

SAS BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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FROM THE EDITOR

CARMEN TING

&

GUEST EDITOR

ROXANNE RADPOUR

The theme of the fall issue of the SAS bulletin is 'Community'. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, community is defined as 'the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality'. Notwithstanding the official definition, I also think a community is where we develop a sense of belonging,

where we identify ourselves as professionally and personally to certain extents, and where we draw support and consolation from. These are exactly the sentiments that have driven Roxanne Radpour – our Associate Editor for Archaeological Pigments and Guest Co-editor – and I to curate this special issue, hoping that we can support one another as a community by sharing our own experience, success, and difficulty of carrying out research in challenging times like these.

In fact, this is our first ever issue with a special theme, and the process of putting it together was not as straightforward as we thought. The original intent of this issue was to get a deeper understanding of how research, teaching, and members within the archaeological science community have been impacted since the start of the pandemic. We also envisioned this issue to be a place where we can pool resources (e.g. programme and grants) to provide aid to those who have been affected by the pandemic, knowing that a lot of US research institutions have implemented a hiring freeze whereas other countries have predicted a drastic cut in spending.

We put out several calls for contribution on various social media platforms. Though we received but a few responses, we are extremely grateful to hear from colleagues such as responses Dr Virginia Harvey, who would like to share the fantastic news of completing her PhD on using advanced proteomics to explore the human impacts on marine environment at the University of Manchester, as well as John Murray's innovative way of carrying out his doctoral research in his backyard, which you will read more about in his blog post. Dr Laure Dussubieux has also sent in a short note, bringing us the most welcomed news of a new NSF subsidised programme at the Field Museum.

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A little disappointed we may be, but we are not deterred from creating a community issue with the hope that this may encourage you to participate in our future issues with special themes. Our associate editors are definitely leading the way by sharing with us their experience and opinion on research in the time of pandemic. As the editor of the bulletin, I couldn't have asked for a better team of associate editors to work with, who would work tirelessly and creatively to churn out new, interesting materials for each issue despite the circumstances. On that note, we are looking to expand our editorial team, which you can find more details below. Please get in touch if you are interested or you know someone who may be interested in these positions. We look forward to working with you, you, and you! But for now, keep safe and read this issue!

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!

ROXANNE RADPOUR, Guest Editor and Associate Editor

The SAS wishes to give hearty congratulations to all graduates of the 2019-2020 academic year. To the newly-minted PhDs after years of perseverance and perspiration, missing out on their hooding ceremony; to the new Masters graduates who dedicated themselves to earn another advanced degree in their profession; and, finally, to the new Bachelors degree recipients who will not walk across the stage for the first time having completed a rigorous course in higher education: we celebrate you. This community of research and scholarship, as do all others, depends and thrives on the hard work and engagement of students. The dedication of weeks, months, and years in the laboratory, field, and classroom, of writing papers and theses, will leave a lasting impact. Thank you!

Good luck in your next steps, graduates. We are proud of you.



We are looking to fill in the associate editor positions to cover the following areas of archaeological sciences:

Archaeological ceramics (available from Spring 2021)

Bioarchaeology (available now)

Geoarchaeology (available now)

Archaeobotany (available now)

Remote Sensing and Prospection (available now)

The descriptions of the role and application procedure are available in <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/join-sas-bulletin-call-for-application.html>. If you are interested, please send us your application by the 1st November 2020.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: NSF SUBSIDISED PROJECTS
AT THE ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS FACILITY,
THE FIELD MUSEUM



The Field Museum is advertising a new NSF subsidised programme, aiming to enhance external collaborations in its LA-ICP-MS laboratory. For more details about the programme, please refer to the link below: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/call-for-proposals-nsf-subsidised.html>

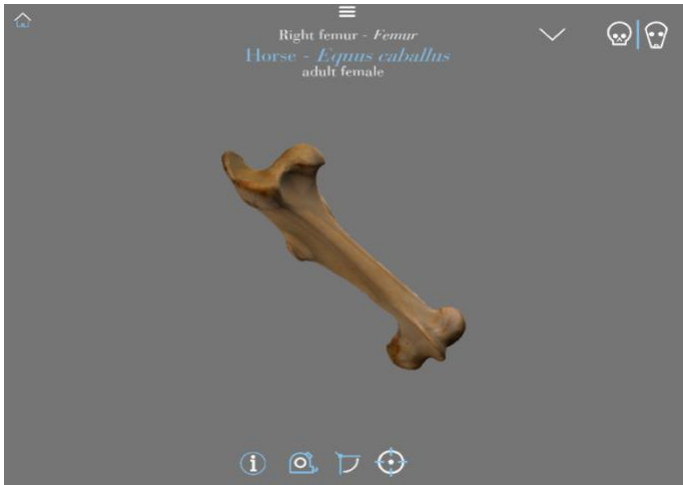
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CERAMICS

CHARLES C. KOLB, *Associate Editor*

Charlie has recently reviewed three books for us, including *Handheld XRF in Cultural Heritage: A Practical Workbook for Conservators*, *New Light on Canaanite-Phoenician Pottery*, and *From Ordinary to Luxury: Islamic Ceramics from Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan*. More of Charlie's insights are available here: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/archaeological-ceramic-book-reviews.html>

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

LAERKE RECHT, *Associate Editor*



(Photo courtesy of Laerke Recht)

Laerke shows us some of the important resources that are available to researchers in zooarchaeology, enabling them to continue with their work. Full content is available here: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/zooarchaeology-in-times-of-covid-19.html>

RESEARCH IN PANDEMIC TIMES

MARK GOLITKO, *Associate Editor*

Mark shares with us his experience of carrying out research in pandemic times, which you may find yourself in similar situations. Full content is available here: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/research-in-pandemic-times.html>

CHICKENS: THE ORIGINS STORY

OPHÉLIE LEBRASSEUR, *Associate Editor*



Our favourite domestic bird* is once again in the spotlight, with a major study shedding light on the much debated topic of its domestication. Full content is available here: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/chickens-origins-story.html>

You will also find out more details on how to join the 'Chicken Journal Club' run by Dessislava Veltcheva and Sophie Hedges. This club is set for researchers in the field of chickens from gut microbiome, experimental chickens, antibiotic usage and resistance, mathematical models, chicken domestication, immunity, etc.

(*not Carmen's favourite bird, if any bird at all)

CONFERENCES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

AGNESE BENZONELLI, *Associate Editor*

Will this pandemic mark the end of in-person meetings? Will we ever be able to drink powdered coffee again during the coffee breaks at conference? Agnese shares with us her vision on what conferences may look like in the future in the link below: <http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/conferences-in-times-of-crisis.html>

GLASSMAKING IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

ARTEMIOS OIKONOMOU, *Associate Editor*

Artemios reports the latest research on glassmaking in the sub-Saharan regions carried out by Dr Abidemi Babalola and his team at the site of Ife-Ife in southwestern Nigeria.



(Photo courtesy of Abidemi Babalola)

If you want to know how and where these colourful glass beads were made, full report is available here:

<http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/glassmaking-in-sub-saharan-africa.html>

CAN THE POSTDOCTORAL COMMUNITY WEATHER THE PANDEMIC?

CARMEN TING, Editor

Being a perpetual postdoc myself, I am kind of used to the eternal cycle of applying for jobs or grants, moving around, settling down, actually doing some research, and back to where I start by applying for more jobs and grants (only with less and less opportunities every time). With my current cycle being brutally disrupted by the pandemic, and the end of my cycle in sight (well...sort of), what's my thought for the transient nature of postdoc?



(Photo courtesy of my hand)

Full content is available here:

<http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/can-postdoctoral-community-weather.html>

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

NICOLÁS C. CIARLO, Associate Editor

Nicolás is showing us how he has adapted from travelling and conducting a diverse and exciting programme of field campaigns in different parts of the world to working from home during months of lockdown in Argentina. Get some tips of how to stay productive in the link below:



<http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/news-from-southern-south-america.html>

PHD RESEARCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

*JOHN MURRAY, PhD Candidate,
Arizona State University*

Although his wife did not seem to be a fan of having more rocks at home, John managed to set up his little home laboratory, consisting of an electric kiln in the backyard. How cool is this! Read more about John’s experience in the link below:

<http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/09/phd-research-during-pandemic.html>



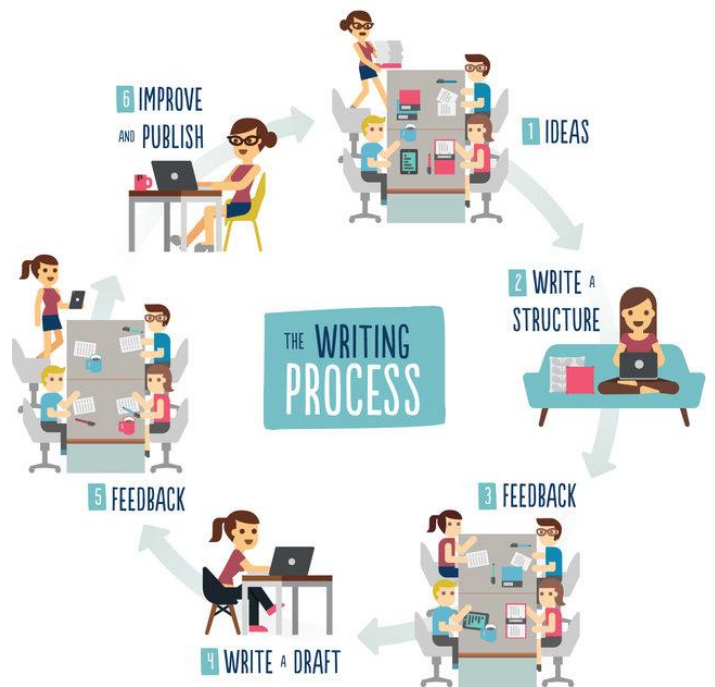
Actualistic heat treatment experiment in John Murray’s backyard! (Photo courtesy of John Murray)

SCISNACK – WRITING FOR A BROAD AUDIENCE

*VANA ORFANO, Postdoc,
University College Dublin*

If you are looking to improve your writing skills and/or hoping that your research can reach a broader audience, Vana has some suggestions for you. She is teaming up with SciSnack to start a new ArchaeoSnack group. You can find more details in the link below if you are interested to join:

<http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/10/scisnack-science-communication-and.html>



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