

different facets of the technological narrative. The conundrum in many studies lies in modeling a functional, multi-proxy correlation of archaeometric results with other datasets and established narratives. This study maps a clear interpretative sequence: from compositional groups to material, from material to chaîne opératoire and knowledge, and from non-local provenance to evidence for procurement networks. Overlaying these interpretations onto cultural and chronological frameworks transforms data into powerful narrative constraints. An iterative, reflective multi-proxy methodology thus provides the empirical rigor necessary to construct plausible narratives about past technological practice.

2103. From Typology to Process: Rethinking Lithic Analysis through Technics and Material Inference

Authors: Karel Kuipers (Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University | Erasmus School of Philosophy, Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Format: Oral

In recent years, the study of lithics has been shaped by developments from two directions. On the one hand, the biomolecular turn has increasingly positioned lithic analysis into a more supportive or auxiliary role, rather than as a primary mode of inquiry to study human behavior in the deep past. On the other hand, there has been sustained critique of how lithic typologies are constructed and applied, raising questions about their epistemic robustness. While typological and technological classifications are still operated in a consciously pragmatic manner, they are often epistemically underdetermined and tend to operate at the scale of assemblages and/or artefacts, limiting their explanatory or predictive power. Against this backdrop, this paper explores the potential of a dialogue between archaeology and philosophy of technology. More specifically, the paper combines a semiotic approach to material inference with Stiegler’s theory of technics in order to examine how lithic analysis might be grounded in materially warranted inference and processual explanation. Semiotics is used to constrain inference from archaeological traces, restricting analysis to robust relations grounded in technical processes, and thereby avoiding appeals to meaning or mentalist explanations. Stiegler’s account of technics, in turn, offers a way to think through how technical practices carry memory and generate historical continuity. Taken together, these perspectives suggest how technical lineages might be reconstructed as processual trajectories grounded in what had to occur for artifacts to exist, rather than as expressions of constructed cultural units.

248 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF WOODLANDS – HUMAN-TREE INTER-ACTION THROUGH TIME

Theme: 5. Changing worlds and environments in the past, present and future
Organisers: Oliver Nelle (Tree-ring Lab, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage | Institute of Botany, University of Regensburg) – Aleksandra Fostikov (Institute of History Belgrade) – Dorina Moullou (Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Hellenic Ministry of Culture | School of Applied Arts and Sustainable Design, Hellenic Open University) – Maria Ntinou (Department of Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
Keywords: woodland, human-tree interaction, material and historical sources, interdisciplinarity, environmental archaeology, long-term perspective
Format: Regular session

SESSION ABSTRACT

Woodlands have evolved under human influence for millenia, with the availability of tree products playing a pivotal role in shaping the development of human societies. The interaction of humans with trees and woodland is a long and regionally diverse story. Although the topic has a rich history of research, it increasingly requires more detailed regional and synthetic investigations and truly interdisciplinary approaches, with innovative combinations of methods and archives. In this session, we focus on combining archaeological material and written or iconographic evidence, alongside oral history and ethnographic data. The complementation of archaeological finds and features -waterlogged wood, timber in historic buildings, charcoal, tar, carpological remains- with sources from historical sciences such as texts, maps, and iconography offers unique potential to explore the interrelatedness of woodland products, their uses and their analysis. Knowing the consequences of woodland use through time is essential for understanding current ecosystems and contributes to contemporary debates on biodiversity and climate change. After a session at the EAA 2024 on PoTaRCh (Network of Forest by-products Potash, Tar, Resin, Charcoal in Europe, EU-COST Action 22155) and the 2025 session focusing on the connection of wood and charcoal with metallurgy, we now stress the collaboration between archaeologists, historians and environmental scientists. This session expands the PoTaRCh network’s initiative to promote transdisciplinary research on forest by-products across Europe. It aims to bring together researchers from different periods, regions, and disciplines to examine how human activities have shaped and been shaped by woodland ecosystems. We seek to identify long-term trajectories in woodland exploitation and perception by integrating archaeological, historical, ethnographic, and ecological perspectives. We welcome contributions on wood procurement and trade, management, charcoal and tar production, resin extraction, timber construction, palaeoecology, and the symbolic or ritual role of trees.

CONTRIBUTION ABSTRACTS

515. Let there be light?! The Late Iron Age Land Opening around the Oppidum Altenburg-Rheinau in Southwestern Germany

Authors: Lisa Holler (Prehistory, Early History and Medieval Archaeology, University of Tübingen) – Elena Marinova (Archaeobotany Laboratory, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage) – Oliver Nelle (Tree Ring Laboratory, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage) – René Wollenweber (Prehistoric Archaeology, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage) – Martin Bartelheim (Prehistory, Early History and Medieval Archaeology, University of Tübingen) – Günther Wieland (Prehistoric Archaeology, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage)
Format: Oral

The first major urbanization north of the Alps arose during the late pre-Roman Iron Age and resulted in fundamental cultural transformations. This process profoundly shaped the landscape and land cover, especially around early central places such as oppida. The significant shift is due to an increased demand for food and wood supplies of a growing and artisanal more specialised population. This study aims to gain a broader understanding of landscape changes and human-environment interactions based on the macro botanical evidence of the late La Tène oppidum Altenburg-Rheinau, which is situated on two strategically favourable peninsulas of the Rhine River (Swiss-German border region, east of Basel and west of Schaffhausen). Especially in southwestern Germany, but also vast parts of Central Europe, the combination of the carpological and anthracological subdisciplines is yet rarely conducted on late La Tène sites. Thus, information on vegetation shifts often derives from carpological and palynological perspective only, restraining potential evidence of silvicultural practices or wood import. So far, the carpological results from Altenburg-Rheinau (peninsula Schwaben), attest to a clear presence of open and grassland vegetation, which supports the idea of land opening. Interestingly, the outcomes of the anthracological investigations indicate no bottlenecks in high quality wood supply. The duration and spatial extent of activity of the oppidum suggest a high wood demand and it is likely that the resource was first locally exploited. This would have extensively affected the surrounding forest. This paper intends to investigate reasons for the predominant presence of high-quality fuel and timber (oak and beech). Thus, the potential of sustainable silvicultural practices is explored through tree ring analysis. Furthermore, other possible supply systems are posed in a theoretical approach. Finally, the results will be presented in a diachronic framework, and an outlook on possible future research will be given.

1457. Layers of Change: Human–Forest Interactions and Landscape Transformation in the Šumava Mountains (18th–20th Centuries)

Authors: Tereza Blažková (Center for Theoretical Study, Charles University)
Format: Oral

The Šumava Mountains form a densely forested border range in the southwest of the Czech Republic. Their role as a wooded frontier landscape has been recorded since the Middle Ages and even earlier. Until the late 18th century, however the region remained almost untouched—a true primeval forest—despite the existence of several trade routes and some local-scale forest use. Major transformations began with the rise of noble-controlled timber trading at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. This paper presents the results of an interdisciplinary study focusing on the transformation of this landscape under the influence of intensive human interaction with forest . The large-scale exploitation of forest resources—particularly the extraction of firewood for industry in Vienna and Prague—initiated profound ecological changes that continues to affect the region today (forest clearance, soil degradation, bark beetle outbreaks, and increased vulnerability to windthrow). In addition to the massive logging also special trees were extracted for their rare, healthy wood for example resonant wood for the production of musical instruments. Forestry led to settlement development, as previously uninhabited mountain regions became places for people to live in villages and seasonal dwellings. Further profound transformations occurred during the 20th century due to wars, political upheavals. These events deeply impacted the landscape, ecosystems, and patterns of human settlement. After the Second World War, most of the local population was expelled or relocated, and the region became a restricted border zone where military activity continued. My research integrates archival documentation, historical maps, oral histories, and non-destructive archaeological field survey to reconstruct long-term trajectories of human–forest interaction. By combining material traces of woodland use with written and cartographic evidence. the study reveals both visible and hidden traces of two centuries of human–environment interaction that continue to shape the now protected Šumava region.

1492. Woodlands of Macedon: Macedonian wood and pitch

Authors: Maria Ntinou – Ioanna Vasileiadou (Department of Archaeology, Aristotle University)
Format: Oral

In the historical period, the woodlands of Northern Greece have been a major attraction for rulers from the East and settlers from the South. Ancient authors (Herodotus, Euripides, Theophrastus, Thucydides) praised the richness and biodiversity of the forests of Mounts Olympus, Cholomontas, and especially Pangaion (Daton), while charcoal and palynological studies confirm the wealth of Macedonian woodland environments. Since prehistory, local communities possessed the technical knowledge required to exploit forest resources of their natural environment. In historical times, and specifically during the 4th century BCE, timber from Mount Pangaion, which was in high demand, and Chalkidiki timber were integrated under the label of Macedonian timber and became

a highly competitive commercial product, distributed to markets throughout Greece, as evidenced by both epigraphic and literary sources. Ancient Macedonia was an invaluable source of timber for shipbuilding, which was often included in inter-city state treaties of ancient Greece and used as diplomatic leverage to achieve key political and military objectives. Alongside timber, the production and trade of Macedonian pitch was an inconspicuous yet particularly important economic resource. Herodotus’ “Pierian pitch” of 5th century BCE constitutes the earliest literary reference to pitch production in ancient Macedonia. During the reign of Philip II, pitch produced by the community of Chalkidiki appears to have been incorporated into Macedonian pitch – the “pitta” mentioned in inscriptions. Fiscally, pitch was treated in the same way as timber. At the microeconomic level, both timber and pitch had various applications (resin/pitch coating, funerary practices, resinous wine-type of ancient “retsina”, etc.). Archaeological residues of resin and pitch from sites across ancient Macedonia attest to its widespread use. In this presentation, we examine the exploitation and management of the woodlands of ancient Macedonia from an interdisciplinary perspective, combining historical and epigraphic sources with an emphasis on archaeological data and laboratory analyses.

2030. Wooden Artefacts from a Late Antique Hillfort Cistern at Ajdovski Gradec: Dendrochronological Evidence

Authors: Daša Pavlovic (National Museum of Slovenia) – Maks Merela – Daša Krapež (University of Ljubljana)
Format: Oral

In 1977 - 1978, a cistern was excavated within one of the defensive towers of the Late Antique hillfort settlement of Ajdovski Gradec above Vranje (Slovenia). Owing to its exceptional construction quality, the structure remained water-tight for approximately 1,400 years. A total of 271 wooden artefacts were recovered, including elements of the roof structure, roofing components, gutters, ceiling elements, a trough, a ladder, and various smaller utilitarian objects. Such an extensive assemblage of well-preserved wooden material archaeologically attributed to the 6th century, is extremely rare in Slovenia and the wider south-eastern Alpine region. Most wooden objects were conserved with polyethylene glycol (PEG) in the 1980s, which substantially limits the reliability of radiocarbon dating. Consequently, dendrochronological analysis represents the most suitable method for establishing a precise chronology. This work presents the results of dendrochronological analyses conducted in late 2025 and early 2026 on 22 selected samples. Preliminary analyses indicate that all sampled timbers are oak (*Quercus* sp.) and are suitable for dendrochronological measurement and dating. The results contribute to a more refined chronological framework for the construction of the cistern, and associated settlement and provide new insights into climatic conditions and environmental changes during Late Antiquity in the south-eastern Alpine region.

1643. Forest use in medieval Serbia

Authors: Mirko Vranic (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Archaeology) – Aleksandra Fostikov (Institute of History Belgrade) – Nemanja Pavlović (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Archaeology)
Format: Oral

Forests were among the key natural resources of medieval Serbian society, given that the central Balkan region—excluding its Mediterranean areas—is rich in forest vegetation. The multifaceted role of wood is evident in construction (as a structural material), economic activities (mining and metallurgy, crafts, and manufacturing production), and everyday consumption. Data on tree species and terminology in connection to them as well as information on their usage, are drawn primarily from historical sources (charters, legal texts, and other documents), iconographic evidence, local toponymy, and modest but increasingly frequent archaeological (anthracological) analyses of samples from diverse contexts (fortifications, settlements, mine shafts, metallurgical remains, etc.). Environmental factors influencing forest use are also taken into account. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of current knowledge and to highlight the potential of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of forest use in medieval Serbia. In this way, the study also opens possibilities for further comparison within a broader and better-researched European context.

2214. Woodland exploitation and selection in the prehistoric southwestern Balkans: insights from dendro-chronology on waterlogged wood

Authors: Andrej Maczkowski – John Francuz (University of Bern) – Matthias Bolliger (Archaeological Service of Canton Bern) – Maxim Yermokhin – Albert Hafner (University of Bern)
Format: Oral

This study investigates diachronic woodland exploitation in the prehistoric southwestern Balkans through an integrated dendro-chrono/archaeo/typo-logical analysis of waterlogged oak, juniper, pine, and other deciduous-tree remains spanning the 6th to 1st millennia BC. Oak was consistently the dominant construction timber (>50%), reaching almost 90% at Iron Age Vrbnik (Lake Ohrid). The vast majority of oak timber comes from subgenus *Quercus* taxa, and the near absence of *Cerris*-type oaks in the archaeological assemblages suggests either cultural preferences or ecological constraints. Diachronic comparison of ring-number/diameter, ring-number/growth-rate relationships, and site-specific average growth curves reveals subtle yet meaningful woodland-use patterns. At Neolithic Dispilio (6ht mill. BC, Lake Kastoria) predominantly young oak trees were used, whereas during the 45th–44th century BC occupation of Ploča Mičov Grad (Lake Ohrid) mixed-aged forests were exploited. Only the Late Bronze Age phases at Ploča show indications of targeted selection, including diameter clustering in the 15th-14th c. BC and a shift to older growth in the 14th-13th c. BC phase. The vigorous juvenile growth of oaks observed at Iron Age Vrbnik aligns with regional pollen evidence for widespread

forest thinning after 1150 cal BC. Juniper use, prominent in the 6th and 5th millennia BC, demonstrates early exploitation of these durable taxa, with Ploča specimens showing larger diameters and greater age than those from Dispilio, possibly indicating more open woodland stands. Pine species are mostly represented by *P. nigra/sylvestrist*-typa, but are less chronologically informative due to poor preservation of waney edges. Overall, the results underscore a remarkable continuity in woodland composition and sustainable exploitation across many millennia of human settlement, consistent with broader findings that long-term traditional land use maintained high biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The study also highlights the transformative potential of combining dendrochronology and targeted high-resolution radiocarbon modelling.

2319. Human-tree interactions through time on Vitosha Mountain, Sofia, Bulgaria: a charcoal-production sites’ survey

Authors: Mila Andonova-Katsarski (Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Department of Archaeology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) – Anani Antonov (National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) – Borislav Grigorov (Department of Geology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”)
Format: Oral

Vitosha Mountain lies immediately adjacent to the modern Bulgarian capital, Sofia. Its natural resources have been intensively exploited by the inhabitants of the Sofia Plain from the Neolithic period through Roman and Late Antiquity, the Medieval period, and into the present day. Forestry resources, including wood and tree fruits, are well documented as having been sourced from Vitosha and utilised in the ancient city of Serdica. In contrast, much less is known about archaeological forestry by-products, such as charcoal, that may have originated from the mountain. Historical sources, however, attest to charcoal production on Vitosha, particularly in connection with metallurgical activities, as well as to the trade of charcoal. Other accounts describe the environmental consequences of these practices, including extensive deforestation and subsequent reforestation with selected tree species to stabilise eroded slopes. Drawing on this historical literature in combination with systematic land survey informed by charcoal-related toponymy, this study presents the first results of the pioneering survey of historical charcoal production sites on Vitosha. It further demonstrates the close interplay between present-day biodiversity patterns—such as the distribution of recent and old-growth forest cover—and evidence derived from written sources and field survey data.

2445. Wood charcoal production in round and rectangular upright kilns in southern Germany - a combination of dendroanthracology and written sources

Authors: Oliver Nelle (Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage)
Format: Oral

In south-west Germany, in the region of Baden-Württemberg, charcoal was produced in pits until late medieval times, and in round upright kilns thereafter. Now, thanks to LiDAR image analysis and ground proving, we found an ensemble of relics of round kilns together with rectangular kilns, in a forest near Ellwangen in the Ostalb region. The rectangular kiln type or Langmeiler is known from Scandinavia and Austria, but was so far not found in Baden-Württemberg. The charcoal assemblages are dominated by fir (*Abies*). In the region with a long iron mining and processing history, the need for charcoal was immense before the use of fossil coal. According to LiDAR data, thousands of charcoal production sites are still present and can be sampled for anthracological analysis. Tree-ring measurements are carried out to characterise the growing conditions of the trees, as well as date the time of usage of the sites. The operation of the kilns might be related to a big windfall event and the subsequent need to process the huge amount of fallen trees, as recorded in written sources of the 19th century.

683. Prehistoric textile production as possible evidence of forest management

Authors: Johanna Banck-Burgess (Textilarchaeology, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage)
Format: Oral

Since the Neolithic period, settlers have lived continuously along the shores of lakes that are found in the Alpine lowland region. Due to the wetland conditions preservation of organic material is exceptional and textiles that have survived in the prehistoric wetland settlements are numerous and are providing evidence of the little understood importance of textiles in sedentary Neolithic lifestyles. Notably in the Hornstaadt IA settlement on Lake Constance in southwestern Germany, which seems to have been active between 3917 and 3909 B.C., before it was destroyed by fire. The evidence from this settlement demonstrates the commonplace demand for textiles, which were practical and necessary for housekeeping, construction, food storage, fishing and mobility. As with other settlements of the same period, lime bast was predominantly the key material. Careful selection and processing of the raw materials used in the manufacture of these textile products is testimony to a high level of proficiency. Demand for lime bast probably far exceeded that which was available in the uncultivated environments surrounding of the settlements. There were probably several ways to meet the demand for raw materials, ranging from sourcing from further afield to adopting different forest management strategies. In this contribution the aim is to demonstrate that, in prehistoric times, textiles were directly linked to trees and therefore forestry. By providing an overview of the textile finds and their value and usage. Also to highlight some specific gaps relating to dendrology research.

1780. Between the Axe and the Crown: Resource Demand and Protection of Royal Woodland in the 17th-Century Białowieża Forest

Authors: Joanna Wawrzeniuk (Institute of Archeology, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw) – Bogumiła Jędrzejewska (Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Białowieża)

Format: Poster

Białowieża Primeval Forest (1,500 km2; located on the borderland of Poland and Belarus) has been the best-preserved woodland in the lowlands of temperate Europe and UNESCO’s World Heritage Site. The status of a royal hunting domain of Polish kings and Lithuanian dukes from the late 14th to the late 18th century ensured the preservation of BPF’s ecosystems and large game, including the European bison. In the 17th century, during the reign of the Vasa dynasty, the conflict between protection and exploitation of forest resources began to emerge. The measures undertaken by the monarchs to strengthen the protection of BPF included the construction of the new royal hunting manor in the center of the forest (as documented by archeological research), the strengthening of forest protection personnel to 281 people settled on the BPF’s outskirts, and the issuing (in 1639) of the new chart of their rights and obligations (“Ordinatio of the Royal Forest of Białowieża”). Those measures were, however, moderately effective in the second half of the 17th century, after the period of devastating wars (1648-1667). The demand for income to the Crown Treasury and for economic recovery of the country justified the controlled exploitation of BPF based on contracts for forests products: potash, charcoal, and tar. It was only in the early 18th century that more stringent forest protection rules were reintroduced in BPF.

2395. Tracing the Historical Charcoal Production in Rudnik Mountain, Central Serbia: First Anthracological Results

Authors: Mila Andonova-Katsarski (Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Department of Archaeology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) – Oliver Nelle (Tree-ring Lab, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage) – Mirko Vranić (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade) – Aleksandra Fostikov (Institute of History Belgrade)

Format: Poster

This study presents preliminary results from anthracological material collected during a field survey of charcoal production sites conducted in 2025 on Rudnik Mountain, Šumadija District, Central Serbia. The Rudnik area has a long and well-documented history of metallurgical activity, extending back to the Roman, Medieval and Ottoman periods and up to the present. However, comparatively little is known about the wood charcoal resources that supported this industry. This knowledge gap provided the primary motivation for undertaking a targeted field survey as part of the COST action 22155 “EU-PoTaRCh” (Network for forest by-products charcoal, resin, tar, potash) and informed by historical and ethnographic sources. One of the surveyed localities, situated south-east of the village of Majdan, was identified as a former charcoal production area, as also indicated by the toponym Ćumurana (kömür for “charcoal”). The site features platforms interpreted as construction surfaces for round upright kilns that were likely used for charcoal manufacture. Trail trenching and sampling were carried out, charred wood remains - recovered and subjected to anthracological analysis. Preliminary results indicate a dominant exploitation of beech wood (Fagus sp.), represented by both large- and small-diameter material. Minor occurrences of willow (Salix sp.), poplar (Populus sp.) were also identified. These findings correspond to some of the contemporary toponymy of the region, which includes references to willow, as in Gornja Vrbava and Donja Vrbava, but also contrast to other, referring to Turkey oak (Quercus cerris), as in the locality Cerova, and birch (Betula sp.), as in Brezovica. This discrepancy opens a line of discussion regarding woodland exploitation strategies: whether low-altitude beech forests were preferentially selected for charcoal production due to the unavailability of oak resources, or whether oak became dominant through later reforestation following the exhaustion of beech woodlands.

249 MULTI-DISCIPLINARY, COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO THE EXCAVATION, ANALYSIS, AND CURATION OF BONE

Theme: 4. Transforming archaeology through interdisciplinarity

Organisers: Katie Zejdlik (The Ohio State University) – Jonathan Bethard (University of South Florida) – Carlos Carvalho (The Ohio State University)

Keywords: Osteoarchaeology, Mortuary, Archaeological science, Collaboration

Format: Regular session

SESSION ABSTRACT

Archaeology is unique for its breadth of potential, interdisciplinary collaboration; a trait that makes archaeological inquiry innovative, despite its inherent focus on the past. From collaboration with descendant communities and local stakeholders to application of stable isotopes in interpretations of diet and mobility, best practice in archaeological research seeks experts that can contribute distinct but complementary knowledge to a project. This symposium aims to collect traditional and avant garde collaborative works between scholars from the sciences and humanities, as well as applied fields like medicine, dentistry, museum studies, and

descendant relations to showcase the breadth of creative problem solving in archaeological method and interpretation. In an effort to remain broad in approach but narrow in scope, we invite contributions to this session that focus on human or animal bones and/or mortuary landscapes. Such investigations could include everything from soil composition on taphonomic modification to proteomics or oral history in site location. Papers must be multi-authored and include two, distinct areas of expertise. Expertise includes perspectives of local stakeholders and descendant community members. Projects can be from any geographical or temporal context.

CONTRIBUTION ABSTRACTS

1674. Indigenous Knowledge as Expertise

Authors: Nicholas Passalacqua – Katie Zejdlik – Rachael Mccrary (The Ohio State University)

Format: Oral

This project argues for a re-evaluation of popular understandings of expertise, to more fully and equitably appreciate various forms of knowledge as inherently valuable. Contextualizing history is crucial, and anthropologists and archaeologists have long bridged institutionalized knowledge and training with information from informants and interlocutors to limit cognitive bias and gain a greater understanding of other people’s worldviews and lifeways. Recent developments within anthropology such as the Decolonization and Radical Humanism movements argue for a less-extractive, more cooperative approach to working with individuals outside of the academy. Both approaches call for reshaping the role of the “Other” from exploitation to collaboration, aspiring for shared stewardship through acts of community engagement; co-authoring work with non-traditional scholars; and attempting to build a more inclusive approach to understanding humanity. One form of cultural expertise is from descendant community members, which is often referred to as Indigenous Knowledge. While the concept of Indigenous Knowledge is well intentioned, we argue that artificially categorizing forms of knowledge as “indigenous” could produce/reinforce stereotypes and bias towards this type of knowledge, placing it as a lesser objective or informed type of knowing. Instead, we argue that Indigenous Knowledge is Specialized Tacit Knowledge, a term coined by sociologists Collins and Evans (2007) within their Periodic Table of Expertises. Specialized Tacit Knowledge is a form of expertise not simply acquired through traditional Western academic structures, but rather a unique form of knowledge gained only through community membership, acculturation, accumulated practice of skills and understanding to the point of intuition. We suggest that by reconsidering Indigenous Knowledge as a hard-earned form of expertise along a spectrum of other forms of expertise creates a more inclusive model of understanding the achievement of knowledge and skills, which in turn makes expertise a holistic concept applicable to everyone regardless of background.

2294. Descendant community expertise and the excavation, interpretation, and general functioning of a Transylvanian bioarcheology project

Authors: Katie Zejdlik (The Ohio State University) – Zsolt Nyárádi (Haáz Rezső Museum) – Jonathan Bethard – Renee Reinman (University of South Florida) – Carlos Carlos Da Silva Carvalho (The Ohio State University) – Cameron Matheson (North Carolina State University) – Stephen Batiuk (ArchaeoTek Canada, LLC | University of Toronto)

Format: Oral

Collaboration with descendent communities is not new in archaeology; however, the degree of interaction and status given to local knowledge varies. This presentation provides a decade long perspective on the unique contribution of descendent expertise through discussion of failures associated with ignoring local expertise and benefits of broad perspectives from museum professionals to pastors, business owners, and community members. ArchaeoTek Canada, LLC has been working with the Haáz Rezső Museum (Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania) since 2013 to excavate and analyze the remains of medieval Szekler-Hungarian churches and their associated mortuary landscapes. Led by a member of the Szekler descendant community and in collaboration with mostly American academics and a global team of field students, the project has been a successful, collaborative experience demonstrating a multitude of outcomes otherwise unachievable without descendant community knowledge and the experience of living and working within the community. The Hungarian-Szeklers are a marginalized cultural group in Transylvania despite their presence there since AD 1000. Mythic and documented origin stories deeply connect them to the perpetually, politically contested historic region of Transylvania. Separated from their political motherland by the Treaty of Trianon (1919), the Szeklers have found themselves socially oppressed and marginalized by many in the Romanian government and larger society. Disagreement over occupation and “ownership” of Transylvania has resulted in biased academic literature and nationally edited archaeological reports. While our work provides tangible, scientific evidence of Szekler presence in Transylvania, no amount of reading would have filled-in the blanks of daily minutiae and emotions important to understanding the archaeological record. Living with the descendant community and experiencing the pride of heritage, skepticism of politics, and steps of survival has allowed access to otherwise unknowable practices and emotions. It also shows that bioarcheological projects should only exist when acting for the community rather than for itself.

1682. Materiality and Meaning: Understanding the Context of Beaded Headbands of Transylvanian Child Burials

Authors: Lauren Reinman – Jonathan Bethard (University of South Florida) – Katie Zejdlik (The Ohio State University) – Zsolt Nyaradi (Haáz Rezső Múzeum)

Format: Oral