



Expression of Interest:
Bioarchaeologist for Multidisciplinary Research Project
in Medieval and Early Modern Dongola (Sudan)

The Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (Poland) is seeking expressions of interest from experienced or early career **bioarchaeologists** interested in long-term collaboration on two interdisciplinary research projects focused on the medieval and early modern capital city of **Old Dongola (Tungul)** in Sudan. This non-binding announcement is intended to explore potential collaboration opportunities ahead of a formal recruitment process planned for **late 2025**.

Host institution: The Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (Poland)

Planned start of collaboration: Late 2025

Duration: 5 years, with the possibility of extension

Field location: Old Dongola, Sudan

Laboratory-based research: In partner institutions

Project Overview

Both research projects aim to gain a deeper understanding of the lives of the medieval and early modern inhabitants of Old Dongola (Tungul), which was a major Nubian capital of the Kingdom of Makuria and later a regional capital city under the Funj sultanate. The investigations will focus on:

- the landscape and spatial planning of a long-lasting urban settlement,
- the populations who inhabited the city and their daily lives,
- the environmental and climatic context of urban resilience along the Nile.

A major component of the project is the excavation and post-excavation analysis of medieval and early modern cemeteries, which is expected to yield at least 300 human burials.

Scope of Collaboration

The bioarchaeologist will be invited to take part in a collaborative effort involving archaeologists, osteologists, zooarchaeologists, archaeobotanists, and geomorphologists. Main tasks are expected to include:



- Participation in fieldwork and documentation of human burials;
- Osteological analysis: age, sex, stature estimation, pathology and developmental variation;
- Sampling for and interpretation of isotopic analyses (diet and mobility), and aDNA studies (biological relatedness and ancestry);
- Integration of bioarchaeological data with environmental and archaeological datasets;
- Preparation of reports and joint publications;
- Contribution to a final monograph synthesizing the results.

Requirements and Expectations

- Readiness for extended fieldwork abroad (estimated 24 months abroad);
- Experience in human osteology and bioarchaeological methods (including sample collection for biomolecular analysis);
- Strong collaborative and communication skills;
- Interest in contributing to the long-term, holistic reconstruction of a medieval African society.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please send a brief expression of interest (max. 1 page) including your research profile, experience, and interest in the project to:

a.obluski@uw.edu.pl

Deadline: May 31, 2025

Feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to building a dedicated, interdisciplinary team to bring the story of medieval Dongola's inhabitants to life.