa Yvanez (University of Copenhagen), Magdalena M. Wozniak
(University of Warsaw),
Textiles in funerary chaîne opératoire: Unravelling Nubian Funerary Practices project

11:25 Romuald Tarczewski (Wrocław University of Science and Technology),
Karel Innemée,
Dobrochna Zielińska (University of Warsaw)
The petroglyph and church of Miseeda. Research perspectives

11:40 Luisa Bonadies (University Sapienza)
Levantine artists at the court of Sudanese Pharaohs?

11:55 – 12:10 QUESTIONS

12:10 – 12:25 COFFEE BREAK

CHAIR: AGATA DEPTULA

12:25 – 13:55 SESSION: CERAMICS

12:25 Loretta Kilroe (British Museum)
Paint and Burnish: Meroitic ceramics in the British Museum from Faras, Lower Nubia

12:40 Elżbieta Kołosowska (Gdańsk Archaeological Museum),
Małgorzata Daszkiewicz (University of Berlin)
Life after life? Comparison of pottery from settlements and cemeteries in the Fourth Nile Cataract region, Sudan

12:55 Ulrike Nowotnick (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)
For the community, for the 'market' or for the royal house? – Meroitic ceramic production in urban Hamadab

13:10 Jiří Honzl (Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures)
Meroites recycling – post-production modification and reuse of Meroitic pottery at Wad Ben Naga

13:25 Katarzyna de Lellis-Danys (University of Warsaw)
Sharing around the table? New perspectives for dining habits in Christian and Islamic Nubia

13:40 – 13:55 QUESTIONS

13:55 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

CHAIR: SAMANTHA TIPPER

15:00 – 15:40 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Daniel Antoine (British Museum)

From the Palaeolithic to the Medieval period, new bioarchaeological insights from the collections curated at the British Museum.

15:40 – 17:00 SESSION: BIOARCHAEOLOGY

15:40 Charles Le Moyne (University of Queensland)

A multiproxy study of plant consumption, Kadruka 1 and Kadruka 21, Upper Nubia, Sudan

15:55 Anna Davies-Barratt (British Museum & Leicester University) and Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta (British Museum & University of Nevada)

Life and death at the town of Kawa: Findings of the recent osteological analysis of the Kushite cemetery assemblage

16:10 Abigail Breidenstein (University of Zürich), Fakhri Hassan Abdallah (NCAM), Meghan E. Strong (Case Western Reserve University), Pearce Paul Creasman (American Centre for Research), Gretchen Emma Zoeller (University of Pittsburgh)

Bioarchaeological and archaeological investigations of Meroitic burials: first insights into occupation at Nuri

16:25 Robert J. Stark (University of Warsaw)

Burial Variation in the Cemetery of Old Dongola: Initial Insights from the UMMA Project

16:40 – 17:00 QUESTIONS

17:00 – 17:25 COFFEE BREAK

CHAIR: KATARZYNA RADZIWIŁKO

17:25 – 18:40

SESSION: ENVIRONMENT/REMOTE SENSING

- 17:25 Tim Karberg (WWU Münster),
Jana Eger-Karberg (WWU Münster)
Landscape and Geo-Archaeology of Western and Central Sudanese Rangelands – Multispectral and Radar Satellite Data in Practical Use (online)
- 17:40 Abdelrhman Muhamed Fahmy Sayed Ahmed (Cádiz University)
Geo-hazards assessment for the pyramids of Meroe, Al Bagrawiya archaeological site, Sudan
- 17:55 Katherine Rose (Harvard University)
Archaeological Applications of Drones and 3D Modelling in Northern Sudan: A Study of Kushite Royal Cemeteries
- 18:10 Ammar Awad mohammed Abd Alla (University of Khartoum)
Jebel Damik: A Preliminary report at an archaeological site in the Noba Mountains.

18:25 – 18:40

QUESTIONS

18:40 – 21:00

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

DAY 02: 05 SEPTEMBER 2021 [SUNDAY]

CHAIR: SAMANTHA TIPPER

10:00 – 10:40 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Julia Budka (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
*Sai Island as a microcosm in New Kingdom Nubia:
New perspectives on an Egyptian temple town and its hinterland*

10:40 – 12:10 SESSION: PREHISTORY

10:40 Mirosław Masojć (University of Wrocław), Grzegorz Michalec (University of Wrocław), Ahmed Hamid Nassr (University of Hail)
Acheulean – Middle Stone Age sequence from the Eastern Desert, Sudan – recapitulation of the EDAR project

10:55 Alnawras Babker Aud Elkareem (University of Iceland),
Abubaker Elmusteenballa Osman (Hanoi University of Agri)
The Stone Age in the Upper Atbara River in Eastern Sudan

11:10 Piotr Osypiński (Polish Academy of Sciences)
New perspective for studies upon prehistoric research in Sudan – unearthing pan-African crossroad

11:25 Gościwit Malinowski (University of Wrocław)
Ichthyophagi on the African coast of the Red Sea - palaeolithic relict hunter-gatherers' population or example of Hellenistic literary convention

11:40 Hend Abdelmeguid Tawfeek Abdelhaleem Elfiky (University of Cairo)
Aquatic Civilization in Middle Africa as evidence for the early dispersal of humans from East Africa to the West

11:55 – 12:10 QUESTIONS

12:10 – 12:30 COFFEE BREAK

CHAIR: AGATA DEPTULA

12:30 – 13:40 SESSION: COMMUNITY/HERITAGE

- 12:30 Ezzeldin Hajjaj (University of Khartoum), Abbas Elmualim (University of Sharjah), Zaki Aslan (International centre for the study of the preservation and restoration of cultural property)
Museums as an effective agent of peace and reconciliation in Sudan
Case Study: The community development museums project
- 12:45 Mariusz Drzewiecki (University of Warsaw),
Włodzimierz Rączkowski (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan)
Capacity building in Sudanese archaeological heritage: some reflections
- 13:00 Katarzyna Radziwiłko (University of Warsaw)
A Community Survey in Ghaddar: The Case of a Socio-Archaeological Study
- 13:15 Jędrzej Czerep (Polish Institute of International Affairs)
A more inclusive Sudanese identity?

13:30 – 13:40 QUESTIONS

13:40 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

CHAIR: MARIUSZ DRZEWIECKI

14:30 – 15:10 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Fawzi Hassan Bakhiet (University of Neelain)
Education in archaeology at the University of Neelain, Sudan

15:10 – 17:10 SESSION: ICONOGRAPHY/ARCHITECTURE

- 15:10 Shireen Mubarak (University of Cairo)
Suakin Under the Egyptian administration 1865–1882
- 15:25 Julia Maczuga (University of Bonn)
The symbolic meaning of pictorial graffiti from the Ghazali Northern Church, located in northern Sudan
- 15:40 Agata Deptuła (University of Warsaw),
Maciej Wyzgoł (University of Warsaw)
Nubians of Dongola in the Funj period. Perspectives from the archaeological remains of the capital city (16th and 17th century)
- 15:55 Francesca Iannarilli (University of Venice),
Federica Pancin (Sapienza University of Rome)
Stone and Plaster at Napata. Architectural decoration from the Meroitic buildings of Jebel Barkal
- 16:10 Silvia Callegher (Ca' Foscari University of Venice),
Martino Gottardo (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
The Italian Archaeological Mission in Sudan – Jebel Barkal: a stratigraphic approach to the latest discoveries
- 16:25 Roksana Hajduga (Polish Academy of Sciences)
Kushite building techniques from Amun temple in Dangeil
- 16:40 Christian Perzlmeier (Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München)
Naga - Recent discoveries and latest research in 2020

16:55 – 17:10 QUESTIONS

17:10 – 17:25 COFFEE BREAK

CHAIR: KATARZYNA RADZIWIŁKO

17:25 – 18:40 SESSION: ETHNOGRAPHY

- 17:25 Maciej Kurcz (University of Silesia)
*Soba Past versus Soba Present.
Identity, History and Memory in Suburban Areas of Khartoum*
- 17:40 Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss (National Corporation for Antiquities and
Museums of Sudan)
*Oral tradition as source of collecting and interpreting data “Old Town of
Berber” as case study*
- 17:55 Magdalena Warowna (University of Warsaw)
*Basketry manufacture from Old Dongola according to the past, present and
future*
- 18:10 Joanna Ciesielska (University of Warsaw)
Initial remarks on the status of women in medieval Nubia

18:25 – 18:40 QUESTIONS

18:40 – 19:00 CLOSING REMARKS – SAMANTHA TIPPER & MARIUSZ
DRZEWIECKI



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ABSTRACTS

Ibrahim Hanaa

Toward the methodology of studying the pipes in the area of Sennar - Sudan

Smoking tools are one of the important types spread in African continent and it was a subject of great controversy and very popular during the Ottoman Empire era, where it was widespread and available in many cafes, especially in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The study dealt with smoking pipes in Sudan in the area of Sennar. The aims of this study are to find out the types of smoking pipes and their prevalence rate, while comparing the types that were found in the Old Dongola region, as well as discussing the debate about the prohibition of smoking in that period in the Islamic countries. The results confirmed that the smoking at that time was related to social classes, as there was a variation in the industrial types, shapes, sizes and decoration. It became clear that there were imported Ottoman smoking pipes at the area of the study dating back to about the eighteenth century and other types are local made of similar Nile clay. for species spread in Old Dongola. The study recommended that studying the smoker's community needs Interdisciplinary approach to know more about the psychological and social aspects that prevailed in that period, in addition to knowledge of the development and production of smoking tools. In Sudan and other Islamic countries.

Elsa Yvanez and Magdalena M. Wozniak

Textiles in funerary chaîne opératoire: Unravelling Nubian Funerary Practices project

The Unravelling Nubian Funerary Practices project is hosted at the PCMA-University of Warsaw (2021-2022). It fosters collaboration between archaeologists, bio-anthropologists and textile experts to reconstruct the funerary gestures that accompanied the wrapping of the dead. Two case studies will illustrate the important role played by textiles during funerary rites.

The first one focuses on the textiles from a Meroitic grave on Sai Island which contained the burials of at least three individuals, deposited in the cavity in successive phases of reuse. Eight groups of textile fragments, from tiny pieces to better preserved fabrics, were retrieved during excavation in 1997 and later studied in the SFDAS facilities in Khartoum. More than 15 years after their discovery, the good quality of excavation records was combined with modern textile analyses to map the use of textiles in a Meroitic burial.

The second case study analyses a set of shroud fragments from a multiple burial of fifteen individuals from Old Dongola, dated to 10th-11th c. The best-preserved parts are currently preserved in blocks of fabric layers stuck within the decomposition fluids. The textile and chemical analyses are used in combination with the photographic documentation provided by the anthropologist to assess their original position.

Romuald Tarczewski, Karel Innemée and Dobrochna Zielińska

The petroglyph and church of Miseeda. Research perspectives

In the rocky landscape of the Third Cataract, at about one kilometre from the village of Miseeda, a small church is hidden between massive boulders that dominate the surroundings. It was constructed here because of a rock drawing that became its centrepiece: a petroglyph of a high-ranking Kushite figure holding two rams and a flagpole with triangular flags on it. The region is traditionally a border area between North and South and over the centuries countless people have left graffiti and drawings in the rocks, possibly to mark this border and/or its crossing. The first field season brought complex documentation and samples of bricks and painted plaster that are the basis for the reconstruction of the original vaulting and technology used. On this basis the research questions and perspectives will be presented.

Luisa Bonadies

Levantine artists at the court of Sudanese Pharaohs?

Relations between Egypt and Levant were always very close and they facilitated the arrival of several artefacts of Levantine origin in the Nile Valley. Recent studies have shown that during the Third Intermediate Period, Egyptian artistic production was influenced by Levantine culture and that it employed some decorative motifs originating in the Levant. If literature and archaeological researches abound on Egyptian-Levantine relations, there is a lack of information concerning contacts with Sudan. Amongst the funerary furniture of some Sudanese royal tombs, several objects actually could attest cultural interactions between Nubia and Phoenicia, which can be explained essentially by the fact that both areas form the ends of an ancient trade route. By analysing this evidence and comparing it with the available information from other artifacts found in areas such as the Central and Western Mediterranean, this present paper aims to question which kind of relations existed between Phoenicians and the Nubian elites during the First Millennium BCE.

Loretta Kilroe

Paint and Burnish: Meroitic ceramics in the British Museum from Faras, Lower Nubia

The site of Faras now flooded below Lake Nasser, contained remains dating back to at least the A-Group period, and its Meroitic necropolis, constructed amid the ruins of a Tutankhamun temple, appears one of the richest burial sites in Lower Nubia. However, since Griffith's excavation reports, the cemetery has been overlooked for study, leaving a substantial gap in our understanding of the Meroitic kingdom and its impact in northern Sudan. A substantial quantity of the grave goods from Faras are now held in the collection of the British Museum, including c.190 ceramic vessels, which the current author has been studying.

Elżbieta Kołosowska & Małgorzata Daszkiewicz

Life after life? Comparison of pottery from settlements and cemeteries in the Fourth Nile Cataract region, Sudan

In the years 1996-2010 the Archaeological Museum in Gdansk conducted excavations in the Fourth Nile Cataract region. Pottery samples from neighbouring settlements and cemeteries were selected for laboratory tests to compare the vessels used in everyday life with those deposited in graves with the dead.

The primary aim of laboratory analysis carried out on these pottery fragments was to verify the hypothesis that the suite of ceramic vessels found in graves were made from different raw materials and based on a different technology to the pottery produced for use at settlements. Furthermore, the fact that the samples selected for analysis represented pottery from settlements and associated cemeteries, each set of settlement-and-cemetery sherds attributable to a different period, made it feasible to investigate the theory that there had been a discontinuity in pottery technology traditions as well as a discontinuity in raw material use from the Old Kush to the Meroitic period in the Fourth Nile Cataract region.

pottery sherds were subjected to various laboratory analyses. These included: estimation of physical ceramic properties, chemical analysis by WD-XRF, K-H analysis and MGR-analysis. These analyses were conducted as part of the project carried out at the FU Berlin, Excellence Cluster 264 TOPOI.

Ulrike Nowotnick

For the community, for the 'market' or for the royal house? – Meroitic ceramic production in urban Hamadab

The currently thriving research on Meroitic ceramics and their great variability stimulated discussions on the mode and the organisation of pottery production in the Meroitic kingdom. Excavations of a Late Meroitic pottery kiln at Hamadab, an urban town near Meroe, has yielded thousands of overfired ceramic wasters which are evaluated to provide new insights on the manufacture of Meroitic utilitarian goods.

Using the broad potentials of ceramic analysis, the kiln load can be reconstructed in terms of composition in forms, fabrics and wares. The incorporation of archaeometric analyses determined the 'fabric fingerprint' for this production site, offering new perspectives on the raw material procurement and the distribution of ceramic containers in the Meroitic south.

The kiln wasters are furthermore examined towards the prevailing production parameters and technologies of this urban workshop. These suggest an industrial mass-production of standardised ceramic wares in the 3rd/4th century AD.

As the first analysis of production wasters from a potter's kiln in the Meroitic heartland, the Hamadab case study examines the production activities in a non-elite Meroitic community. These will be discussed towards the role of ceramic industry in the economy of the Meroitic state and how local production activities were regulated.

Jiří Honzl

Meroites recycling – post-production modification and reuse of Meroitic pottery at Wad Ben Naga

Among the pottery collected and studied at the Meroitic site of Wad Ben Naga, such pieces were noted which offer diverse evidence of maintenance, reuse and reclamation of vessels or their parts. Some form of physical alteration was recognised in most of these cases. At the present, the accumulated evidence is sufficient enough to start with a comprehensive evaluation of the phenomenon. Closer scrutiny of the topic has the potential to bring a better understanding of previously elusive aspects of the utilisation of pottery by the ancient inhabitants of the site.

The paper shall establish a site-specific classification for documented modes of post-production modification and reuse of pottery, describe them, and propose the interpretation of their purpose. The evidence coming from Wad Ben Naga is to be compared with similar cases of reworking and reuse known from other Meroitic sites and beyond. Two groups of such ceramics, which appeared quite regularly at the site, shall be highlighted, namely large storage vessels altered to be used as so-called vessel emplacements and sherds fashioned into the form of small disks, which may have served as lids or dishes.

Katarzyna de Lellis-Danys

Sharing around the table? New perspectives for dining habits in Christian and Islamic Nubia

Archaeological investigations of ERC Starting Grant “UMMA” and Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project undertaken in Old Dongola brought to light Christian and Islamic phases of the occupation of the city. Sets of table ware represent over one thousand year of eating customs and reflect differences and similarities between them. Wheel-made forms with flat bases, characteristic for Christian period were usually related with the dining by the table, while handmade vessels with rounded bases of Islamic period with sharing meals on the mats. Moreover, Christian and Islamic households contained vessels which might suggest socio-cultural factors affecting patterns of serving and eating habits. The usual Christian tableware included bowls of various sizes, plates, cups, bottles, and vases that could be related to “personalised” model of eating habit. On the other hand, the repertoire of Islamic set is composed mainly of multipurpose bowls of rather large sizes, related to the habit of sharing a “common” meal. The aim of this paper is to present new perspectives on research of dining habits on the basis of pottery analysis and confronting them with iconographic, textual and ethnographic sources from Sudan and beyond.

Robert J. Stark

Burial Variation in the Cemetery of Old Dongola: Initial Insights from the UMMA Project

Initiated in 2020, bioarchaeological excavations at Old Dongola as part of the Urban Metamorphosis of the Community of a Medieval African Capital (UMMA) project have focussed on burials in the area roughly between the Citadel and the monastery on Kom H. Investigation in this area has sought, in part, to identify cemetery use at the transition between occupation of Old Dongola during the Christian period and the subsequent Funj period. While excavations in this area remain in the very early stages of development, a number of distinctly different approaches to Christian period burial have been identified, ranging from multiple interments, shaft, and vaulted burial chamber graves. Such burial type diversity brings into question the nature of cemetery use and burial preferences among the inhabitants of Old Dongola. This presentation focuses on the diversity of such burial types and associated interments identified within the graves excavated to date as part of the UMMA project at Old Dongola.

Tatiana Vlemincq-Mendieta

Life and death at the town of Kawa: Findings of the recent osteological analysis of the Kushite cemetery assemblage

Excavated between 1998 and 2018, the Kushite cemetery known as R18 is located to the east of the Pharaonic and Kushite town of Kawa. Recent full osteological analysis of the 135 human skeletons available from R18 has revealed valuable insight into the lives of people from the town. This paper discusses the range of diseases and conditions that were present in individuals from the cemetery, including an analysis of infectious and joint diseases, trauma and interpersonal violence, congenital and developmental anomalies, oral pathology, and cancers. The broad demographic represented within the cemetery, which included males, females, and juveniles of different ages, allowed for investigation of sex- and age-specific conditions. In particular, several rare pathological conditions, not commonly noted in archaeological remains from the Middle Nile Valley, were observed in juveniles. In combination with the contextual information provided by excavations of the town itself, the assemblage from R18 provides a remarkably rich dataset for further understanding life in the Middle Nile Valley during this period.

Abigail Breidenstein, Fakhri Hassan Abdallah, Meghan E. Strong, Pearce Paul Creasman, and Gretchen Emma Zoeller

Bioarchaeological and archaeological investigations of Meroitic burials: first insights into occupation at Nuri

Recent excavations at the royal cemetery at Nuri in Sudan indicate continued use of the necropolis by multiple cultural groups following Napatan occupation through historic times. Here, we explore a group of Meroitic individuals and their relatedness to the various cultural groups interred at Nuri, as well as those across the Valley. Disentangling these relationships serves to enhance our understanding of the temporal occupation of Nuri and its significance after the Napatan period, addressing questions of biological and cultural continuity throughout the history of this site. More than 20 earthen mounds represent a Meroitic burial ground dating to ca. 400 BCE–365 CE. These mounds are marked with rock rings covering shafts leading to burial niches, unique in their style given the absence of blocking walls. Individuals are interred in a flexed or semi-flexed position on their left side and facing south. Grave goods include beaded or metal jewellery, decorated ceramics, animal-hide burial mats, and iron arrows. Bioarchaeological analysis suggests that the graves are occupied mainly by adult females and a few young adult males. All individuals display non-specific lesions consistent with physiological stress and half with biomechanical stress. This is the first overview of another group characterizing the Nuri necropolis.

Charles Le Moyne

A multiproxy study of plant consumption, Kadruka 1 and Kadruka 21, Upper Nubia, Sudan

Starting ~9,000 BP, the Neolithic archaeological record of Upper Nubia offers a unique opportunity to examine cultural responses to fluctuating resource availability and impacts on subsistence diversity. The uptake of pastoral systems is well documented archaeologically, however, the role of wild plant resources and the beginnings of local crop production are less established and often discounted. Existing 'pastoral' Neolithic narratives can largely be attributed to regional site taphonomy and conflated associations between funerary symbolism and economic practice. While herding was a key adaptation to aridification in north-eastern Africa, evidence from a growing number of sites is now demonstrating the importance of plants and suggests the variable integration of plant food production within existing economic systems. This paper will present new data for plant exploitation from microbotanical remains preserved within human dental calculus and dietary isotopic signatures from individuals from two cemeteries, Kadruka 1 and 21.

Tim Karber and Jana Eger-Karberg

Landscape and Geo-Archaeology of Western and Central Sudanese Rangelands – Multispectral and Radar Satellite Data in Practical Use

Satellite data plays an increasing role in archaeological research, especially in remote areas. For the peripheries of the Kushite and Nubian states, where large areas remained archaeologically unexplored until recent times, satellite data analysis can contribute significantly to our knowledge. Exemplary studies from Northern Kordofan and the Bayuda, using multispectral as well as radar-based satellite data, show different applications of this types of data for reconstructing ancient environment and climatic conditions, as well as different land use strategies. These geo-archaeological approaches help to understand the role of rangelands at the (mostly fuzzy) fringe between agricultural and pastoral subsistence strategies, as well as different models and levels of statehood and socio-economic organization.

The examples from the Bayuda and Northern Kordofan encompass several archaeological records in different environments, representing focal points of social organization on the peripheries of the (late) Meroitic, Post-Meroitic, and Makurian states and cultures: The ecologically favoured zone of Bir Merwa in the central Bayuda with the late Meroitic settlement of El Tuweina, the micro-oasis of El Rum in the lower Wadi Abu Dom with a productivity and settlement peak in the Post-Meroitic period, and the middle Wadi Milik in Northern Kordofan forming a western outpost of medieval Makuria.

Abdelrhman Muhamed Fahmy Sayed Ahmed

Geo-hazards assessment for the pyramids of Meroe, Al Bagrawiya archaeological site, Sudan

Al Bagrawiya archaeological site is a world heritage site with significant pyramids shaped structures of Meroe civilization. The pyramids of Meroe back to kingdom of Kush between 8th century BC and 4th century AD and were devoted as a necropolis site for the kings and queens of Meroe. The pyramids of Meroe are suffering from different kinds of damaging factors such as sand dunes formation around the pyramids causing mechanical stresses and instability for the construction elements of the pyramids, flooding which is really coming risk that threaten the archaeological sites and the pyramids and geo environmental impacts. The main objectives of the research are to present an actual assessment for the current state of the pyramids and geo hazards and risks that threaten the archaeological site of the pyramids of Meroe.

Katherine Rose

Archaeological Applications of Drones and 3D Modelling in Northern Sudan: A Study of Kushite Royal Cemeteries

This paper discusses the applications and broad implications of UAV or drone survey to the archaeology of Sudan. The author employs drones to map, model, and analyse the Kushite royal cemeteries of El Kurru, Nuri, and Jebel Barkal. The objective is to better understand the diachronic spatial development of royal cemeteries on a landscape level. While many of these sites have been surveyed, their relationships to surrounding landscape features and phenomena have not been identified or documented. Drones provide an efficient means of gathering a massive amount of photography and data on a much greater landscape scale than traditional forms of mapping and photography. Furthermore, the capability of drone photography to form the basis of photogrammetric and 3D models has implications for the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. Using drone photography, 3D models of these sites are shared remotely on open access platforms which allow audiences to virtually experience the cultural heritage of Sudan. This is particularly useful given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its lasting impact on tourism and archaeological fieldwork. Lastly, drone surveys provide excellent field research opportunities for training, outreach, and collaboration with local communities and Sudanese archaeologists.

Gościwit Malinowski

Ichthyophagi on the African coast of the Red Sea - palaeolithic relict hunter-gatherers' population or example of Hellenistic literary convention

In his historical writing "On the Red Sea" Agatharchidus of Cnidus describes (chapters 31-48) the Ichthyophagi, a coastal hunter-gatherer community on the African coast of the Red Sea. They share their name with some tribes of fishermen on the Nile (Herodotus) or on the Gedrosian, Carmanian, and Babylonian coasts of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean (Nearchus), however, the description of the Ichthyophagi from Trogloditike by Agatharchides is very specific and totally different from Herodotean or Nearchian. This Red Sea coast-dwellers are presented in his "On the Red Sea" as a tribe living the simplest life. No tools, no unnecessary needs, no funerary ceremonies, no idea of fear of being threatened. The Ichthyophagi are described as an apathetic, passionless primitive population on the edge of human beings and animals. The aim of this paper is to consider the origin and shape of Agatharchides' image of the Ichthyophagi on the basis of archaeological sources, ethnological theories, and philosophical and artistic conventions of Hellenistic literature.

Piotr Osypiński

New perspective for studies upon prehistoric research in Sudan – unearthing pan-African crossroad

The main objective of the new project on the prehistory of the Middle Nile Valley is to un-vail the broad context and the impact of NE Africa on local communities during the Neolithization and earlier. The main premise that prompted us to look for traces of multidirectional cultural transmissions were the experiences of previous research in the region (PalaeoAffad Project) and access to modern analytical techniques including the apparatus of physico-chemical identification of mineral resources used to create tools or ornaments, and bio-chemical analysis of the origin of organisms, both humans and accompanying domesticated animals. We are going to look for evidence of the influence and cultural transmission not only along the S-N line, that is more or less along the Nile Valley, but also in perpendicular direction - along the Sahel belt, which is still an important direction of nomadic pastoralism. During the Middle Holocene (up to about the 5th millennium BC), the extent of monsoon rains meant that the Sahel zone even included the Sudanese-Egyptian border. The Middle Nile Valley groups could maintain contacts with the Saharan lakes zone, a hypothetical area of local domestication of aurochs and creation of a cultural complex characterized by cattle centred behaviours.

Alnawras Babker Aud Elkareem and Abubaker Elmusteenballa Osman

The Stone Age in the Upper Atbara River in Eastern Sudan

The research dealt with an analytical study and scientific material collection in the Upper Atbara region in eastern Sudan. The researchers extracted from this study that the early development of the Palaeolithic industries in Sudan has to do with assets in North Africa and Europe and that the migration of early human groups was associated with the flow of the Nile and the Atbara River and that nature helped settle in the upper reaches of the Atbara River as well as the Red Sea coasts and The Atbara River is the most likely area for early migrations to North Africa, Asia, and Europe later.

Jędrzej Czerep

A more inclusive Sudanese identity?

An inclusive 2019 Sudanese revolution offered an opportunity for revising ways in which Sudanese identity is understood. Self-denial of the Sudanese diversity represented one of the most fundamental and paradoxical structural problems of the country, which blocked social cohesion and prevented any truly national project to materialise. Despite difficulties of the post-Bashir period, including economic hardship, insecurity and rocky political process, significant progress has been made in the sphere of acceptance of diversity. The reformist movement got rooted beyond the Khartoum educated urban class to a much greater extent than during 1963 and 1985 uprisings. More trans-regional and trans-ethnic solidarity is observed, and affirmative policies were formalised in the 2020 Juba Peace Agreement. A postulate for neutrality of the state on religion met notably little opposition. It remains to be seen how far the process of broadening the scope of identity would go, particularly on acceptance of African heritage within notion of the “Sudanese”.

Mirosław Masojć, Grzegorz Michalec and Ahmed Hamid Nassr

*Acheulean – Middle Stone Age sequence from the Eastern Desert, Sudan –
recapitulation of the EDAR project*

Results of the project “Homo erectus on the path into Eurasia - stratified sites agglomeration of Acheulean tradition in the Arabian Desert in Sudan” financed by the Polish National Science Centre will be summarised in the presentation. The archaeological record in the EDAR area (Eastern Desert of the Atbara River), was multi-proxy studied in years 2016-2020, bringing important data for understanding the earliest prehistory of the Eastern Saharan Africa. Several Early Palaeolithic and Middle Stone Age sites have been discovered and investigated within a stratigraphical context. Their chronology was determined by a set of optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL). The archaeological evidence from EDAR sites, including the oldest traces of hominin activity from Eastern Sahara, confirms the intensity of Palaeolithic human occupation of the desert when the Sahara was periodically habitable during Middle and Late Pleistocene humid periods. These traces are connected with two main activities conducted in the vicinity of sites: lithic tools production and butchering activity.

Hend Abdelmeguid Tawfeek Abdelhaleem Elfiky

*Aquatic Civilization in Middle Africa as an evidence for the early dispersal of humans
from East Africa to the West*

Sahara represented the earliest evidence of aquatic resource utilization between the ninth and third millennia B.C. . Lakes and rivers were more full and some inland basins were temporarily linked, especially in the "Middle Africa" belt. This includes southern Sahara and the coast, and extends from Upper Niger to the Middle Nile, with a south-eastern extension into the Upper Nile Basin and the East African Rift Valley. Wet conditions effected connection between drainage basins which were normally separated. Freshwater molluscs, fish bones, and the remains of hippos, crocodiles and other aquatic animals have been found in the mud of these lakes and rivers and among these old beaches.

There are two Archaeological evidences which survive in the beaches and silts of these old high lakes, rivers and swamps. First is the shape of serrated harpoons, which were used for hunting fish and other aquatic animals. Second the type of pottery, known as 'wavy-line' and 'dotted wavy-line' from its distinctive decorative patterns, which appearing at some of these waterside sites.

This paper aims to collect the similar evidence from these different regions to prove the early wide dispersed of the human from East Africa to the West.

Ezzeldin Hajjaj, Abbas Elmualim, and Zaki Aslan

Museums as an effective agent of peace and reconciliation in Sudan Case Study: The community development museums project

This research aims to investigate the obstacles and challenges of peace and reconciliation in Sudan, by analysing the role and contribution of the Community Museums project in the context of promoting peace and community reconciliation in Sudan, and the main objectives of the research study are to ensure the experience of the community museums project and the roles it played by presenting effective museum programs and activities, in addition to developing elements and mechanisms to raise awareness and promote peace and reconciliation. The literature reviewed in the fields of cultural heritage, museums, and peace studies will deal with different topics and elements related to the role that cultural heritage and museums in particular should play in the peace process. The research methodology that was selected and developed for this research study is the mixed curriculum, which consists of quantitative and qualitative. This research study will help in developing the traditional functions of museums in Sudan and all the countries that witnessed conflicts in Africa and the world, represented in preservation, collection, acquisition and storage, to include new, more effective functions based on the idea of interaction and participation between local communities and museums.

Katarzyna Radziwilko

A Community Survey in Ghaddar: The Case of a Socio-Archaeological Study

A community survey was conducted among the local community in February 2019 in Ghaddar, as a part of a wider community engagement project, which is a part of the DIALOG project: 'ArchaeoCDN. Archaeological Centre of Scientific Excellence'.

El-Ghaddar is a village whose population is around 6,000. It is located next to the Old Dongola archaeological site, and it has been excavated since 1964 by the Polish archaeological expedition.

The main goal of the study was intended to determine the community's social environment, and to understand the needs and expectations among the community regarding the local heritage, archaeology, and tourism.

To implement such an approach properly it was important to understand the needs of the communities concerning archaeology itself and the degrees of their knowledge about archaeology. Therefore, an appropriate survey was conducted.

The results of the quantitative research data about the perceptions of archaeology and archaeology-related knowledge were analysed. The findings derived from the survey became a starting point to design certain community outreach programs and to ensure the transfer of knowledge that was necessary/lacking among the members of the local community.

Mariusz Drzewiecki and Włodzimierz Rączkowski

Capacity building in Sudanese archaeological heritage: some reflections

In 2011, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan has begun direct cooperation with the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of Sudan (NCAM) and the Polish Committee for UNESCO to develop a scholarship program for Sudanese researchers and employees of the archaeological heritage sector. During the last ten years, 15 fellows came to Poznan each for a period of five months. They participated in a tailored program focusing on management and studies of archaeological heritage using remote sensing methods.

Based on previous experience some questions appear. In which directions such additional archaeological education should be developed? What are the expectations of the recipients? How to not impose solutions suitable in European archaeology and promote creative thinking at the same time? How to take into account local needs and context?

Shireen Mubarak (University of Cairo)

Suakin Under the Egyptian administration 1865- 1882

Suakin Island is located in north-eastern Sudan on the west coast of the Red Sea. In 1865 the decree of the Ottoman Sultan to Khedive Ismail gave his sons the right of accession and granted to Egypt the ports of Massowa and Suakin in return for an additional yearly tribute. Completion of the Alexandria-Suez railway, and then the opening of the Suez Canal, saw a return of trade to the Red Sea and its revival as a major shipping lane. By 1865 Egyptian steamers were maintaining a regular service between Suakin and Suez, as the addition of a new and faster trade route from Europe to the Indian Ocean placed Suakin at the forefront of trade between the Red Sea, Europe and the Indian Ocean.

Roksana Hajduga

Kushite building techniques from Amun temple in Dangeil

Analysis of the Kushite building techniques of an Amun temple in Dangeil (dated on the 1st century AD), based on architecture, finds, tool traces and construction materials. The study of the multistage process of Kushite building by which raw material was extracted from the quarry, transported, processed in exactly the way so it served its purpose and then used by the builders according to the architectural plan.

Julia Maczuga

The symbolic meaning of pictorial graffiti from the Ghazali Northern Church, located in Northern Sudan

The aim of this paper is to explore the symbolic meaning of pictorial graffiti executed on the walls of the Northern Church of the Ghazali Monastery, located in what is today the Northern Province of Sudan. The graffiti were recorded during works of the Polish-Sudanese mission at the monastic complex. Some of the depictions have an overt religious meaning and seems to belong to votive graffiti tradition widespread in Christian world, regardless of geographical context. This category includes representations of Christ, angels and saints, i.e., female figures and horse riders. Other depictions seem to refer to daily life in Nubia – the graffiti abound in motifs such as camels, horses, boats and human beings. Motifs, which refer to the Nubian landscape appear also in the rock art located in the Fourth Nile Cataract region. The comparison of the graffiti repertoire and the rock art has shown that some compositions with camels and boats are in fact symbolic. In both contexts the camel-cross and camel-pentagram compositions not only emphasize the social and economic importance of camels in daily life of the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Makuria, but they might also be prayers for either a safe journey, or well-being.

Agata Deptuła and Maciej Wyżgoł

Nubians of Dongola in the Funj period. Perspectives from the archaeological remains of the capital city (16th and 17th century)

After the decline of the Makuria, Old Dongola became a capital of a local polity – the kingdom of Dongola, which remained under the control of the sultanate of Sennar. Until recently, the latest town was known mainly from the accounts of travellers. Excavations conducted since 2018 within the framework of the ERC Starting Grant “UMMA – Urban Metamorphosis of the community of a Medieval African capital city” brought to light the buildings of Dongola of Funj period.

Two main forms of domestic architecture are attested. Undoubtedly the most popular building material was sun-dried brick, but dozens of houses were built in the wattle-and-daub technique, which remained unattested so far in this region. The dwellings do not differ in terms of the layout; all of them share the same characteristic features attested also on other sites in Nubia and representing a natural stage of development of the Nubian house.

The paper raises questions concerning the root cause of diversification of building techniques: whether it was merely a question of availability of resources or was it related to the economic condition of the dwellers, and whether it could have been a building tradition typical for a particular group of people.

Francesca Iannarilli and Federica Pancin

Stone and Plaster at Napata. Architectural decoration from the Meroitic buildings of Jebel Barkal

The architectural features of the royal district of Natakamani and Amanitore at Jebel Barkal confirm the role of ancient Napata in the elaboration of a culture blending Nubian, Hellenistic, and Egyptian traditions in an original and coherent frame.

This is clear for Palace B1500, with high platform and polychrome façades recalling northern architectural models, but also for the buildings surrounding it. These structures show an evident eclecticism in their stone architectural decorations.

In a context where mudbrick is the principal building material, a separate discussion is required for stone architecture, frequently used for capitals, drums of columns, architraves and basements. The great variety in the capitals is one of the main characteristics of Pharaonic Egyptian influence, well distinguishable in the shapes known from hypostyle halls and colonnades of the great New Kingdom and Ptolemaic temples.

Pharaonic inspiration is also prominent in the stylistic rendering of painted decoration, both in colour and thematic choice. The technique, though, seems far from long-established Egyptian practices, and genuinely Meroitic plastering and painting manners can be observed.

This paper aims to discuss formal issues concerning the architectural decoration in the Meroitic district of Jebel Barkal, where stone elements and painted walls underwent an original development.

Magdalena Warowna

Basketry manufacture from Old Dongola according to the past, present and future

Basketry and cordage objects are one of the most frequently discovered finds on the archaeological site in Old Dongola. But only now this material was analysed and described more precisely with the reference to the present. Recent years of discoveries provide highly diverse and numerous basketry and cordage material, on account of that many types of baskets, mats, lids, cordage, etc. were distinguished according to the shapes, techniques, sizes and decoration. The artifacts from Old Dongola are dated from 16th to 18th century, but basketry manufacture is ceaseless process and nowadays plaited objects look nearly the same to those from the past, what helped with the identification of several artifacts. Techniques and materials used for production are still actual or at least similar, that indicates that Sudanese crafts are very important for local people. Many analogies to basketry and cordage finds from Old Dongola were found not only in the present but also in the past, it shows that regardless of the period of time, basketry manufacture traditions are alive. Regarding future basketry products, they will be a combination of local traditions, an impact of modern world and needs of tourists, what is already visible.

Christian Perzmeier

Naga - Recent discoveries and latest research in 2020

Since excavation in Naga started in 1996, we are now able to define the outer city lines. In 2013 we started a consequent and systematic excavation of the city complex of Naga with its two areas. Recent discoveries of building 2100 in the north western part of the town and the building complex Naga 600, 650, 700 and 2200 in the south eastern corner of the walled city give a first overview of the ancient city of Naga.

Silvia Callegher and Martino Gottardo

The Italian Archaeological Mission in Sudan – Jebel Barkal: a stratigraphic approach to the latest discoveries

Over the past few seasons, the Italian Archaeological Mission at Jebel Barkal has been trying to implement a more systematic and analytical approach to the study of archaeological stratigraphy of the site in order to collect the largest number of data from the excavation.

Especially during the most recent campaigns, indeed, the stratigraphic analysis conducted on several archaeological sections provided an opportunity to investigate the morphological modification of the ground on which the site insists, resulting from both anthropic and natural activity. Such an approach is even more significant when considering the remarkable differences existing between the foundation levels of some buildings apparently pertaining to the same period. The study of the different layers composing the “stratigraphic columns” that have been observed has in fact highlighted a combination of flood events and anthropic intervention which suggest a conscious and coherent land-use planning. The purpose of this paper is therefore to present some of the possible interpretations of this phenomenon using the data inferred from the stratigraphy of the contexts under investigation.

As such, the eastern Red Sea littoral was a key strategic position and essential in maintaining control of the Nile, therefor Suakin was chosen as the most suitable harbour, and Egypt begun to develop infrastructure upon the island and its adjacent mainland . This Paper seeks to examine the conditions of Suakin under the Egyptian administration. And its importance as a port for global trade, especially after the opening of the Suez Canal.

Maciej Kurcz

Soba Past versus Soba Present. Identity, History and Memory in Suburban Area of Khartoum

The paper examines the shifting interpretations of the Soba archaeological site (medieval capital of the Nubian kingdom of Alwa) from an ethnographic perspective. Soba's "past" is a place of memory and no memory at the same time for Soba's "present" (a rapidly developing suburban area of Khartoum). For its relatively young and diverse population this site has generally no emotional value, being rather a permanent spot of expansion or a sort of natural resource. Using the language of structural anthropology this spot is linked with binary oppositions: good-bad, clean-dirty, secured-dangerous, and inhabited-empty. At the same time for the old-established population, which has been cohabitating with antiquities permanently and for a long time, the "Soba past" has begun to speak. For them, archaeological traces are a kind of tool in the construction of identity, the preservation cultural values and can even being used in struggles for political expression. This presentation aims to discuss the very first findings of a research on the relations between an archaeological site and today's population, how are social and historical spaces being "produced" and re-used for group formation within urban setting?

Habab Idriss Ahmed Idriss

Oral tradition as source of collecting and interpreting data "Old Town of Berber" as case study

This paper will demonstrate to what extend can we depend on oral tradition as a tool to document history. Oral tradition is considered by some historians as unreliable source to study history. However, it is a valid mean for preserving and transmitting history. From this point, I would like also to show how far we can proceed when dealing with oral language in terms of telling stories of different languages by the oral tradition tellers and the data collectors. In addition to that I would like to point out to the importance of oral tradition in interpreting archaeological evidences and collecting in case of lack of information regarding the topic or the material we are working on.

Oral traditions consist of all verbal testimonies which are reported by statements concerning the past. This definition means that nothing but oral traditions either spoken or sung should take into consideration. In Case of Old Town of Berber the paper show how oral tradition was useful in collecting and interpreting data.

Joanna Ciesielska

Initial remarks on the status of women in medieval Nubia

In Nubia women are widely recognized as distinguished and revered, stemming from their political significance as guarantors of continuity in the matrilineal line of succession. Various textual sources attest to the capacity of women to amass significant wealth. Economically speaking, they were certainly considered autonomous entities who participated in the market, legally empowered to conduct financial transactions. Women also acted as patrons of religious establishments, such as churches and monasteries, as well as donors of wall-paintings. Finally, women are among the ones interred in privileged locations, such as churches and monasteries, and could certainly afford to order inscribed funerary tombstones. Meanwhile, many females seem to have possessed their rank only by virtue of a relationship to another individual (= a man). Some women were recognized as daughters, mothers, or wives of distinguished officials, but do not appear to have earned their own recognition based on merit.

The current presentation offers some initial remarks on the status of women on various levels of the medieval Nubian society, which constitute a prelude into a comprehensive, multi-aspectual investigation based on all available evidence, including archaeological record, bioarchaeological analysis of human remains, textual sources, and ethnographical data.