



15th International Conference for Nubian Studies University of Warsaw
29th August – 4th September 2022

A guide to thematic sessions at the ICNS2022

Living in Nubia – a bioarchaeological perspective

The objective of this session is to bring together specialists in physical anthropology, zooarchaeology and archaeobotany to present research on past populations and their interactions with the environment. The topics include:

- Demography;
- Diet and foodways;
- Subsistence strategies;
- Husbandry and agricultural economy;
- Mobility;
- Biological resilience and responses to environmental conditions;
- Health and disease;
- Birth and death.

Everyday life

The papers in this session concern all aspects of everyday life, with focus on household archaeology. Presentations on aspects of daily activity in nomadic communities, on temporary dwelling sites, monasteries, military sites, etc. are also welcome. The topics include:

- Domestic architecture, building practices and materials;
- Uses of the domestic workspace;
- Economy and *chaine operateire* of household production and food processing;
- Crafts in everyday life;
- Technological change and evolution of objects for household use;
- Conceptualizing space and privacy;
- Reading daily life from textual sources;
- Space syntax at household level.

Studies in urban and rural landscapes

Topics presented in this session concentrate on villages, urban centres and their hinterlands and include:

- Building practice and architecture of settlement sites (including functional settlements like fortresses, monasteries, caravan stations, etc.);
- Urbanization and urban planning;
- Space syntax at settlement level;
- Settlement networks and their patterns;
- Defense systems and their architecture.
- Location strategies



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW



POLISH CENTRE
OF MEDITERRANEAN
ARCHAEOLOGY

Mobility and interactions of riverine and desert communities

The session aims to explore relations between the Nile Valley, oases and surrounding deserts by bringing together papers focusing on various perceptions of these environments and interactions between their inhabitants expressed in material culture and oral traditions.

- Nile valley and desert communities and their interactions;
- Mobility of population groups;
- Influence of hydrological conditions and climate on riverine and desert communities.

Understanding technologies and defining resources

Research presented in this session focuses on environments and exploitation of resources, as well as technological advances. Topics include:

- Technologies and methods of subsistence;
- Mineral resources and their exploitation;
- Water management;
- Industry and craftsmanship, such as pottery manufacture, ironworking and metallurgy, production of textiles, tools, woodworking, leatherworking and other industries;
- Technological aspects of decorative arts.

African interconnections

Topics in this session revolve around interconnections between Sudan and other regions, including:

- Cultural contacts with other parts of Africa, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, and beyond;
- Trade routes and communication networks;
- Exchange of goods and ideas;
- Technology transfers;
- Economic influences;
- Mobility, migration and interaction in the material record and linguistics;
- Political interactions associated with invasion and hostility;
- Dynamics of frontier regions.

Power and authority: concepts and strategies

The session invites papers focusing on all aspects related to power and authority, including kingship and religious leadership. Diachronic perspectives on the subject are welcome. The topics include:

- Ideology and iconography of power and authority;
- Titulature and texts related to power and authority;
- New findings on royal chronologies;
- Economic, symbolic and social aspects related to power and authority;
- Shifts, changes and evolution in power and authority;

- Royal self-representation and perception of authority;
- Power and authority manifested in architecture and objects of prestige;
- Royal and elite relations with subjects, as well as other polities.

Traditions, customs and spirituality

The session broadly focuses on the materiality of immaterial spheres of human activity and includes

- Ritual, tradition, materiality of devotion and personal piety;
- Ceremonial practice in cult centres, temples and churches;
- Cult imagery, iconographic studies;
- Divinity, ritual and sainthood in visual arts and textual sources;
- Continuity, innovation, borrowings in local traditions and customs;
- Architectural frameworks for ritual activity;
- Sacrificial practices, pilgrimage;
- Burial traditions and practices;
- Funerary architecture;
- Adornment and grave goods, including ceramics and their contents;
- Symbolism of items of prestige;
- Expressions of identity and belief through burial assemblages.

Interdisciplinary approaches to memory

Presentations concerning materialized memory in archaeology, impact of memory on past societies, as well as on recent and contemporary past. The topics include

- Oral histories and folklore;
- Memory and language;
- Monuments and places of memory, including burials and burial grounds;
- Meaning of landscape and culturally important landmarks;
- The study of toponyms and naming practices;
- Continuity and discontinuity of habitual practices;
- Text and image as media that shaped and preserved cultural memory;
- Impact of memory on material culture and cultural continuity;
- Intangible cultural heritage;
- Nubian legacy in the modern world.

Creating and expressing identity

The focus of this session is identity in the Nubian past, especially archaeological, historical and ethnographic perspectives on

- Concepts of family, kin, tribe, social group and community;
- Gender studies;
- Religious identity;
- Language and identity;
- Reading identity from iconography and personal objects, ornamentation and symbols, burial assemblages and mortuary patterns.

Critical historiographies

The focus of the session is discussion of research on textual sources on the history of Sudan. The topics include

- External and local textual sources relevant to historical studies;
- Historical geographies;
- Nomenclature and vocabulary;
- Chronologies;
- Decolonization of historical narratives.

Community archaeology and heritage management

The session brings together papers concerning projects and activities in community archaeology and management of heritage, including

- Communication with local communities;
- Community engagement programmes;
- Site preservation and presentation;
- Challenges in heritage management;
- Conservation programmes;
- Decolonization of archaeological practice.

Future perspectives and technological advances in Nubiology

Papers introducing of state-of-the-art technologies that change the face of research and novel insights and angles that challenge the status quo, including

- New approaches to archival materials;
- Museum archaeology;
- Archaeometry;
- Digital mapping;
- GIS;
- Databases;
- Remote sensing.

Preliminary reports on recent projects

A session hosting papers on new fieldwork activities, latest discoveries and projects which are just beginning and can be presented only as preliminary reports.