Despite the ongoing pandemic, the ICAZ committees and working groups have continued to work hard, organizing conferences and developing the role of ICAZ within the wider zooarchaeological community. There is a new working group, which is already planning its first conference, and an opportunity to join the ICAZ team by increasing our social media presence. The deadline for the social media post is 28 February 2022, so please do consider applying.

Many of the working groups held conferences during 2021, and their reports are included in this issue of the Newsletter, along with a report from the affiliated Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum (PZAF). Activities and conferences planned for this year are listed in the Calendar, and there is an update on the plans for the ICAZ 2023 International Conference.
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About the Newsletter

ICAZ welcomes submissions to its bi-annual Newsletter. Submissions can be emailed to the editor, Eva Fairnell: the deadlines for copy are 15 May and 15 November. Past issues of the Newsletter can be downloaded from the Publications section of the ICAZ website, http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz.

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Cover image: Detail from Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Effetti del Buon Governo in campagna, 1338-1339, Sala della Pace, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena.
Letter from the President

Dear ICAZ members

Our global community continues to struggle in various ways with the stress and challenges that come with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, ICAZ has much to celebrate at the close of 2021, largely due to the efforts of our diverse and engaged membership. ICAZ’s working groups have been creative in finding ways to continue to meet regularly throughout the pandemic. We now have 18 active working groups, as well as the affiliated Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum (PZAF), and you can read about the recent activities of many of these groups in this Newsletter. We are also delighted to welcome the most recently formed group, the Medieval period Working Group, whose first meeting will take place in September 2022.

The leadership of ICAZ comprises an enthusiastic and hard-working group of 40 individuals across the Executive (EC) and International (IC) committees. The two committees met jointly via Zoom in November to discuss several matters. The minutes are available on the ICAZ website, but I’d like to highlight a few key points.

The first is to draw your attention to the next ICAZ International Conference, which will take place in Cairns, Australia, 7–12 August 2023. This Newsletter contains an update on the conference plans from Melanie Fillios and the ICAZ 2023 committee, including a list of themes and links to help you get excited about your visit to Queensland!

The second is to highlight that the EC/IC voted to extend the current EC and IC terms an additional year (up to 5 years). The rationale for doing so is that the elections for new EC and IC members take place at the International Conference, which has been pushed to 2023 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I’d like to thank the current EC and IC members for being willing to serve an additional year! New EC and IC members will step up in 2023, at which point we will return to 4-year terms. If you’re interested in serving, look out for a call for candidates in the coming months!

And, finally, I’d like to invite you to join me in celebrating ICAZ’s 50th anniversary! Check out the ICAZ Past & Present piece contributed to this Newsletter by László Bartosiewicz about ICAZ’s ‘approximate’ anniversary. ICAZ is considering several ways to celebrate this milestone. Here are two ways you can get involved immediately.

- Post your ICAZ photos, videos, memories and shout-outs! We’ve started a Kudoboard, where all ICAZ members can share their memories and well wishes. Follow this link to make one or many posts: https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/2mRXKCIr
- Make a $50 donation to ICAZ to celebrate 50 years. Information about donating is here: https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/membership-donate. A donation of $50 supports six 1-year memberships for students from underrepresented countries!

Heading into 2022, I am grateful for the vibrant and growing ICAZ community, and I wish you all well in the year ahead!

Sarah W. Kansa, ICAZ President
January 2022
ICAZ Committee News

ICAZ 2023 Oceans and coastline - past, present and future

Contributed by Melanie Fillios, University of New England, Australia
(mfillio2@une.edu.au), on behalf of the ICAZ 2023 committee (Pat Faulkner, Tiina Mane, Gillian Garvey)

Conference update November 2021

It has certainly been an uncertain few months, but with the re-opening of Australia’s international borders, I hope this update finds everyone filled with anticipation for the return of international travel. Planning for the 2023 conference continues, with a slightly re-organized organizing committee. The University of New England (UNE), Australia, has assumed main sponsorship of the conference and, while the organizing committee remains the same, I have assumed the role of committee chair. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Pat Faulkner for his dedicated work in this role to date, and I will try my best to match his ability to juggle several things at once.

As you are aware, the difficult decision was made to postpone the conference by one year to 7–12 August 2023, to better mitigate issues with international travel. Despite the chaos of the pandemic, the committee has forged ahead, cementing the foundations of the conference. We have confirmed the support of UNE as conference underwriter, have organized insurance, and explored all manner of COVID-related risks in our planning. We are pleased to report this has not stopped us. The venue remains the Cairns Convention Centre, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to Queensland in 2023, www.queensland.com.

For those who missed our last update, our major theme is ‘Oceans and coastline – past, present and future’. The location of the conference on the doorstep of the internationally renowned Great Barrier Reef provides an opportunity to consider the ecological dynamism in which ancient cultures are embedded, and how they shape and are shaped by place. The rising and falling of sea levels, the transformations of coastlines through time and the shifting array of available resources is a context that resonates well beyond the Great Barrier Reef. In various ways this context frames prehistoric narratives throughout the world, as well as directly speaking to contemporary discussions of climate change, so clearly highlighted to the world by Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26). The long-term perspective provided by archaeology permits both environmental change and cultural corollary to be viewed as long-term structures, giving archaeology the unique ability to inform current models and projections. This theme speaks to finding our voice in this arena and demonstrating that zooarchaeology has a very real role to play.

Modularized themes

Dynamic landscapes, dynamic cultures

Landscapes are the result of the long-term interaction between humans, animals, climate and the environment. The zooarchaeological record can play an important role in the interpretation of these landscapes, both prehistoric and historic. Investigations of these interactions include seasonality, taphonomy, migration, colonization, settlement, domestication and extinction. We aim to highlight new research and encourage dialogue as to how these can be identified and how this informs on human behaviour.

People and animals in the social world

Animals and people cohabit the same landscapes and are often reliant upon each other in complex ways. Each contributes to the construction of the lifeworld of the other, highlighting the myriad of ways in which humans and animals play a role in constituting each other’s worlds. Such roles can range from the non-prosaic use of faunal raw materials for artefact production, to the intertwined lives of people and domesticates, to the role of animals in social and cosmological life, and the deliberate modification of landscapes to affect responses in animals and other people.
Science and zooarchaeology
The application of scientific techniques to zooarchaeological analysis has long been a part of specialist research, but ever-increasing advances in technology are rapidly providing new tools to offer greater levels of insight and accuracy. We will examine and explore new scientific techniques, advances in and creative applications of standing techniques, to highlight the role of science in zooarchaeological analysis.

Coastal and maritime connections
Coastal and marine environments, and the range of vertebrate and invertebrate resources they contain, are increasingly recognized as having played pivotal roles in human evolution, global dispersals and colonization, and later behavioural/cultural developments worldwide. Coasts encompass and connect dynamic terrestrial and marine environments, providing a backdrop for complex and variable human social and economic behaviours through time and space. Here we explore the characteristics of coastal and maritime adaptations, and the transformative nature of the connection between coastal, marine and maritime environments on human sociocultural and economic structures.

The next few months will be busy. We will be updating the conference web site with information on registration and accommodation early in the new year, and will publish a call for Scientific Session proposals. Until then, updates will be provided on social media (FB ICAZ2023 and Twitter @ICAZ2023). Anyone with the travel bug can view the range of experiences the Cairns region has to at:


We look forward to welcoming you all in 2023!

Calling all ICAZ working groups and affiliated groups: ICAZ can provide financial support for your next meeting!

Contributed by the Review Committee: Suzanne Pilaar Birch (Treasurer), Virginia Butler (IC member), Erika Gál (WG Liaison and IC member)

Since 2019, ICAZ has allocated up to US$5000 dollars each year to support meetings and related activities of ICAZ working groups and affiliated groups (see http://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/working).

The total amount of any request should not exceed US$1000. These funds are intended to support travel costs for students, junior researchers and unfunded scholars who want to attend a working group meeting, although other needs will be considered. Applications should be submitted by working group coordinators and/or working group meeting organizers, not individuals seeking support. In order to maximize use of the funds, any remaining balance must be returned to ICAZ following the meeting. Please note, in line with general ICAZ policy, working groups should not plan to host meetings in the same year as the ICAZ conference.

A committee consisting of one EC officer and two IC members will review each proposal and allocate the funds as appropriate until the budget for a given year is expended.

There is no fixed deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are expected in advance and are requested approximately 6–12 months prior to the meeting date. However, all applications will be considered.

Application: Please fill out and submit your application through Google Forms using this link: https://goo.gl/forms/SxqtpB1eymQAqHbq2.
Treasurer’s report

Contributed by Suzanne E. Pilaar Birch, Treasurer

Fiscal year 2021

The 2021 fiscal year has come and gone, and ICAZ remains in a healthy place when it comes to our finances. The transactions summarized in Table 1 are for the dates 1 October 2020–30 September 2021. We ended the year with a total of $70,869.05 in our two accounts, a little over $3500 more than our previous fiscal year. This is in part due to the return of seed funds to ICAZ from the ICAZ 2023 organizing committee in Australia. We also earned about $63 in interest.

Many thanks to those who renewed their memberships, or indeed became new members, this year: we had 95 individuals pay to join or renew. In addition, we received donations from 17 individuals last January, with the intention of sponsoring free memberships for new members who were unable to afford the fees. Our total income was $9,599.55.

Our main expenditures were the Newsletter and conference support funds to the Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum (PZAF), which is ICAZ-affiliated. PZAF 2021 was organized by Dimitrije Marković and Teodora Mladenović, both PhD students at the University of Belgrade, Serbia. Due to the pandemic, the conference was held online from 25 to 27 July, and had presentations from more than 30 individuals from 16 countries. We continue to encourage working groups and affiliated organizations to apply for funding from the conference support fund!

There were two transactions that incurred miscellaneous PayPal fees totalling about $8, but I will also note that the membership and donation totals shown in Table 1 are net totals, meaning they were calculated after PayPal had already taken their percentage from each transaction. In reality, PayPal gained about $280 in commission from the membership and donation payments, which is ultimately a reasonable rate at 4%. Expenditures totalled $6,079.02.

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<th>Table 1 2021 fiscal year summary</th>
<th>US dollars ($)</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIAA interest</td>
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<td>Net membership</td>
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<td>Net donations</td>
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<td>ICAZ 2023 seed fund repayment</td>
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<td>Total net income</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Newsletter production costs</td>
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<td>PZAF conference support</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous PayPal fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year end total</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

BAR Publishing discount for ICAZ members

BAR Publishing is offering a special discount to ICAZ members! Use the code ICAZ20 to receive a 20% discount on all BAR titles. Check out their zooarchaeology titles.
ICAZ is seeking a social media coordinator!

Contributed by Lizzie Wright (Secretary)

We are looking for someone to run our social media accounts in order to grow our presence online. We want to be able to bring ICAZ and archaeozoology news to a wider audience and, in doing so, raise the profile of the work that our members are doing. We hope this will attract more members to ICAZ and our working groups and promote our discipline to the widest possible audience. Initially the role will focus on running our Twitter account, but in the future it may also involve expanding onto other platforms.

An annual stipend of $500 on a renewable basis is available for this commitment. If you are a member of ICAZ and interested in the role, please send a cover letter with a statement of up to 500 words to icaznewsletterassistant@gmail.com by 28 February 2022, laying out your motivation and social media experience.

Help us celebrate ICAZ’s 50th anniversary!

Contributed by Sarah W. Kansa (President)

To celebrate 50 years of ICAZ, we have set up a Kudoboard where you can upload photos and videos and share memories of your ICAZ experience. This is open to all ICAZ members, and you may add multiple posts. The Kudoboard will remain up for several months, so dig into your slide trays and photo folders and find some memories to share. We hope you will join in on the celebration!

Are you receiving e-mails from ICAZ?

ICAZ sends periodic emails to its members. If you are an ICAZ member but are not receiving emails from ICAZ, please check your spam folders and adjust your inbox setting to make sure you stay updated. If you are not receiving emails at all, your email address may need to be updated or your membership may have lapsed: check https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/membership-join to find out your status, join and renew.
Motion of support

Contributed by Sarah W. Kansa (President)

12 December 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) to stand with other organizations and individuals in defense of the Yanomami people of the Amazon region of Brazil and Venezuela.

ICAZ is an international organization with nearly 600 members from more than 60 countries around the world, including a longstanding representation from Brazil and other South American countries. Our goals are to develop and stimulate archaeozoological research, strengthen cooperation among colleagues in our field, foster cooperation with archaeologists and scientists working in related fields, and advocate high ethical and scientific standards for the work that we do. Our promotion of these goals includes raising our collective voice about wrongdoings and injustices that impact scientific understandings, the open sharing of scientific information, and the protection of global cultural heritage and related communities.

Like other indigenous peoples of the Americas, the Yanomami have occupied the Amazon region since before the arrival of European navigators and colonizers, in what we know today as Brazil (in the states of Amazonas and Roraima) and Venezuela. The indigenous communities, particularly the Yanomami, have always lived with the challenges imposed by other peoples, and have suffered the ethnocide of their communities due to others seeking the rich natural resources of their lands. For many years, the Yanomami people have been suffering from the irregular occupation of their rightful territory and the poisoning of their natural environment by miners, land grabbers, and even by farmers and ranchers, who among the most practiced criminal activities include deforestation and burning native forest, increasingly reducing the geographic space and sources of food for these native people.

We are horrified by the ongoing unethical treatment and exploitation of the Yanomami people, and especially the recent and incredibly alarming reports of malnutrition and death among Yanomami children. We join with other organizations and world leaders in defense of the Yanomami people, and we call for measures to be put in place immediately to protect them and the lands they have always called home.

Sincerely,

Sarah W. Kansa
President, 2018-2022
International Council for Archaeozoology
Email: skansa@alexandriaarchive.org
Web: https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz

cc: Prof. Dr. Albérico Nogueira de Queiroz: anqueiroz@hotmail.com
FORTHCOMING EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS

An environmental history of ancient Cyprus: landscapes, plants and animals through time

Contributed by Angelos Hadjikoumis (angelicus@hotmail.com)

The session ‘An environmental history of ancient Cyprus: landscapes, plants and animals through time’, co-organized by Angelos Hadjikoumis, Evi Margaritis and Paul Halstead, will be held at the 3rd International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (3rd ICAS-EMME) conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, 14–18 March 2022.

Because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we decided to host the conference in a hybrid mode, giving the opportunity to researchers to present their papers remotely. However, we strongly encourage physical attendance.

Towards this direction, there is a significant change in the registration fees, which have been amended accordingly:

**Physical presence**
- Regular: €40 (early registration, by 15 February 2022), €50 (late registration)
- Student: Free
- Audience: €15/day or €40/3days

**Online**
- Regular: €90 (early registration, by 15 February 2022), €100 (late registration)
- Student: €40 (early registration, by 15 February 2022), €45 (late registration)
- Audience: Free

Also, check out these bursaries for financial help: [https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/registration/bursaries](https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/registration/bursaries).

The deadline has officially past, but we will still accept abstracts, to be considered if space is available.


Other useful links:
- latest news and updates for the conference can be found at [https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/news](https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/news)
- information regarding the Sessions and the Round tables can be found at [https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/sessions](https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/sessions)
- further information regarding the registration, the important dates, travel and accommodation can be found on the congress website [https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/](https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/).

Please do come! Spring in Cyprus is the best season!

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Donating to ICAZ

Please consider making a donation to ICAZ to support work such as the new membership drive. For example, new members will now receive a free 1-year membership for 2021, and we hope that many of them will renew after that. We’d like to do what we can to support multi-year memberships. A donation of just $40 will support a new member from a reduced rate country for 4 years! Students from reduced rate countries are just $20 for 4 years. Please join us in making a donation to support our growing membership!

[https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/membership-donate](https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/membership-donate)
S18 On land and in the sea: traditional and innovative zooarchaeological studies across the Indo-Pacific

Contributed by Sofía C. Samper Carro, The Australian National University Canberra, Australia (sofia.samper@anu.edu.au)

It is our pleasure to announce that the call for papers for the next Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA) conference, to be held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) from 7 to 12 November 2022, is now open.

We are co-chairing a session dedicated to zooarchaeological analyses in the Indo-Pacific region, aimed at showcasing the current status of zooarchaeological studies in this region. Details of the session are given below.

S18 On land and in the sea: traditional and innovative zooarchaeological studies across the Indo-Pacific

Chairs: Sofía C. Samper Carro, Janine Ochoa, Noel Amano, Vahine Ahuura Rurua (2 blocks, maximum 12 papers)

Zooarchaeological studies provide valuable information to address hominin behaviour in (continental and insular) Asia and the Pacific. In early Pleistocene contexts, systematic zooarchaeological and taphonomic analyses of faunal assemblages provide a window into early hominin’s behaviour. The characterization of human–animal interactions during the Pleistocene and early Holocene offers insights into human lifestyles, relationships and even extinctions of endemic species. Analyses of faunal remains from sites occupied by farming communities provide important information on agricultural practices and animal husbandry, as well as insights into agriculturalist–hunter gatherer interactions. In more recent times, human arrival to Pacific Islands had a clear impact on faunal communities, providing clues to address human adaptation to new environments.

This session welcomes papers proposing new means to address old problems. We will accept presentations from any chronological period (Pleistocene and Holocene) dealing with the revision of previously excavated faunal assemblages through the use of new techniques and methodologies. We also welcome the presentation of new assemblages, and new studies looking at the different roles animals have played in the lifeways of foragers and farmers. From the analysis of zooarchaeological materials as nutritional resources to the role of animals in ritual practices, this session encourages presentations demonstrating cross-disciplinary and innovative research to showcase the current status of Indo-Pacific zooarchaeology.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 August 2022. The guidelines and abstract submission form can be found on the IPPA website.

Please be aware that IPPA cannot guarantee the availability of facilities for remote presentation during the conference.

We hope you find our session interesting, and that you are willing to share your exciting research with us.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Sofía at sofia.samper@anu.edu.au

ICAZ Newsletter back issues

The ICAZ Newsletter has been published since 1980, with a hiatus from 1993 to 1999. All issues are now available to download from https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/publications-newsletter.
Bird Working Group (BWG)

https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workbird

Contributed by Hanneke Meijer (Hanneke.Meijer@uib.no)

On 5–6 June 2021, the 10th meeting of the ICAZ Bird Working Group (BWG) was organized and hosted by Hanneke Meijer, Anne Karin Hufthammer, Liselotte Takken-Beijersbergen, Samuel Walker, Olaug Flatnes Bratbak (University Museum of Bergen, Norway) and Ramona Harrison (Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen). Last year was an unprecedented year of change and challenge for all of us. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, an in-person meeting in Bergen, as we had hoped for, was not a feasible option, so the organizing committee decided to host a digital conference instead. This was the first time in its history that a BWG meeting was hosted virtually, and we were delighted to have this opportunity to come together to support one another as scholars and friends.

Conferences have a big social element that can be hard to recreate during digital events. With support of the Bergen University Fund, we were able to host the meeting through the digital platform Gather. This allowed us to add a unique social aspect to the online meeting by providing an online social space where participants could interact with both single individuals as well as groups of other colleagues and meet new people. In this way, the treasured social side of an in-person meeting could be experienced in a digital way. The poster session was also set up in a digital space and allowed attendants to wander around virtually and peruse the posters. Although a virtual conference can be a learning curve for everyone, we experienced only a few minor technical glitches.

During the two-day conference, 32 oral presentations and 11 poster presentations were given, representing the fascinating breadth of research on the relationships between birds and humans. Posters and oral presentations covered the exploitation of birds by humans from the Palaeolithic to the medieval period, methodologies to help identify bird remains, the palaeoecological implications of past bird bone assemblages and the symbolic roles that birds play in human societies. More than 120 participants registered for this meeting, including many students who experienced the science and collegiality of our meeting for the first time. We were particularly happy to see several conference participants from South America, South Africa and Asia, for whom an in-person meeting in Bergen might have been challenging to attend due to financial reasons.

From the organizing committee’s perspective, this conference was a great success. We also received very positive feedback from the participants, and we are pleased that it was an exciting and informative experience for all. Given the inclusive nature of a digital conference, we hope that future meetings will also include a digital component, so researchers across the world can participate in, and benefit from, our meetings. A special volume of the International Journal of Osteoarchaeology featuring 29 papers given during this conference is set to be published in 2023.

ICAZ Membership

To join ICAZ or renew your membership, visit the Membership section of the ICAZ website, https://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/membership-join. Dues may be paid online or via post. Questions and inquiries may be emailed to the treasurer, Suzanne Pilaar Birch, sepbirch@uga.edu.
The 3rd meeting of the Marine Mammal Work Group (MMWG) was hosted virtually on 2–3 September 2021 by the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Thanks to the flexibility and willingness of the organizers, the workshop was held as scheduled despite the pandemic. The meeting was organized by Youri van den Hurk, Fabricio Furni, Willemien de Kock, Emily Ruiz Puerta and Sean Desjardins, from the Groningen Institute of Archaeology. The workshop was held over two days and, in order to facilitate the participation of colleagues from other time zones, it was held in the afternoons. Thus, we had 107 participants from 28 countries and 5 continents!

The workshop hosted 27 oral presentations covering a wide geographical range, from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, to the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Antarctic and the Arctic. Research on marine mammals, including cetaceans, pinnipeds and the polar bear, was complemented by papers on sea turtles. The addition of sea turtles was an initiative of the organizers, who currently have a special research interest in this animal group.

A variety of topics was presented, such as marine exploitation in the Western Isles, exploitation of marine mammals and sea turtles during the mid-Holocene in Brazil, sea lion exploitation in Peru during the 1st millennium CE, the role of pinniped remains in funerary practices in Chile, dolphin exploitation on the coast of Oman, narwhals in medieval and post-medieval Europe, the Atlantic walrus slaughter site on Svalbard, climatic impacts on harp seals in the Baltic, and harbour porpoises in medieval Brussels, to name a few. Various methodological approaches were presented and discussed, such as osteological and osteometric analysis, ancient DNA (aDNA), zooarchaeology by mass spectroscopy (ZooMS), stable isotopic analysis and radiocarbon dating.

The next meeting will be hosted by Aikaterini Glykou and Kerstin Lidén at the Archaeological Research Laboratory, Stockholm University, Sweden, in autumn 2023!
We are delighted to announce the creation of the ICAZ Medieval period Working Group (MWG).

A long tradition of archaeozoological studies has proven that medieval societies can be fruitfully investigated through the analysis of animal remains, providing key information on a period that saw the birth and development of important economic models and socio-political structures. In the Middle Ages, with significant geographical and chronological variations, the establishment of different settlement types prompted the development of various mechanisms of animal exploitation, as well as of redistribution and consumption of their products; in addition, the basic principles of social differentiation were applied through the procurement and intake of different – animal – food products. Such mechanisms of exchange, specialization and socio-cultural differentiation often produce several defined patterns of animal use that can be detected by archaeozoologists.

Within this research context, the MWG has been founded in 2021 as an important platform where archaeozoologists, at all career stages, dealing with the Middle Ages can present, share, compare and discuss their data. The MWG is also open to researchers investigating geographic areas outside medieval Europe but adjacent and/or related to it. Similarly, archaeozoologists working on the Late Roman period/Late Antiquity and the early post-medieval period, on topics relevant to the study of the Middle Ages, are encouraged to join; in this sense, the MWG complements the work carried out by the Roman period and Zooarchaeology of the Modern Era working groups.

The coordinator of the MWG is Dr Veronica Aniceti [University of Bergen (UiB), Norway], and the ICAZ liaisons are Dr Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (University of Basel, Switzerland), Professor Pam Crabtree (New York University, USA) and Dr Mauro Rizzetto (American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece).

Meetings
The 1st meeting of the MWG will be held at the University Museum (UM) of Bergen (UM/UiB; https://www.uib.no/en/universitymuseum), in Norway, between 28 and 30 September 2022.

The organizing committee consists of Dr Veronica Aniceti, Professor Anne-Karin Hufthammer, Professor Hanneke Meijer, Dr Liselotte Takken Beijersbergen, Dr Olaug Flatnes Bratbak (UM/UiB), Dr Samuel Walker (former PhD student at UM/UiB), and Professor Ramona Harrison [Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion (AHKR)/UiB].

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; in-person participation (up to 100 people) is strongly encouraged but it will also be possible to attend and present remotely. The organizing committee is currently working on a proposal (Bergen University Funds) to support the organization of the meeting. The call for abstracts will open in early 2022.

The organizing committee plans to publish the proceedings of the 1st meeting of the MWG as a special volume of a peer-reviewed journal. The details (journal, timing, etc.) will be agreed together with the delegates after the meeting.

Contacts
If you want to contact us and/or become a member of the MWG, please write to mwg.icaz@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Twitter (@Medieval_ICAZ) and Facebook.
The fourth Neotropical Zooarchaeology Working Group (NZWG) academic meeting was held on 27–29 October 2021. The meeting was organized by Dr Caroline Borges and colleagues of the Department of History of the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco, UFRPE, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. The meeting theme was ‘Zooarchaeology, traditional societies, biodiversity and climate change: integrating perspectives between past and future’, in honour of Luz Segura (https://nzwg2021.com/).

A total of 55 presentations was proposed, of which 52, 42 oral contributions and 10 posters, were finally scheduled in the eight thematic sessions. The sessions dealt with a broad range of neotropical research problems, namely:

1) Methodologies and case studies on the exploitation of marine resources of the Atlantic coast and the Caribbean;
2) The relationship between human societies and south American camelids: approaches from time and space;
3) Spatial and temporal diversity in the use of neotropical fauna;
4) Taphonomy and formation processes of archaeological sites;
5) New perspectives in the study of human–animal interactions;
6) Contributions to the understanding of mortuary contexts associated with animal remains;
7) Transformed nature: artifacts made from animal raw materials; and

A total of 312 attendants registered for the meeting, of which an average of 70 attended each session. Researchers came from 13 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and the United States of America.

It should be highlighted that the academic meeting brought together more presentations from Brazil than ever before, and, with this, represented a valuable opportunity to explore the current research on human–animal interactions in this neotropical country, specially focused in Amazon area.

The opening session, which can be watched at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t0SJtkDWNQg8CxEEI8xqoozo4Anv1m/
view?usp=sharing, included welcome words by Professor Dr Suely Cristina Albuquerque de Luna, Head of the Department of History and co-ordinator of the NEPARQ, representing the Dean of the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco and Ipê Institute, the UFRPE Research Institute. She was followed by Professor Dr Gustavo Aciołi, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Program in History (PGH) of the UFRPE. The third speaker was Professor Dr Pablo M. Fernandez (CONICET-INAPL), representing the NZWG-ICAZ, who was followed by Professor Dr Adriana Schmidt Dias (UFRGS), Vice President of the Brazilian Archaeology Society (SAB). Finally, Professor Ms Jaime de Lima Guimarães Júnior, representing the Center for Teaching and Archaeological Research (NEPARQ) of the UFRPE, closed the welcome session and gave place to the tribute to Luz Segura, a dear colleague who recently passed away, by Dr Caroline Borges (UFRPE).

Two conferences open to the general audience were offered on the evenings of the first two days. On Thursday, Dr Felipe F. Vander Velden (Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil) lectured on ‘By the hands of the whites: estrangement and conviviality between exotic animals and Indigenous peoples in the Lowland South America’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrPHQjN8rCg.

The following day, Dr Ana Lúcia do Nascimento Oliveira (Federal Rural University of Pernambuco, Brazil) offered another presentation, named ‘Archaeology of Pernambuco: an overview’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbBQxo11DOo&t=40s.

On the last day, a discussion round table on the effects of the pandemic on research and students took place, followed by the closure of the fourth academic meeting, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a7gNFJ9QWR93Xh1rNmXzUffzyQJD-Tj?usp=sharing.

That was the time to talk about future directions of the NZWG and to consider the next meeting; Dr Boris Santander, in collaboration with Dr Isabel Cartajena, proposed the Alberto Hurtado University (Santiago de Chile) to host the fifth NZWG meeting, which should take place in 2024. See you in Santiago!

ICAZ NZWG coordinators

- Caroline Borges (UFRPE, Brazil)
- Pablo M. Fernández (CONICET-INAPL, Argentina)
- Rosa Cristina Corrêa Luz de Souza (UFF, Brazil)
- A. Sebastián Muñoz, ICAZ Liaison (CONICET-UNC, Argentina)

We are happy to announce that the proceedings of the 2nd Roman Period Working Group (RPWG) meeting in Basel (‘Roman animals in ritual and funerary contexts’) have now been published in Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte series (vol. 26). The publication is available at https://publications.dainst.org/books/dai/catalog/book/129.

The publication includes 17 chapters and a preface (see below), and the contributions cover different ritual practices in a range of Roman provinces, from the Mediterranean to Britannia. We celebrated this success with an online event on 28 October, in which we had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and start preparing for our next meeting in Belgrade (2024). As in previous meetings, members in the mailing list (213 to date!) will vote for the topic of the next meeting through a Google Form).

The publication of the 3rd RPWG meeting in Dublin is also in progress. Papers will be published in a special issue of Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports. Fabienne Pigière will coordinate the special issue as main guest editor, with support from Fiona Beglane, Sabine Deschler-Erb and Silvia Valenzuela-Lamas as guest editors. Papers can be submitted from February 2022, and the final deadline for paper submission is 15 April 2022.

Roman animals in ritual and funerary contexts: table of contents

- Preface: Sabine Deschler-Erb, Umberto Albarella, Silvia Valenzuela Lamas, Gabriele Rasbach
- Diversity in unity: animals in Roman ritual and funeral contexts: Sabine Deschler-Erb
- Deux dépôts exceptionnels à Briga (« Bois l’Abbé » Eu, France): Le sacrifice de bovins au Ille siècle de notre ère: Alice Bourgois
- Faunal remains from a 4th–5th century church complex at ‘Ain el-Gedida, Upper Egypt: Douglas V. Campana, Pam J. Crabtree
• Evidence of ritual practices from the animal remains found in the Juno Sanctuary at Tas-Silġ, Malta: Jacopo De Grossi Mazzorin

• Bird and other animal sacrifice in the Ploutonion of Hierapolis, Phrygia (Turkey): some results from two votive deposits: Claudia Minniti, Jacopo De Grossi Mazzorin

• A herd of sheep led to the slaughter – evidence of hecatombs at Losodica/Munningen (Bavaria): Sabine Deschler-Erb, Andreas Schaflitzl

• Animals in funerary ritual in the Roman Netherlands: Maaike Groot

• Animals in ritual and domestic context. A comparative study between the faunal assemblages from residential areas and two sanctuaries at the vicus of Kempraten (Rapperswil-Jona, CH): Simone Häberle, Sabine Deschler-Erb, Heide Huster Plogmann, Barbara Stopp, Sarah Lo Russo, Pirmin Koch, Regula Ackermann

• Sabazios-Kult in Sorviodurum Tierknochen aus einer Kultgrube in Straubing (Bayern/Deutschland): Constanze Höpken, Hubert Berke

• Tierknochen aus dem Heiligtum der Größeren Götter Domnus und Domna in Sarmizegetusa (Rumänien): Constanze Höpken, Manuel Fiedler

• Choice beef for the worshippers – the cattle record from the sanctuary of Jupiter Heliopolitanus at Carnuntum (Austria): Günther Karl Kunst, Erika Gál, Verena Gassner

• Animals in funeral practices in Belgic Gaul between the end of the 1st century BC and the beginning of the 5th century AD: from gallic practices to Gallo-Roman practices: Sébastien Lepetz

• Animals in funerary practices during the early and late Roman periods in southern Belgium: cremated animal bone from two ritual/ceremonial sites in Britannia: Clare Rainsford, Anthony C. King, Susan Jones, Rose Hooker, Gilbert Burleigh

• Animals to the slaughter. Meat-sharing and sacrifice in Geometric and Archaic Greece: Veronika Sossau

• In the belly of the earth: bones and the closing of sacred space in central Italy: Angela Trentacoste

• Sacrificing dogs in the late Roman World? A case study of a multiple dog burial from Viminacium amphitheatre: Sonja Vuković, Mladen Jovičić, Dimitrije Marković, Ivan Bogdanović

Please feel free to contact the group coordinators Silvia Valenzuela-Lamas and/or Sabine Deschler-Erb (svalenzuela@imf.csic.es / sabine.deschler@unibas.ch) if you have inquiries or would like to join this working group.
2021 was a bumper year for worked bone research, with not one but two conferences hosted in the latter part of the year.

The 14th meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) was held online between 30 August and 3 September 2021, hosted by the University of Johannesburg and the Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST). This meeting would have been the first time that the conference was hosted by an African country and the first time it had moved to the Southern Hemisphere. However, in light of the COVID pandemic and associated travel restrictions, the organizing committee decided to move the conference online.

A conference is not a destination, but a meeting of people to share research and ideas. The move to an online format meant that we were able to open up the conference to many
more people than would ordinarily have been able to attend such an event. In addition to 38 presenters (representing 51 institutions from 24 countries, across all continents), 62 people registered to attend as guests. The organizing committee was particularly delighted by the number of new, up-and-coming, young scholars joining us from around the world for the first time. This shows the natural growth of the group and of global interest in osseous technology. A highlight of the conference was the participation of a number of African scholars and students, many of whom often lack the financial resources to attend international conferences. While online conferences may lack the collegial interaction that usually takes place between sessions, the inclusivity engendered by this format is worth retaining in the future. Recordings of the sessions can be viewed via the conference website, https://www.uj.ac.za/wbrg.

The 14th meeting was marked, as usual, by exceptional presentations, which covered two million years of worked osseous technology, and explored osseous tool use on six continents. PAST generously donated two cash prizes for the best presentations, and the adjudication panel is pleased to have awarded these to Dr Rhiannon Stammers from La Trobe University for a presentation entitled ‘Technology or taphonomy? A study of the world’s oldest bone tools from Drimolen, South Africa’, and Ms Hildegard Müller from the University of Basel for a presentation entitled ‘Learning by doing – experimental archaeology and microwear analysis on Roman bone artefacts’. We hope that these prizes can be used to further their research into bone tool technology.

Online conferences pose some challenges, not least of which is the inability to take delegates on excursions to museums and heritage sites. But, if the online format prevents us from taking audiences to the museum, it makes it possible to bring the museum to the audience. During the opening session Dr Tammy Reynard from the Origins Centre treated us to a presentation about some virtual reality offerings that the Origins Centre is in the process of implementing, which will allow remote audiences to tour the Centre and view some of their displays in 3D. Next, delegates were treated to a recorded theatrical performance by PAST’s educational outreach programme initiative, I See You, which aims to integrate origins science with public education in an attempt to address various forms of discrimination by highlighting our shared origins and humanity. This is a powerfully emotive performance designed to leave viewers with a sense of the importance of archaeology to speak to present-day societal issues.

The proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of Quaternary International. The submission platform will open for three months in May 2022, and we envision publishing the volume by mid-2023. Speaking of which, congratulations to Christian Gates St-Pierre, Markus Wild, Beverly Thurber and Stephen Rhodes for the successful publication of the 13th meeting’s proceedings, which can be accessed at https://www.sidestone.com/books/bones-at-a-crossroads. This volume includes 14 papers exploring integrative methodologies in the study of osseous artefacts.
The next WBRG conference will be held in 2024 at the Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, and will be organized by Marianne Christensen and Nejma Goutas.

In addition to the biannual meeting of the WBRG, the MARQ Museo Arqueológico de Alicante, Spain, hosted a slightly smaller conference (17 papers and 25 participants) on the use of bone and metal in the European Bronze Age (Metal y materias óseas en la Prehistoria de Europa). The conference, organized by Juan A. López Padilla and Nöelle Provenzano, was able to be held in person from 14 to 15 October, and included an online component for presenters who could not physically be present. The event was also live-streamed on YouTube.

Please add yourself to the ICAZ member database!

Contributed by Sarah Whitcher Kansa, ICAZ President and Web Administrator

The ICAZ membership registration site has a searchable member database, which is accessible only to current ICAZ members. The database contains contact information, interests and brief bios for all members. This is an opt-in database, so please take a moment to log in to the new system and add yourself to the database.

Here's how to add yourself to the member database.

2. If you know your login info, enter it here and go to Step #6.
3. If you do not have login info, enter your username, which is the email address at which you receive email messages from ICAZ. Leave the password field blank.
4. Scroll down to below the orange Log In button and click on ‘Reset Password’.
5. You will receive an email with a new password. Log in with this information.
6. Go to ‘Member Database Addition’ (http://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz-wp/member-database-addition/) to add yourself to the database (using your membership email address)
7. You are done! If you wish, you can go to ‘My Account’. (http://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz-wp/account/) to update your mailing address and country.

Please contact Sarah with any questions: sarahkansa@gmail.com

Thank you!
CONFERENCE & EVENT REVIEWS

The 9th Postgraduate ZooArchaeology Forum (PZAF)

Contributed by Dimitrije Marković and Teodora Mladenović, Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Although the 9th Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum (PZAF) was originally supposed to be held in Petnica SC in Serbia, because of the COVID-19 pandemic it was held online between 25 and 27 June 2021. The conference was organized by postgraduates from the Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia, represented by Dimitrije Marković and Teodora Mladenović. This year, over 30 participants from 16 countries across the globe took part in the PZAF.

Two sessions were held during the first day of the conference. The first session was opened with a keynote lecture given by Professor Haskel Greenfield (University of Manitoba, Canada), who talked about his zooarchaeological experiences in the Balkans and elsewhere. The session itself focused on novel methodological approaches and included four pieces of research, presented by Jacob Griffith (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium), Mauro Rizzetto (Independent researcher), Benjamin Wimmer (University of Sheffield, UK), and Jessica Peto (Cardiff University, UK). Topics ranged from the implementation of a multi-isotopic approach to understand cattle husbandry practices in Scotland, to the advantages of digitalization of animal bones in zooarchaeological analyses, and new methods for the morphometric distinction of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).

The second session included work related to the period of early prehistory. Again, before the contributors shared their research, a keynote lecture was given, this time by Professor Vesna Dimitrijević (University of Belgrade, Serbia), concerning Neolithic marine shell ornaments from Serbia. The second session included a total of seven oral presentations, given by Rosana Cerezo-Fernández (University of Salamanca, Spain), Jovana Janković (University of Belgrade, Serbia), Satenik Mkrtchyan (Institute of Molecular Biology, National Academy of Sciences Armenia, Armenia), Sebastian Yrarrazaval (Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Chile, Chile), Harley Burgis (Florida State University, USA), Goran Tomac (University of Zagreb, Croatia) and Vito Giuseppe Prillo (Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy). Topics ranged from antler technology in the Magdalenian of Spain, to faunal diversity in the Neolithic of Transcaucasia, Mid-Holocene mollusc availability in Middle Tennessee, and Neolithic and Eneolithic animal husbandry in Croatia.
The second day of the conference was also divided into two sessions. During Session 3, five contributions concerning the period of the late prehistory were presented by our colleagues Chiara Messana (Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució (IPHES–CERCA), Tarragona, Spain), Monika Opelkova (University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic), Daniel Malaxa (Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva, Romania), Kinga Bigoraj (University of Warsaw, Poland) and Antonela Barbir (the Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia). Topics ranged from the socio-economic significance of animals in the La Tène period in Bohemia, to goats and sheep in the Aegean glyptic, and animal roles in Early Iron Age female burials in the southern Carpathian basin.

The fourth session was dedicated to the period of Roman domination, and was opened with a keynote lecture given by Professor Sonja Vuković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) concerning the roles wild animals had in this period. Six oral presentations were given during this session, by Óscar Gonzáles-Cabezas (University of Salamanca, Spain), Milan Savić (University of Belgrade, Serbia), Rocio Pazos García (University of Salamanca, Spain), Ana Beatrix Santos (Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal), Dimitrije Marković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) and Mladen Mladenović (University of Belgrade, Serbia). Topics ranged from crocodile motifs on Roman period mosaics throughout Europe, to insights into the livestock of the Roman villa in Spain, and animal bones in 2nd–3rd century cremation burials in Serbia.

The last day of the conference was opened with a keynote lecture by Dr David Orton (University of York, UK) about the possibilities of archaeology and zooarchaeology contributing to our understanding of the past pandemics. This lecture was followed by the fifth, and final, session, dedicated to the medieval period. It included five oral presentations, given by Aleksa Alaića (University of Toronto, Canada), Marina Fernández (University of Barcelona, Spain), Olga Trojánková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), Elena Vasileva (National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria) and Teodora Mladenović (University of Belgrade, Serbia). Topics ranged from differences in animal management between Roman times and late Middle Ages in Spain, to Moche deer hunting in the Middle Horizon in Peru, and insights into the life and feeding regimes of medieval castles in Serbia and the Czech Republic.

Although it was held online, this year’s PZAF showed that the postgraduate zooarchaeological community is continuing to grow. Unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to meet in person, but nevertheless new contacts have been made and postgraduates from all over the world got to share their research with their peers. To bring the community even closer, we will soon be releasing videos of the conference lectures on the PZAF 2021 YouTube channel. We also plan to publish the conference proceedings soon.

On behalf of the entire organizing team, we would like to thank all of the participants and keynote speakers for taking part in the conference. Furthermore, we would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all of our partners and sponsors, without which the organization of the conference could not be possible: the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ), Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, and Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia.

Finally, we would like to announce that the call for hosting the 10th PZAF, to be held in 2023, is open! The link to the application form is published on the official PZAF Facebook page. The deadline for submitting applications is 28 February 2022. We invite all interested to apply and contribute to the development of this amazing forum!
Zooarchaeology at Cardiff University

Contributed by Richard Madgwick, Cardiff University/Prifysgol Caerdydd, UK (MadgwickRD3@cardiff.ac.uk)

The archaeology department at Cardiff University celebrated its centenary in 2020. Zooarchaeology has played an important role in research and teaching throughout much of the department’s existence and has seen considerable expansion in recent years. There are now three zooarchaeologists on the permanent academic staff, with Professor Jacqui Mulville and Dr Richard Madgwick being joined by new appointment Dr Julia Best in 2021. We also currently have five post-doctoral researchers (see research projects below) and will be recruiting two more in 2022 (look out for job adverts). The zooarchaeology and biomolecular archaeology laboratories have been fully refurbished, and new human osteoarchaeology and sample preparation laboratories have been developed. The department has also expanded its analytical and imaging facilities in the last two years, with a new high-specification PerkinElmer Spectrum One Fourier Transform Infra-red (FTIR) spectrometer, a portable micro-Raman, along with a 3D printer and two new reflectance transformation imaging units. These add to the existing scanning electron microscope (SEM), portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) and FTIR equipment in the labs. In addition, in collaboration with the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, we are regularly undertaking large programmes of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, lead and strontium isotope analyses. We currently have 11 PhD students working on osteoarchaeological projects, and a successful MSc Archaeological Science programme with a strong zooarchaeological component that is now in its 5th year. Members of the lab are working increasingly closely with the commercial archaeology sector and are routinely delivering collaborative zooarchaeological and isotope projects. A number of funded research projects are also currently in progress.

FEASTNET: Feasting networks and resilience at the end of the British Bronze Age (UKRI/Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded, 2021–2023, PDRA Dr Carmen Esposito).

This project focuses on the new social and economic networks that developed at the end of the Bronze Age in Britain and how these made communities resilient in the face of economic and climatic change. Multi-isotope analysis on animals from the very rich but understudied sites known as middens will reconstruct new inter-community networks and the organization of the economy and agricultural production, thus revealing the strategies that made communities resilient.

https://feastnet.co.uk
FRAB: Feeding the Roman Army in Britain (Leverhulme Trust-funded 2022–2025, 3 PDRA positions to be advertised soon)

This project will generate new evidence for the logistical networks that supplied soldiers in the province of Britannia. It will address questions about the provisioning of the army and the impact of thousands of soldiers on native populations in the provinces. This collaborative project will produce one of the largest multi-isotope datasets in archaeological research to date. The focus is on domestic animals in three regions – Hadrian’s Wall, the Antonine Wall and south-east Wales – to enhance understanding of how soldiers in these areas were provisioned.


ZANBA: Zooarchaeology of the Nuragic Bronze Age (EU Horizon 2020-funded, 2020–2022, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Dr Emily Holt)

This project combines traditional morphological analysis with multi-isotope studies of faunal remains (carbon, nitrogen and strontium) to understand changes in the animal economy of the early Nuragic Culture on Sardinia (c. 1700–1400 BCE). We are interested in identifying possible increases in mobility, the intensification of domestic animal production, and changes in meat consumption practices. To assess the mobility of ancient domesticated animals, ZANBA is establishing a strontium isotope base map of central Sardinia.

BONEZ: Baltic paganism, osteology, and new evidence from zooarchaeology (EU Horizon 2020-funded, 2021–2023, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Dr Katie McCullough French)

This project seeks to reconstruct the diverse roles for animals in community rituals at cemetery sites in the Eastern Baltic region. Our approach combines strontium isotope analysis, zooarchaeology by mass spectrometry (ZooMS) and histology to complement traditional osteological methods for a more comprehensive understanding of Baltic ritual practice from molecular to regional scales.

www.theBONEZproject.co.uk

ZOOCRETE: The zooarchaeology of historical Crete: a multiscalar approach to animals in ancient Greece (EU Horizon 2020-funded, 2021–2023, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Dr Flint Dibble)

Traditional zooarchaeological analyses from 1st millennium BCE Cretan settlements are combined with incremental multi-isotope analyses to examine the connection between the development of citizen-states with changing animal husbandry strategies and public commensality events. A ‘big data’ analysis of animals in the archaeological and textual records will assess the relationship between these diverse datasets.

‘Open laboratory: the horse in ancient Athens’ (co-organized by Dr Flint Dibble) will open on 20 January 2022 in the Makriyannis Wing of the Gennadius Library in Athens, Greece. This exhibition will combine artistic, material and skeletal evidence for ancient Athenian horses, including worked-bone material from the Athenian Agora and horse burials from the cemetery at Phaleron.

AMTIB: Animal Mobility through Isotopes and Biomechanics (3 years Margarita Salas Grant 2021–2024 Fellow Dr.Roger Alcàntara Fors)

The Neolithic of the Iberian Peninsula showcases a fast adoption of domesticates and diversification of exploitation strategies that enable the occupation of a wide range of ecosystems. This project seeks to produce a high resolution reconstruction of animal mobility and management regimes using strontium isotopes and bone biomechanics to understand land use and animal management and exploitation in this context.
Box Office Bears (BOB): a research project on animal baiting

Contributed by Lizzie Wright, University of Nottingham, UK (lizzie.wright1@nottingham.ac.uk)

‘Box Office Bears: animal baiting in early modern England (BOB), is a UK Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project bringing together researchers from the universities of Nottingham, Roehampton and Oxford and project partner Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). Hannah O’Regan, University of Nottingham, is the principal investigator (PI).

Baiting is the pitting of one animal against another for human entertainment. Most often it involves dogs against bears or bulls, but occasionally lions or other animals were included too. In the early modern period in England (c. AD 1500–1700) it was regulated by the monarch’s Keeper of the Bulls, Bears, and Mastiff Dogs, and rivalled the theatres in popularity.

In BOB, we are combining zooarchaeology, archive studies, stable isotope analysis and archaeogenetics to explore the lives of the animals and people involved in this cruel ‘sport’ during the 16th and 17th centuries. During this time a number of large arenas were built on Bankside in London to house the dogs and bears and give the best views of the performances, but bears were also taken on the road to various other areas of the country, where baiting took place in less formalized spaces, such as marketplaces.

Our project is focused on England, but we are interested to know about other evidence for historical animal baiting internationally. If you know of sites where baiting activity took place, or can suggest archival sources to look at, then please get in touch with Lizzie Wright (lizzie.wright1@nottingham.ac.uk) or Hannah O’Regan (Hannah.Oregan@nottingham.ac.uk).

Collaborations invited to the Osteometric Database of South American Camelids (ODSAC)/Base de Datos Osteométricos de Camélidos Sudamericanos (BDOC) project

Contributed by Mariana Mondini, G. Lorena L’Heureux, Carlos Belotti López de Medina and Sarah Whitcher Kansa (BDOC.ODSAC@gmail.com)

South American camelids are of great archaeological, historical and ecological interest, and have formed a central part of human life in the past. They are represented by wild and domestic species, *Lama guanicoe*, *Lama glama*, *Vicugna vicugna* and *Vicugna pacos*, and subspecies of different sizes, with different biological requirements that, in turn, imply different types of interaction with human populations over time. Although morphological criteria have been proposed to distinguish camelid taxa from archaeological specimens, the tool most widely used by zooarchaeologists is linear morphometry or osteometry, based on the size gradient of the species that make up this family. Osteometry has been used not just for refining taxonomic identification, but also for microevolutionary studies that seek to detect the clinal variations of each taxon through time, as well as intraspecific studies addressed at identifying sex and age classes.

The advantages of osteometry include the possibility of analysing a large number of specimens/elements in a relatively short time, the use of inexpensive equipment, and the application of different statistical analysis alternatives, among others. Among its limitations, the most relevant one is related
to the fact that its diagnostic sensitivity depends on the information provided by the modern reference sample used as a basis for comparison, the size of the sample and the intra- and interspecific variability of the camelids that compose it. The diagnostic sensitivity of this technique, in fact, largely depends on the conformation of a modern reference sample that represents the greatest possible variability of each of the species.

Yet, osteometric information on South American camelids is mostly found in grey and scattered literature that is difficult to access. This corpus, made up of measurements of archaeological and modern specimens, is a testimony to the intra- and interspecific diversity of camelids, as well as their interactions with human populations. Current access limitations to it, though, impact on the approach to research problems and the reliability of analyses. The limited access to this body of information has a negative impact on taxonomic, microevolutionary and population-based zooarchaeological research on South American camelids, and on the reliability of the quantitative analyses applied and their results. Collaborative compilation and publication of these data aims to address this fragmentation and overcome these difficulties.

The aims of the South American Camelid Osteometric Database (ODSAC) project, or Base de Datos Osteométricos de Camélidos Sudamericanos (BDOC) in Spanish, is to store bone metric data of Neotropical camelids and make them freely accessible, so that they can be easily searchable and comparable, as well as adequately citable. Bearing in mind that most publications do not allow raw data such as these to be included in full detail for reasons of length, this project seeks to provide a searchable repository for them, as well as allowing access to osteometric data that are currently circulating informally or are scattered across a range of different publications. In addition, we intend to associate the database with the most commonly used measurement systems.

The project stems from a proposal launched at the first academic meeting of the Neotropical Zooarchaeology Working Group (NZWG) in Santiago de Chile in 2012, and discussed at the 2014 ICAZ International Conference in San Rafael, but then put on hold. We have recently started to recover the progress made until then to relaunch it and make the database a reality in 2021, edited by Mariana Mondini, G. Lorena L’Heureux, Carlos Belotti López de Medina and Sarah Whitcher Kansa, with A. Sebastián Muñoz acting as the liaison with the NZWG.

This project is part of a broader Open Science movement, whose general objectives are, among others, the opening of scientific research for the benefit of society as a whole, making it possible to articulate and invigorate scientific production and its applications, as well as to generate new lines of research based on open access data. The information collected and made accessible will be of great value and usefulness for zooarchaeological studies in the Andean region, where we have the greatest diversity of camelid species, as well as in other regions of Argentina and South America.

The ODSAC will be freely available in Open Context, at https://opencontext.org/projects/40-osteometric-database-of-south-american-camelids. During the first stage, the database will focus on modern specimens used as modern reference standards; later, it will be extended to include archaeological and palaeontological specimens as well. The template for submitting data is already available at https://opencontext.org/media/3aedefac-35e7-4902-ac4a-c50147d10632. We look forward to your contributions! Bear in mind that authorship of the measurements will be properly attributed in all cases. We welcome any comments or queries about the project. Please contact us at BDOC. ODSAC@gmail.com.
I retired from my teaching position at the University of Oregon (UO) in June 2021. Since then, I have been steadily working through my archaeological collections and preparing them for accessioning to museums and repositories. Although I had, with student assistance, prepared material for curation from c. 20 sites prior to my retirement, somehow, in the spring of 2021, I found myself with materials and loans from about 60 archaeological sites, most from Alaska. Some of these are from the on-going research project ‘The archaeology of herring: reconstructing the past to redeem the future’. But a lot of the materials I have are from past projects where I had thought to myself ‘there are more analyses that I or my students could do’.

There are always more analyses that a zooarchaeologist can or could do. Even a small collection can provide a wealth of new information, depending on the research questions a person might ask. Although I do not consider myself a hoarder, somehow the task of cataloguing and returning materials to museums didn’t get prioritized because I had trouble letting go of the need to do more, conduct more analyses, or take advantage of these precious materials that had been recovered from sites that were often threatened. New and interesting projects were always on the horizon and these took me away from collections once at least basic analyses had been published.

With COVID-19 and limited laboratory access, I have been doing all the work myself, much of it rather mundane. While there are disadvantages to hanging on to so many collections, there are advantages to winding up one’s career by working through collections. One advantage is that the process has allowed me to review different stages of my career and witness how certain methods and approaches have changed, while others have remained the same. I have enjoyed reading through my fieldnotes and cataloguing photographs … including colour slides. Although most of us take digital photos today, I have taken many colour slides over the years. When I stopped teaching with them c. 20 years ago (with the advent of PowerPoint), I hadn’t looked at the photos in a long time. It has been such a privilege to work at some of the sites I’ve studied: Cape Addington and the Forrester Islands in the Prince of Wales Archipelago, Admiralty Island, places near Sitka and Juneau. To examine these photos is occasionally a haunting experience, especially when I see a photo of someone who has died, or an archaeological site that has been entirely destroyed.

I’ve also enjoyed the opportunity to be reminded of my former students, as I recognize their handwriting on labels and lab notes. Even their initials on bags and labels on comparative specimens strike chords of remembrance. Working with my comparative collection always brings to mind the history of the specimens, who caught that fish, who cleaned that bird. There is Diana, the northern fur seal, whose bones show arthritis from spending much of her life in the Seattle Aquarium. I recall the 105°F in August when my son and I drove her carcass to Eugene while she defrosted in his old kiddy pool in the trunk of the car. There’s the halibut I caught … probably the biggest fish I will ever catch. Fish caught by Don Ivy of the Coquille Tribe and by Richard K. Nelson, the cultural anthropologist, both of whom have died within the last two years. Although I know what has become of almost all of my graduate students – many of them have launched impressive careers – I don’t know the whereabouts of many undergraduate students who helped process and label fish and birds and small mammals, who took my lab courses or volunteered. Yet all of them have left an impression, and I still have to consult their lab notes from time to time. I am so grateful I learned to take lab notes: so many zooarchaeological projects take place over extended time periods, and lab notes always help me reconstruct why I did what when.
The process of letting go of these collections is discomfiting, but after I’ve packed up the boxes of samples and folders filled with documents and sent them off for curation, I do feel a sense of accomplishment and completion. It is satisfying to think they will have another role to play in the future of archaeology. I am not scanning all my documents; I send off hard copies, hoping for the best, trusting in United Parcel Service (UPS) to deliver these materials safely. Part of me thinks I should retain copies, but why? These would only be a burden to me (or my son) in future years. I feel immense gratitude … especially to the staff of the University of Alaska Museum of the North, the Burke Museum at the University of Washington and our own UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The work that repository staff do to preserve the archaeological records we create is perhaps the most under-appreciated role archaeologists play in today’s society.

After the collections, I will continue to work through file folders filled with journal articles, grey literature, and of course, my books. These are the artefacts of an academic life and, because I am not Margaret Mead or Lew Binford, I doubt my papers will have future use. What to do with all the materials I accumulated for the nine university courses taught over 32 years? These apparently have no lasting value and will probably be recycled as paper.

As zooarchaeologists, we study the remains of animals that once lived. As archaeologists more broadly, we study artefacts and ecofacts as the remnants of human agency and activities. As humans ourselves, we modify and accumulate physical materials that form the fabric of our lives. It is sobering to be excavating my files and shelves and tracing my own trajectory over the years. It is hard to decide what is valuable and worth keeping and what to weed out and discard. Time has passed so quickly in retrospect. With the expectations of an academic life, I felt like I was always rushing. There is always more to do, more to investigate, more to explain. I do look forward to a slower pace with more time to experience and reflect.

Proposing a book for review

We are delighted to now have a section dedicated to critical reviews of books related to any zooarchaeological/archaeozoological topic. Reviews should have a limit of 700–1000 words, and should be submitted by 15 May (to be published in July) and 15 November (to be published in January) each year.

If you are interested in writing a review for our Newsletter, please send your proposal by email to Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (icaznewsletterassistant@gmail.com).
ICAZ ‘approximately’ 50 years old

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a time warp, in which many scheduled academic events became displaced and postponed. Amidst the confusion, it was only toward the end of 2021 that I realized: the beginnings of ICAZ can be dated back half a century.

The first major international meeting of archaeozoologists held in Budapest between 19 and 23 April 1971 was not intended to launch a major organization. Archaeozoologists met in numbers for the first time, taking part in Session IV of the Third International Congress of the Association internationale des musées d’agriculture (AIMA, International Association of Agricultural Museums). This forum, however, became of pivotal significance in conceiving the idea of forging long-term international ties between practitioners of our trade. The proceedings of Session IV were published two years later by one of the organizers, János Matolcsi (Figure 1).

The event was held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Hungarian Agricultural Museum (Figure 2) and the session on archaeozoology, coincidentally, mustered 75 participants.
They included scholars who could already be considered prominent leaders of the discipline at the time; work by others emerged to fame along with the subsequent development of ICAZ. The reader is referred to the ‘My ICAZ History in Photos’ section in the second 2017 issue of the ICAZ Newsletter (Vol. 18/2: 28–29), in which Hans-Hermann Müller published a set of his heart-warming eyewitness photographs of the 1971 event: sight-seeing in the Castle district of Budapest and the excursion to the ‘Puszta’, the renowned steppe region in eastern Hungary.

The organizers of the meeting were archaeozoologists Sándor Bökönyi of the Hungarian National Museum and János Matolcsi, who hosted the event in the Hungarian Agricultural Museum. Bökönyi, a by then well-travelled expert, used his international network to recruit a prestigious group of participants. Matolcsi, former director-in-chief of his museum, provided the venue and logistics of the meeting (Figure 3). One of the attendees, Anneke T. Clason, would later become secretary of ICAZ, playing a key organizational role in what was the only official position during the first few decades (Figure 4). She hosted the next, 1974, meeting in Groningen (the Netherlands), where 63 specialists could attend, although 16 others were unable to participate: several of them, colleagues living in countries of the ‘Soviet Block’, were simply not allowed to travel to western Europe.

Given such Cold War political animosities, Budapest was a fortunate choice in the late 1960s, as in the then relatively moderate ideological atmosphere of Hungary a truly international meeting could be held, welcoming Europeans from either side of the ‘Iron Curtain’ and even delegates from the United States. Since then ICAZ has grown into the all-inclusive professional association we know today, forging ties between archaeozoologists across continents, consistently encouraging dialogue, co-operation and solidarity in the field.

Figure 3: The 1969 letter by Matolcsi written to ‘comrade Dr Sándor Bökönyi’, agreeing to host the symposium in his museum (originally planned for October 1970) and offering to organize a wine tasting event and field trip.

Figure 4: Left to right: Sándor Bökönyi, Anneke T. Clason and János Matolcsi (sources: 1 Tibor Kádas, 2 PalaeoHistoria 2007/2008, 3 István Takács).
Siran Upendra Deraniyagala (1 March 1942-5 October 2021)

Contributed by Kalangi Rodrigo, Department of Archaeology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

‘A rare genius who invested his soul in archaeology’: always a benevolent corner stone of Sri Lankan Archaeology, Dr Siran Upendra Deraniyagala, who has died aged 79, was one of the last surviving members of a generation of archaeologists who shaped the intellectual paradigm of Sri Lanka’s archaeology. He brought an ecological perspective to Sri Lankan archaeology, characterized by the potential engagement of interdisciplinary approach.

Dr Deraniyagala cut his teeth at the University of Cambridge at the age of just 17, majoring in architecture, fine arts and Sanskrit. He excelled at prehistoric archaeology during his tenure at University College London (the Institute where he earned an excellent qualification and received the prestigious Gordon Childe Award as one of the two best all-round students in all areas of archaeology), before he hitch-hiked through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to India, where he gained deep insights into the methodological and theoretical practice of archaeology. Being the Assistant Commissioner of Excavations, he initiated several exploration and excavation projects throughout the island of Sri Lanka. The most high profile was the Citadel Excavation of Anuradhapura Ancient City in 1969, which brought together many specialists from around the globe into one pit. He held several positions at the Department, oversaw more than 20 international and national archaeological projects, and published more than 40 research articles. He introduced a research design, plans for infrastructure and human resource development in the excavation division, and in 1969 undertook the epoch-breaking excavation at the Citadel of Anuradhapura. Dr Siran focused on prehistoric explorations and excavations in ancient shore dunes (referred to as the Iranamadu Formation) dating back to over 130,000 years before the present. He used the resulting data to complete a PhD at Harvard University in 1988, following which he published his magnum opus, The Prehistory of Sri Lanka: An Ecological Perspective. Amongst his major collaborative projects was a bioanthropological study with Dr Diane Hawkey from the State University of Arizona, where skeletal remains highlighted the relationship between the Sri Lankan prehistoric humans (Balangoda Man) and the Australians and Melanesians on the one hand, and tribal groups in India and recent Vaddas on the other. In 1992 he was appointed Director-General of Archaeology, a position he held until 2001. Even once he retired, he did not hesitate to disseminate knowledge to archaeologists of all career stages, and budding researchers from all over the world.

Despite being an archaeologist, he was a simple man, who would love to dress in white on any occasion. His convivial and exuberant personality personified ‘what a triumphant life it has been’. He tackled everything with persistence. He was a fond academic father to many generations in Sri Lanka. And for many generations that are yet to come, he still will be. He blazed the trail, by pioneering the scientific process of stratified excavation in the country, and paved the way for generations to come. Dr Deraniyagala was a defining force in the world of archaeology, whose loss will be felt in every corner of the globe. He changed the way we see artefacts, landscapes and theories. What was unique about him was that he had a marvellous ability to see through all the clutter in archaeology, and to see what the central points are. His whole story is one of triumph over adversity and he has enthused many people, including me.

We have lost a great person whose void cannot be filled for decades to come. His unchallenged legacy and humanitarian approach will be survived by the hearts that he has touched and left behind, including me. I feel that some voids just cannot be filled: with his absence, there is an emptiness, an eerie silence. Anyone can teach, but only a star can navigate through the darkness while inspiring hundreds and thousands of atoms of light. His extraordinary presence cannot be erased easily and his passing is a sad loss to our nation simply because of the enormous contribution he made towards the field of archaeology. His unbeatable legacy will continue to inspire new generations of archaeologists and budding scientists for ages yet to come.

May his soul get all the peace he believed in.
Publications

Compiled by Idoia Grau Sologestoa, Assistant Editor

Did you know that ICAZ keeps and regularly updates a database of works related to zooarchaeology? The list contains journal papers, books, book chapters, news, interviews, blog posts, etc. The complete list of works can be consulted on the ICAZ website: https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/publications-zooarch.

Please also remember that you can view and download the latest zooarchaeology references in our Zotero library: https://www.zotero.org/groups/353233/icaz.

Almost 300 new zooarchaeology publications have been recently added to the list. We have chosen to highlight just a few of the great works that zooarchaeologists (and other related fields) all over the world have published. These publications provide a very brief sample of the important and very diverse research being carried out in zooarchaeology!

Books

Roman Animals in Ritual and Funerary Contexts
Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Zooarchaeology of the Roman Period Working Group, Basel 1st–4th February. Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte 26
Edited by Sabine Deschler-Erb, Umberto Albarella, Silvia Valenzuela Lamas and Gabriele Rasbach
2021 Frankfurt: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut
ISBN 9783447116411

This volume includes a number of papers that were originally presented at the conference ‘Roman animals in ritual and funerary contexts’, which was held in Basel (Switzerland) from 1 to 4 February 2018. The conference represented the second meeting of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) working group on the zooarchaeology of the Roman Period. The articles present ritually deposited animal remains across a wide geographical range and incorporate both archaeological and zoological findings. The integration of these two strands of evidence is also one of the central concerns of the ICAZ working group, as in the past they have often been dealt with separately. However, it is precisely this interdisciplinary cooperation that opens up new perspectives on ritual practices in a wide variety of contexts. In this volume we see the enhancement of our understanding of ritual treatment of animals in central sanctuaries, in rural areas, at natural sites, and as part of building construction processes. The case studies presented in this volume demonstrate how animal remains such as bones and eggshells provide information beyond diet, economy and differences in social hierarchy. Their interdisciplinary investigation additionally enables insights into practices governed by cultural, religious and ideological conditions.

Animals pervade our lives, both today and in the past. From the smallest bug through pets and agricultural animals to elephants and blue whales, the animals themselves, animal-derived products and representations of animals can be found everywhere in our daily lives. This book focuses on the representations of animals in the past. How were animals represented in iconography, and how is the craftsperson interpreting animals within his or her own cultural context? What do the representations tell us about the role and function of both animals and the representations themselves?

A series of papers explores these questions through images of animals. This is, for example, done by using technologies like 3D models to emphasize the dimensionality of objects, or through theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches that examine the intersection of the human and the animal. The papers challenge the notion of animals purely as objects, instead focusing on the many ways in which humans and animals interact. The importance of animals in all aspects of our lives means that the study of human–animal relations is an extremely relevant one both in the past and today. The papers take us on a journey through time and space, demonstrating exactly this relevance. Starting in the Neolithic and ending in the medieval period, from the Mediterranean and northern Europe through Siberia and the Baltic to the other side of the world in Australia, we have the privilege of encountering lions, horses, dogs, monkeys, birds, kangaroos and octopuses, among many other wonderful creatures.

The book is an important and exciting contribution to the study of human–animal relations. It should be of interest to anyone working on this topic and the interpretation of images, both modern and ancient.

https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/id2841animal-iconography/

The Atlantic Walrus. Multidisciplinary Insights into Human–Animal Interactions
Edited by Xénia Keighley, Morten Tange Olsen, Peter Jordan and Sea Desjardins
ISBN 9780128174302
https://doi.org/10.1016/C2018-0-01961-1

This book addresses the key dimensions of long-term human–walrus interactions across the Atlantic Arctic and subarctic regions, over the past millennia. It brings together research from across the social and natural sciences to explore walrus biology, human culture, environmental conditions and their reciprocal effects. Together, 13 chapters of this book reconstruct the early evolution of walruses, walrus biology, the cultural significance and ecological impact of prehistoric and indigenous hunting practices, as well as the effects of commercial hunting and international trade. This book also examines historic and ongoing management strategies, and the importance of new research methodologies in revealing hitherto unknown details of the past, and concludes by discussing the future for Atlantic walruses in the face of climate change and increased human activities in the Arctic.

This volume is an ideal resource for those who are seeking to understand an iconic Arctic species and its long and complex relationship with humans. This includes individuals and researchers with a personal or professional connection to walruses or the Arctic, as well as marine biologists, zoologists, conservationists, palaeontologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, Indigenous communities, natural resource managers and government agencies.

This book deals extensively with the living environment of the dog in Roman antiquity, based on literary and iconographic sources as well as archaeological and archaeozoological finds. The knowledge gained from this is documented by numerous images. Older research opinions, some of which have gone unchecked for more than a hundred years, are examined and, where necessary, corrected.

For the first time, a catalogue of the more than 80 dog breeds/types documented from antiquity is presented with their names, origins, appearance and the special characteristics of these animals. The ancient theories of dog breeding are compared with modern practices. A catalogue of the previously known dog names has been revised with around 60 new names added. The book examines how dogs were housed, what accessories were used and how the animals were fed. It sheds light on illnesses, medical treatment and the care of elderly dogs. A catalogue of epitaphs and extant canine tombstones gives an insight into the emotional world of grieving animal owners. Dogs not only served as guards, shepherds, hunters and lap dogs, but also had other important roles such as sacred animals in temples or as waste disposers for sanitation. But they were also used corporeally: their fur was tanned, and their body parts were needed for magical rituals. In short, dogs played an important role in many areas of life, such that everyday life in the Classical world could not be imagined without them.

https://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/displayProductDetail.asp?id={7CDFE5C5-E590-4B7A-9ED3-BDC628E51BE3}

Bone tool studies are at a crossroads. A current path is to go beyond the concatenation of methods or concepts borrowed from other disciplines and aim instead at a truly integrated approach that is more in line with the objectives of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

The papers in this volume follow this direction by adopting various forms of dialogue and integration between old and new methods and approaches, including technological analysis, use-wear analysis, typology, zooarchaeology, stable isotope analysis, experimental archaeology and spatial analysis. They represent a mixture of methodological issues, case studies and discussions of larger cultural and historical phenomena that span thousands of years and many parts of the World, from South Asia to the Near East and Europe, and from North to South America. The synergies deriving from these multi-perspective approaches lead to the repeated identification of diverse social aspects of past societies, including the identification of general social contexts of bone tool production and use, transmission of knowledge, the symbolic dimensions of artefacts, and intergroup relations as well as warfare and state formation processes.

All these papers grew out of communications presented at the 13th meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) on 7–13 October 2019, at the Département d’anthropologie, Université de Montréal, Canada. The WBRG is an official working group of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) dealing with the study of worked faunal remains from archaeological sites.

Online open access: https://www.sidestone.com/books/bones-at-a-crossroads
This handbook provides a comprehensive evaluation of approaches, topics and research areas in the rapidly developing field of historical animal studies. The so-called ‘animal turn’ specifically inspired new takes on writing history. This upsurge in research has led to immense numbers of new empirical studies as well as approaches to historiography, which this handbook aims to systemize. The handbook hopes to open a new chapter in the development and institutionalization of human–animal studies and historical animal studies as research lenses. It aims to take the next step by approaching animal–human history from the perspective of history as a field of research at the intersection of history and human–animal studies.

The topics include: pre-domestication, domestication, co-evolution, the posthuman, economic history, global history, urban (and rural history), history of science, environmental history, historical animal geographies, postcolonial history, feminist intersectionality studies, multispecies ethnography, history of pets, history of circus animals, history of agriculture, etc.


Elucidating complex aspects of medieval human–animal relationships requires transdisciplinary discourse, and this volume aims to reconcile the materiality of animals with complex cultural systems illustrating their subtle transitions ‘between body and mind’. Contributors investigate relations between humans and animals over several centuries with a focus on the Middle Ages, because important features of our perceptions regarding animals have been rooted in that period.

Many of the authors are historians, whose special perspectives on animals will help better contextualize our own, archaeozoological interpretations of medieval animals. Several contributors compare documentary and osteological evidence, while cognitive and symbolic roles played by animals are discussed in various settings between China and the New World.

Exploitation and Management of Animal Resources during the Middle Iron Age. Northern Limpopo Province, South Africa

By Claudia Abatino
African Archaeology Volume 93
BAR International Series 3020
ISBN 9781407357263

Contributed by Dr Shaw Badenhorst, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (shaw.badenhorst@wits.ac.za)

This monograph by Claudia Abatino is the 93rd volume of the African Archaeology series published by BAR, with the first volume dating back to 1980. BAR has made an enormous contribution to the dissemination of archaeological research in Africa over the last three decades, providing an easy publishing outlet, especially for contributions containing large amounts of data. Claudia Abatino, who has provided this most recent contribution, has studied the faunal remains from two Middle Iron Age (AD 900–1300) sites in South Africa, namely Mapungubwe and Mutamba. The larger Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. Mapungubwe was an important 13th-century regional centre, with thousands of people living around it. Its lucrative trade networks linked the interior of southern Africa, via the east coast of Africa, with Persia, India and China. Mutamba was a contemporary settlement within the influence sphere of Mapungubwe.

Elizabeth (‘Liz’) Voigt’s (1978, 1983) original zooarchaeological analyses of the fauna from Mapungubwe were landmark studies in southern Africa, establishing and refining various methodological concepts still widely used in the region today. Her original research remains one of the most important studies of Iron Age farmers in southern Africa. Voigt relied mainly on skulls and teeth for her identifications, as was common practice at the time. Abatino’s more recent study is able to expand on that of Voigt, and her in-depth analyses allow her to extend our knowledge of this important regional centre and ancient surrounding landscape. Abatino has re-analysed some fauna from Voigt’s original study, but also included and expanded it by incorporating new, previously unstudied, material.

The volume contains chapters on the regional context (Chapter 1), the archaeological background for the dates and excavations (Chapter 2), the methods used for the analyses (Chapter 3), the results from the two assemblages (Chapters 4 and 5), a section on ethnozooarchaeological research conducted in the region with modern-day farmers (Chapter 6), a discussion of the results (Chapter 7), an appendix listing the measurements of specimens, an Italian summary and the bibliography. The inclusion of all the osteometric results is a welcome addition: the volume contains a wealth of data that will be useful for zooarchaeologists working on faunas from farming sites in countries from southern Africa. The volume contains no less than 86 tables and 136 figures, of which the vast majority present analytical data, and overall, the volume is well produced with few, extremely minor, technical errors.

At Mapungubwe Hill, the faunal assemblage is dominated by caprines and cattle, found in near-equal proportions, with almost no evidence for wild animals. Mapungubwe was at the heart of an extensive region of influence, with livestock playing a central role in the political, social and economic spheres of the community. At Mutamba, hunting played a larger role, although livestock was also central to the activities of the community. Many of the patterns Abatino identified from the fauna was confirmed by her ethnozooarchaeological study of a Venda-speaking village in the same region as the archaeological sites, but with some important differences. These differences likely stem from cultural changes caused by various factors influencing traditional societies during the
19th and 20th centuries. Throughout the volume, Abatino integrates the rich ethnographies from the region with the faunal data.

This volume by Abatino marks an enormous contribution to faunal studies on Iron Age farmers in southern Africa, and it is a fitting extension of Voigt’s original thesis. Abatino must be congratulated for producing data of high quality, now easily accessible to other researchers in the region.

References


The Oxford Handbook of Zooarchaeology

Edited by Umberto Albarella, Mauro Rizzetto, Hannah Russ, Kim Vickers and Sarah Viner-Daniels


ISBN 9780199686476

Contributed by Eve Rannamäe, University of Tartu, Estonia (eve.rannamae@ut.ee)

The Oxford Handbook of Zooarchaeology is a voluminous book, with a total of 862 pages, comprising the front pages, foreword, preface, contents, lists of figures, tables and online supplementary material, 47 chapters forming the main content, a glossary of zooarchaeological methods, notes on contributions and an index. Published by the Oxford University Press and edited by known and acknowledged zooarchaeologists, the preconception of the book can only be good.

This handbook has taken a geographic approach. In addition to an introductory part (one chapter), there are six parts for each of the continents: Europe (14 chapters), Asia (eight chapters), Africa (eight chapters), North America (eight chapters), South America (four chapters) and Oceania (four chapters). The uneven coverage is the result of different research intensities and some planned chapters not reaching publication. As Albarella correctly states: ‘coverage could never be truly complete’ (Preface, ix), but there are contributions from 25 countries (based on the authors’ addresses). To see how much of the world their studies cover, Figure 1 is a very approximate map that displays the sites mentioned throughout the chapters. Even though the editors of the book are aware of the imbalance in the distribution of research and researchers across the globe, a glance at the map shows that, despite those imperfections, the handbook is nothing less than global.

The book was written for a wider audience, not just zooarchaeologists. As P. Bogucki states in the foreword: ‘this book can be read as an overview of world archaeology through the lens of animal bones and their interpretation’. I could not agree more. Step by step, the book leads the reader into the world of zooarchaeology, introducing broad concepts while at the same time revealing the detail. It is a journey through time (from the Palaeolithic to the early modern period) and space (from northern Europe to southern Patagonia), and not only in the field of zooarchaeology, but in the world in general: its nature, environments and cultures. It is a very diverse book and everyone who reads it will learn a great deal.

‘This handbook’s charge is to emphasize how zooarchaeological evidence elucidates key archaeological regions and research questions’ (D. Gifford-Gonzalez, Chapter
Most of the chapters give a short yet exhaustive overview of the region’s research history, main topics and problems, and perspectives for future research. Some of the chapters are quite detailed with a microscale focus (more like research articles), while others present a macroscale view that gives general theoretical thoughts and perspectives (more like essays). This kind of fluctuation in the texts, with insights into different levels of research, was much welcomed and enjoyable to read. The versatility of the book makes it a good starting point for students and early career researchers, by providing the background, ideas and inspiration for the chosen topic. But not only that! Even for zooarchaeologists who have been active in the field for longer, I believe that this book provides a good opportunity to think outside their own ‘research box’. As a researcher confined to her study area and period, which are relatively narrow, I enjoyed being pulled out from my sphere of knowledge into the diverse worlds of unfamiliar taxa, different environments and mixed histories. I was inspired. Therefore, even if only some of the chapters are of interest to you, I would suggest you read the whole book (the whole world), because it will provide you with a wider perspective on where you stand with your own data, and allow you to draw patterns of differences and similarities across time and space.

By the time I agreed to review the handbook for the ICAZ Newsletter, I had already read a few of the book’s chapters. It was only when I took on reading the book from cover to cover that I asked what I actually expected from it. One of the first things that came to mind was an overview of methodology. Indeed, a very subjective expectation since I myself am still exploring, testing and learning the number of methods that are out there. This expectation led me to another question: what could I expect from the book, i.e. what is the meaning of a handbook? As the Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines it, handbook is ‘a book capable of being conveniently carried as a ready reference (manual)’ or ‘a concise reference book covering a particular subject’. To me it seems that it is the latter part of the definition – a reference book – that fits the main content of The Oxford Handbook of Zooarchaeology best. Regarding the first part of the definition – a manual – the reader is given a glossary of zooarchaeological methods at the end of the book. As stated by the authors of the glossary, it is brief and aimed at non-expert readers. Therefore, the handbook leaves open the future possibility of a manual of methods aimed at expert readers, a kind of a consensus of the diverse set of methods that are most commonly used and agreed upon, a resource that would include methodological tables, figures and equations. Of course, this request would not be easy. As ‘zooarchaeological data is fragmented and disarticulated’ (C. Çakır & L. Atici, Chapter 17, p. 268), it requires a myriad of methods, sometimes tailored to specific circumstances; something that becomes clear chapter by chapter during the course of reading the book. Therefore, I would not want to hold on to my above hinted critique too tightly. As a final remark, I would like to point out that while reading the preface of the book, it gave me the feeling of ICAZ – the friendly feeling of community that accompanies ICAZ meetings and collaboration. This book is another manifestation of and for the global community of zooarchaeology.

**CALENDAR**

**2022**

**14-18 MARCH**
3rd International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (3rd ICAS-EMME) conference
Nicosia, Cyprus
Internet: https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/news

**17-19 MARCH**
Animal Life Histories
Basel, Switzerland (online)
Internet: https://ipna.duw.unibas.ch/de/aktuell/

**23-26 MARCH**
Young People in Archaeological Research Conference (JIA-LACANT)
Alicante, Spain
Email: recursosalimenticios.jia2022@gmail.com
Internet: https://jia2020alicante.wordpress.com/

**30 MARCH-3 APRIL**
87th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA)
Chicago, USA
Internet: www.saa.org

**20-22 APRIL**
UK Archaeological Sciences (UKAS)
Aberdeen, Scotland
Internet: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/events/conferences/ukas-2022.php

**22-24 APRIL**
All Creatures Great and Small
Equine History Collective (EHC) conference
Purdue University, Indiana, USA
Email: admin@equinehistory.org
Internet: equinehistory.wpcomstaging.com

**5-12 JUNE**
Science Fiction of Taphonomy
9th International Meeting on Taphonomy and Fossilization (Taphos) and 6th meeting of the ICAZ Taphonomy Working Group (TWG)
Alcalà de Henares, Madrid, Spain
Email: taphostwg@gmail.com
Internet: taphostwg.es, alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/worktaphonomy

**15-19 JUNE**
The Future of Past Animals: Global Perspectives in Zooarchaeology
ICAZ International Committee meeting
Stockholm University, Sweden
Email: laszlo.bartosiewicz@ofl.su.se
Internet: alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/meetings-ic2020

**22-25 JUNE**
Historical Perspectives on Marine Ecosystems, Fisheries, and Futures
Oceans Past Initiative (OPI)
University of Washington, Seattle, USA
Email: info@oceanspast.org
Internet: oceanspast.org/opviii.php

**22-27 AUGUST**
21st Meeting of the ICAZ Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG)
Archaeological Institute and the Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria
Email: ICAZfrwgXXI@oeaw.ac.at
Internet: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/conferences/icaz-frwg2021

**31 AUGUST-3 SEPTEMBER**
28th EAA Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) conference
ELTE Faculty of Humanities Campus, Budapest, Hungary
Email: helpdesk@e-a-a.org
Internet: www.e-a-a.org/eaa2022

**28-30 SEPTEMBER**
1st Meeting of the ICAZ Medieval Period Working Group (MWG)
University Museum of Bergen, Norway
Email: mwg.icaz@gmail.com
Internet: alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workmedieval

**26-30 SEPTEMBER**
13th Meeting of the Gesellschaft für Archäozoologie und Prähistorische Anthropologie (GAPA)
Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Weimar, Germany
Wmail: gapa-vorstand@gmx.de
Internet: www.gapa-kr.de/tagungen.html
Anne Pike-Tay Memorial

Contributed by April M. Beisaw, Vasser College, USA (apbeisaw@vassar.edu)

The Vasser College Anthropology Department is pleased to announce our intent to create a special prize in memory of Professor Emerita of Biological Anthropology, Anne Pike-Tay. Anne taught at Vassar from 1990 to 2016 and sadly passed away in April 2020. She is affectionately remembered by friends, colleagues and students alike for her extreme collegiality, her devotion to her research and teaching, her passion for working with students, and her playful (at times subversive) sense of humor.

The Anne Pike-Tay Memorial Prize in Anthropology would be awarded to Vassar students who have demonstrated academic excellence in Anthropology. We are looking to raise $25,000 by June 2023 to establish the endowment fund necessary so that the prize can operate in perpetuity, and honor Anne’s memory for years to come.

Provided the goal of $25,000 can be reached, two awards can be made yearly, each award tailored to reflect the diversity of Anne’s scholarship. Our current vision is that one prize of $500 would be given to an anthropology major whose work best exemplifies the four field approach. The second $500 prize would be awarded to an anthropology major who has combined their anthropology with expertise in art, Asian studies, or the environment, all of which were greatly important to Anne. In the event that we do not reach the endowment threshold, the prize could be created and awarded for as long as the raised funds last.

If you would like to make a memorial gift to the Anne Pike-Tay Memorial Prize fund, please send a cheque payable to Vassar College to: Vassar College Office of Advancement, 161 College Ave, Box 725, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, USA.

Or to contribute electronically, please visit: give.vassar.edu. Select ‘Make a Gift’, then select ‘Other Designation’ and write Anne Pike-Tay Prize Fund.

In addition to establishing this memorial prize, we will be planting a memorial tree near Blodgett Hall. A small ceremony will be held in the Spring.

With warm regards and gratitude

The Vassar Anthropology Department