

## **SOCIETY OF AFRICANIST ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

### **25th BIENNIAL MEETING: AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY — A 20:20 VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

#### **First Circular and Call for Symposia**

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the 25th SAfA conference will take place in Europe at **St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom**, from **21 to 24 September 2020**.

#### **Call for Symposia**

As SAfA celebrates its 25th biennial conference and approaches the 50th anniversary of the 1971 meeting in Urbana, Illinois, that ultimately led to its creation, we wish to look to the long term and solicit symposium proposals that explore the future of African archaeology in as holistic a way as possible. In emphasizing this theme of a 20:20 vision for the discipline, we wish to enhance the ways in which the theory and practice of African archaeology and its methods, procedures, and ethical underpinnings can support the priorities of the peoples of Africa and the Diaspora. At the same time, we look forward to suggestions from SAfA's members for symposia that explore some of the key challenges confronting Africa's inhabitants and their heritage, including:

the management, valorization, and interpretation of cultural heritage;

the role of archaeology and of archaeological heritage in facilitating sustainable development and resilient societies;

the improved understanding of the long-term relationships between people and the environments, climates, and disease regimes within which they live now and in the past; and

ethical, social justice, and humanitarian issues arising from the legacies of earlier forms of archaeological practice concerning the continent and its peoples.

We are also keen to encourage symposium organizers to highlight the creative potential of collaboration with — and insights from — colleagues in related disciplines, such as anthropology, genetics, geography, history, and palaeoanthropology. Such sessions may wish to focus on:

advances in specific methodological or theoretical fields of research;

novel insights into the histories of particular regions or periods of the African past;

research results from specific ongoing or recently completed field projects; or

the exploration of connections and the comparison of historical trajectories between different regions of Africa

One of SAfA's highest priorities is to integrate scholars at all career stages and from all backgrounds into a single thriving intellectual community. We therefore strongly encourage symposium organizers to pursue contributions from a diverse range of colleagues, including postdoctoral researchers, students and others. Ahead of the launch of the conference website, the Symposium Proposal Form can be obtained from the Organizing Committee at [safa2020arch.ox.ac.uk](http://safa2020arch.ox.ac.uk)

### **Podium vs poster presentations**

When proposing a symposium please choose between podium and poster formats. Both formats have equal status. To encourage attendance at poster symposia, they will be scheduled in dedicated time slots free from competing podium-based symposia and other conference events. In the event of difficulties in printing posters at home before arrival at the conference, please contact the Organizing Committee, which will endeavour to find suitable printing options in Oxford.

### **Roles**

To maximize participation in the conference, please note the following limits on authorship at SAfA 2020:

- 1) Each participant may be a lead author for one presentation, whether in a podium or a poster session;
- 2) Participants with one lead authorship may also be listed as co-authors on a maximum of two other presentations (podium- and/or poster-based);
- 3) Participants who are not lead authors may be listed as co-authors on a maximum of three presentations (podium- and/or poster-based).

Organizing a symposium, chairing a session and acting as a session discussant do not count as authorship roles.

### **Important preparation dates**

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| 1 November 2019  | Symposium proposals due                      |
| 15 November 2019 | Symposium decisions announced                |
| 31 December 2019 | Abstracts due                                |
| 1 February 2020  | Abstract decisions announced                 |
| 15 February 2020 | Registration opens                           |
| 1 May 2020       | Deadline for Early Bird Registration payment |

## **Student Day**

The SAfA 2020 Student Day will take place at St Hugh's College on Sunday 20 September 2020. Its activities will be co-ordinated by the Student Members of the SAfA Executive: Tomos Evans, Sol Sanchez-Dehesa and Mncedisi Siteleke. Student members of SAfA with enquiries or ideas regarding the Student Day should contact the co-ordinators at [safa2020studentday@gmail.com](mailto:safa2020studentday@gmail.com)

## **Workshops before and after the main conference**

It will be possible — at no extra cost for hiring the relevant meeting room — to organize small workshops on specific themes on either Sunday 20 September or Friday 25 September. Anyone wishing to arrange such a workshop should notify the Organizing Committee before 1 December 2019 so that it can do everything possible to help facilitate the arrangements. Costs for refreshments/lunch will, however, have to be met by the workshop's organizers and participants. Please bear in mind when thinking of arranging such workshops that the Student Day will take place on Sunday 20 September with local post-conference excursions following the conference on Friday 25 September.

## **Contact information**

The conference website is being developed and updates will be announced via the SAfA listserv. The Organizing Committee's email address is [safa2020arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:safa2020arch.ox.ac.uk)

We look forward to seeing you next September in Oxford

With best wishes

*The SAfA 2020 Organizing Committee*

Peter Mitchell (University of Oxford, Organizing Secretary)  
Tunde Babalola (University of Cambridge)  
Nick Barton (University of Oxford)  
Shadreck Chirikure (University of Oxford/University of Cape Town)  
Tim Clack (University of Oxford)  
Ashley Coutu (University of Oxford)  
Matt Davies (University College London)  
Sam Derbyshire (University of Oxford)  
Anne Haour (University of East Anglia)  
Jane Humphris (British Institute in Eastern Africa/University of Cambridge)  
Rachel King (University College London)  
Paul Lane (University of Cambridge/Uppsala University)  
Julia Lee Thorp (University of Oxford)  
Kevin MacDonald (University College London)  
Simon Underdown (Oxford Brookes University)  
Chris Wingfield (University of East Anglia)  
Stephanie Wynne-Jones (University of York)