Program of the 14th biennial conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Syracuse, New York, May 20-24, 1998.

Plenary session.

Alison Brooks and Sally McBrearty. New interpretations of the origin of modern human behavior in Africa.

Diane Gifford-Gonzalez. Trajectories toward food production in sub-Saharan Africa.

Augustin Holl. Village, cities, chiefdoms, and states in West African prehistory.

Nicholas David. The changing roles of ethnoarchaeology.

Session 1: New perspectives on the development of early complex societies in the Northern Horn of Africa 1.

Organized by S. Brandt and M. Curtis. Chaired by M. Curtis.

D.W. Phillipson. Ancient Aksum: an overview of current research.

C.R. Cain. Initial results from zooarchaeological analysis at Aksum, Ethiopia.

L. Phillipson. Stone tool use in ancient Aksum.

A.C. D'Andrea et.al. Current ethnoarchaeological research in the Ethiopian highlands.

Session 2: Recent innovations in analytical techniques 1.

Chair: B.L. Hardy.

B.L. Hardy and K.A. Murphy. Stop and think before you wash: the effect of curation and washing on residue analysis of stone tools.

B. Kimura. Recovery of DNA from ethnoarchaeological stone scrapers from Ethiopia.

R. Shahack-Gross et.al. Oxide staining and burned bones: implications for the earliest use of fire by hominids.

Session 3: New perspectives on the development of early complex societies in the Northern Horn of Africa 2.

Organized by S. Brandt and M. Curtis. Chaired by M. Curtis.

M.C. Curtis. Archaeological investigation of early complex societies in Eritrea: a call for a regional approach.

S.A. Brandt et.al. Implications of a recent test excavation in the southern Red Sea Hills, Sudan.

A.O. A-Magid. Tabot: an ancient waystation in the southern Red Sea Hills, Sudan.

Session 4: Ethnoarchaeological research in Africa 1.

Chaired by N. David.

N. David. Mandara ethnoarchaeology: Nigerian and Ghanaian phases.

M. Sall. Ethnicity, ethnic boundaries and the Serer potter (Senegal).

H. Wallaert. Learning how to make the right pots. Apprenticeship strategies serving style duplication. A case study in handmade pottery from Cameroon.

A.O. Ogundiran. Sacrifice, feasting and socio-political formation: archaeology of ritual in a pre-colonial Yoruba community.

B.A. Ogunfolakan. Archaeological survey of Osun north east of Osun State, Nigeria.

Session 5: The stone age in Eastern Africa.

Chaired by B.V. Ludwig.

A. Hawkins. The Aterian of Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt.

M.F. Wiseman. Stalking the later Late Pleistocene inhabitants of Dakhleh Oasis.

F. Rahemtulla. Acheulian mobility and technological design.

S. McBrearty. Middle Pleistocene technological change in the Kapthurin Formation, Baringo, Kenya.

B.V. Ludwig. An experimental assessment of East African Plio-Pleistocene cultural entities.

Session 6: Constructing social fields: the embodiment of change and continuity in Ghana.

Organized and chaired by A.B. Stahl.

A.B. Stahl. The changing social fields of Banda villagers, A.D. 1300-1920.

A.S. Caton. Embodying change and continuity in bead practices.

J.N.L. Smith. Occupation of the hinterland: a preliminary assessment of settlement patterns in the Banda region of west central Ghana.

C.M. Mather. Change and continuity in vernacular architecture, Upper East Region, Ghana.

M. Das Dores Cruz. ìWe prefer metal potsî. The role of consumer preference in Banda ceramic production.

B.C. Vivian. Putting pipes in their place.

Session 7: Rocking the Bantu cradle.

Chaired by O. Gosselain.

B. Janssens. Bantu languages: innovative or archaic?

P. Lavachery. Sitting in the cradle and looking westward, the Holocene archaeological sequence of the grassfields.

P. de Maret. First steps southward.

A. Assoko Ndong. Settling in the southwest: the archaeology sequence in Gabon.

O.P. Gosselain. Pottery tales from the trip.

A. Bulkens. Mortar, pestle and grinding stone: linguistic indicators of the history of food processing.

Session 8. The Late Stone Age and Early Iron Age in Southern Africa. Chaired by A. Smith.

A. Smith. Ethnohistory and archaeology of the Ju/'Hoansi.

A.E. Close and C.G. Sampson. Did the Seacow River bushmen make backed microliths?

M. Dobres. Understanding the agency and social dynamics of pre-Holocene hunter-gatherer technologies: A view from Elands Bay (South Africa).

S. Kent. Hunter-gatherers or pastoralists or both during the Late Stone Age and Early Iron Age in southern Africa.

S. Pfeiffer and J. Sealy. Reconstructing diet and behavior of Later Stone Age people of the Southern Cape, South Africa.

S. Hall. Burial and sequence in the Later Stone Age of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

Session 9. Iron Age expansion and issues of complexity in West and Central Africa.

Chaired by K.C. MacDonald.

M. Delneuf. Occupation humaine et extension des zones forestières lors deux derniers millenaires en Afrique centrale.

S. MacEachern. Excavations at Aissa Harde, Northern Cameroon, 1995-1996.

B. Agbaje-Williams. Potsherd pavements, early urban sites in Nigeria Central Yorubaland: a consideration.

K.C. MacDonald et.al. Tango Maare Diabal: excavations at a 1st millenium A.D. Malian town.

J. Woodhouse. First millenium A.D. metallurgy in the southern Gourma (Mali).

V. Chikwendu. Search for Igbo-Ukwu bronze makers.

Session 10. Archaeological and archaeobotanical research in the Sahel zone of Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

Organized and chaired by P. Breunig.

P. Breunig. Objectives and results of the Frankfurt University project: an overview.

B. Wiesmuller. Stages of pottery development in the south of Lake Chad from 1000 B.C. up to historical times.

K. Neumann. Development of plant food production in the Sahel.

K.P. Wendt. The southwestern Chad Basin in the 2nd millenium B.C.

D. Gronenbon and C. Magnavita. Historical archaeology in the southern Chad basin: the excavations at Ngala and Dikwa by the Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main.

Session 11. The archaeology of enslavement and the African diaspora.

Organized by K. Agorsah.
Chaired by T. Singleton.

K.G. Kelly. Long distance trade and state formation: the archaeology the Heuda State, Benin, West Africa.

Y. Bredwa-Mensah. Slavery and plantation life at the Danish plantation site of Bibease, Gold Coast.

E.K. Agorsah. Settlement pattern studies in the archaeology of the African diaspora.

D.V. Armstrong. Perspectives on house and yard in African Caribbean archaeology.

T. Singleton. Discussant.

Session 12: Ethnoarchaeological research in Africa 2.

Chaired by K. Mutunda.

K. Mutundu. Ethnohistoric archaeology of the Mukugodo in north-central Kenya: contemporary hunter-gatherer subsistence and the transition to pastoralism in secondary settings.

S. Buhnen. House and tomb: build ideology and cosmology.

R.A. Walicka Zeh. Traditional Malian architecture: an ethnoarchaeological study of building technology and cultural form.

G. Chouin. Looking through the forest-secret groves as historical and archaeological clues in southern Ghana: an approach.

Session 13. Recent research from the Senegal Valley.

Organized and chaired by S. McIntosh.

R. MacDonald Hutton and K.C. MacDonald. The mammalian, avian and reptile bones from Cubalel and Siure (Middle Senegal Valley, Senegal).

N.S. Gueye. Ethnohistory, ethnoarchaeology and interpretation of ceramic change in the Middle Senegal Valley.

I. Thiaw. The impact of French penetration in the Upepr Senegal: preliminary results.

S.K. McIntosh and H. Boucoum. An 800 year cultural sequence at Sincu Bara: evaluating the implications.

D. Killick and H. Boucoum. Metals and metallurgy in the Middle Senegal River valley.

A. Deme. Archaeological investigations of long term socio-political change in the Middle Senegal Valley.

Session 14. The Iron Age in Southern Africa.

Chaired by A. Lindahl.

D. Gifford-Gonzalez. Prehistoric livestock economies, environmental filters, social implications.

T. Huffman. Cattle and bridewealth in the Eastern Stream Early Iron Age.

A. Lindahl et.al. Ceramics, metal craft and settlement in southwestern Zimbabwe since ca 1400A.D.

J.F.N. Binneman. Investigation of an Early Iron Age settlement in the Great Kei River Valley, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

J. Calabrese. Social and political complexity in the Shashi-Limpopo Valley: ceramics, settlement patterns and social identity.

K.A. Murphy. Human bones do tell tales: the role of herding and farming in the diet of prehistoric inhabitants from Kgaswe, Botswana.

Session 15.
Recent innovations in analytical techniques 2.
Chaired by A. Livingstone-Smith.

A. Livingstone-Smith. The reconstruction of shaping techniques: problems and perspectives in ceramic analysis.

M. Hauser et.al. Composition analysis and the delineation of ceramic wares in coastal Ghana.

S. Irving and M.H. Hill. Petrography of pottery from Cassan, the Gambia.

A.T. Morton and T.R. Pickering. Bone transport and taphonomic transport groups in lacustrine environments.

J. Smith et.al. Documented C3/C4 vegetational shifts in relation to the Caledon River Valley cultural sequence, terminal Pleistocene to mid-Holocene.

P. Sinclair. Atlas of African Archaelogy.

Session 16.
Past, politics and education.
Chaired by A.B. Esterhuysen.

J.E.G. Sutton. Sites, monuments and research strategies on the changing African landscape.

A.B. Esterhuysen. Breaking educational waters: the birth of educational archaeology in South Africa.

B. Osei-Tutu. Social reconstruction of the past: a review of the dominent oral traditional account of Akyem Akuakwa presence on the Akuapem Ridge, Ghana, c. 1630-1800.

J.M. Sept and K. Murphy. Educational puzzles: collaborative problem solving with internet-based resources on African prehistory.

Session 17.
The Stone Age in Western and Northern Africa.
Chaired by E. Cornelissen.

J.L. Casey. Report on investigations at Birimi: multidisciplinary research at a multi-component site in Ghana, West Africa.

A. Hawkins et.al. The Middle Stone Age at the Birimi site, northern Ghana.

E.E. Cornelissen. Shum Laka (Northwestern Cameroon): further evidence on the late occupation of the rock shelter.

Session 18:
Recent research in African Archaeology.
Chaired by G. Hundie.

G. Hundie. Rock paintings of Borana Region, Southern Ethiopia.

K. Weedman. The ethnoarchaeology of variation and similarity in Gamo hide working material culture.

J.W. Arthur. Ceramic ethnoarchaeology among the Gamo people: pottery production and consumer use.

E. Huseycom. Imagina: the last house of iron. Discussion of the film.

I. Pikirayi. Less implicitely historical archaeologies: Later Shona histories and archaeology on the Zimbabwe plateau.

Session 19.
African historical archaeologies.
Organized and chaired by P. Lane and A. Reid.

P. Lane et.al. The spatial and social organization of Phalatswe, a 19th century Tswana town.

N. Mathibidi. Reconstruction of the social organization at Phalatswe: an exercise in historical archaeology.

A. Reid. Access to cattle resources within a Tswana capital.

A. LaViolette. Peer polities of Pemba: Swahili archaeology and history in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

J. Fleisher. The Sultan of Kilwa's "rebellious conduct": understanding Kilwa's interaction with the Portuguese in the early sixteenth century.

W.R. Perry. Archaeology of the Mfecane/Difaqane.

Session 20.
The MSA/LSA transition in southern Africa.
Chaired by P. Willoughby.

P.R. Willoughby. The Middle-Later Stone Age transition in southwestern Tanzania.

L. Robbins and M.L. Murphy. Caves of the Tsodilo Hills, Kalahari Desert, Botswana.

L. Wadley. MSA and LSA behavioural differences: the evidence from Rose Cottage Cave, South Africa.

A.M.B. Clark. Transitions: examination of technological and behavioral changes associated with the shift from the Middle Stone Age to the Later Stone Age in Southern Africa.

C. Henshilwood. Blombos Cave: the site, and recent excavations into the Middle Stone Age levels.

J. Sealy. Blombos Cave: the finds from the Middle Stone Age levels.

S.B. Kusimba. The Howieson's Poort at Nelson Bay Cave, South Africa.