PGF Conference 2011

Networks and Scales:
Relating the Local and the Global

Research Beehive, Room 2.21,
Old Library Building, Newcastle University

23 May 2011

Keynote: Professor Richard Hingley (Durham)
‘Networking the Study of Frontiers’

Wine Reception and Conference Dinner at Bar Kollo
This interdisciplinary conference seeks to address the notion of networks across boundaries and disciplines. Are we aware of the networks within which our subjects exist? Do we address sufficiently issues of network and scale in the past? How do we make connections between the often narrow focus of doctoral research and the local and global scales within which we practice?

The variety of papers that we were offered has been thrilling and it has been a great pleasure to organise what looks set to be an interesting and stimulating day. The papers transcend the disciplines of archaeology, history, ancient history, classics and history of medicine bringing together diverse research interests and a range of researchers united by a common interest in connecting different people, places and things, building links between data and interpretation and locating the local or individual in broader networks. We hope that today will provide the opportunity for our speakers and audience to both explore and create new networks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people without whom today would not be possible. Firstly, our sincere thanks to Professor Keith Wrightson and Professor Norman McCord for offering their continued support for the poster and paper prizes respectively. Our thanks are also due to the judging panels for said prizes. In addition we would like to thank the School of Historical Studies for their financial support, and in particular Dr. Helen Berry, director of postgraduate studies. We are grateful to those who have submitted posters, and hope that you have found it a useful experience. We would like to thank our speakers for offering such varied and intriguing abstracts and, we are sure, thought-provoking and interesting papers.

Finally, it is a great pleasure to welcome Professor Richard Hingley of Durham University as our key note speaker. We are honoured to have him address the conference and can think of no better way to end the day than with his lecture on networking frontiers.

Melinda Sutton, Sophie Moore and Rachel Crellin
Newcastle University, School of Historical Studies, Post Graduate Forum.
Schedule for the Day

9.30am – Registration in the Research Beehive

Exploring Network Theories

10.00am Tom Brughmans - Complex networks in archaeology: Urban connectivity in Roman southern Spain

10.30am Keith Scholes - Recovering past networks : An approach to Early Medieval trade and communications

11am Coffee

11.30am Piotr Jacobsson - Re-assembling Aceramic Cyprus

12.00pm Louise Tolson- Exclusive/Inclusive: Public involvement and collaboration in the archaeology of the recent past

12.30pm Lunch

Scaling Sickness and Health

1.30pm Michelle Gamble - Bones, people and populations: A palaeopathological case study from Chalcolithic Cyprus

2.00pm Graham Butler - “Elizabeth Ferney, having procured a foul distemper, ordered into the workhouse until cured”: The Parish, the parish workhouse and parochial medicine in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1770-1830

2.30pm Coffee

Networks of Power

3.00pm David Linden - One Nation Networking: Baroness Elles and European Toryism

3.30pm Fiona Noble - Sulla and Aphrodisias: Greek and Roman Interaction in the 1st century BC.

4.00pm Jonathan Dugdale - Pagodas, Patronage and Power: The Role of State Sponsored Buddhism in Liao Dynasty China

4.30pm Coffee and Judging of the Keith Wrightson Poster Prize

5.15pm Presentation of the Keith Wrightson Poster Prize and the Norman McCord Prize for the best paper

5.30pm Key Note Address

Professor Richard Hingley - 'Networking the study of frontiers'

6.30pm Wine reception and dinner at Barkolo.
Abstracts

**Complex networks in archaeology: Urban connectivity in Roman southern Spain**
Tom Brughmans - tb2g08@soton.ac.uk  
PhD student, Archaeological Computing Research Group, University of Southampton

Complex systems existed in the past, archaeologists never doubted this. Until recently, however, a suitable multi-scalar analytical framework for examining the properties of such systems and how they emerged from local interactions was unavailable. The last decade has seen a growing number of pioneering archaeological applications of network-based techniques, mainly influenced by social network analysis and popular network models in physics. Typical applications adopted from these disciplines have already proven to provide innovative and interesting approaches to understanding the diffusion of people, objects and ideas, belief systems and interregional interaction.

The archaeological applications are still dealing with some growing pains, however. The list of published applications is short and they have not yet tapped into the full potential of the networks perspective: archaeological network analysts are poorly networked themselves. But more importantly, there is a realisation that the nature of archaeological and historical data as indirect and fragmentary reflections of the past confront network analysts with a unique challenge - one that will allow archaeologists and historians to make valuable contributions to the “new” science of networks.

This paper aims to confront this challenge. It will demonstrate how a complex networks approach can be used to explore archaeological datasets as well as to understand properties of complex systems in the past. It will illustrate this with examples drawn from the ‘Urban connectivity in Roman southern Spain’ project. A large and complex database has been assembled for this project in an attempt to explore the diverse ways in which ancient cities were related. It includes diverse data types including coins, ceramics, statues and visibility in the landscape. This case-study will raise issues related to how this complexity can be explored and its behaviour understood, how urban connectivity in the past as attested indirectly through complex graphs of multiple relationships on multiple scale is reflected. In doing so, this paper aims to work towards original and valuable archaeological contributions to network science.

http://archaeologicalnetworks.wordpress.com/

**Recovering past networks: An approach to Early Medieval trade and communications**
Keith Scholes – Ks535@york.ac.uk  
PhD Student University of York

The study of interconnected systems as networks has been used by social scientists and biologists as a method of analysing and understanding complex systems for some time. Network analysis allows the study of relationships between entities such as archaeological sites or individuals, thereby providing a method by which such relationships may be visualised and empirically assessed. These techniques have been employed to investigate such diverse archaeological topics as Bronze Age Mediterranean communications, Roman travel itineraries and Baltic trade in the Viking era.
This presentation will look at some of the methods used for constructing networks from archaeological information, and the difficulties inherent in using archaeological data for this purpose. We will also consider how the resultant networks can be used to improve our understanding of the way in which archaeological sites interact at different geographic scales, and how a temporal approach can be used to detect both rapid transitions and gradual change over time.

Finally I will discuss my current project in which artefactual information from a variety of sources will be used to build a network map of Early Medieval sites in Britain and North-West Europe. Of course, the creation of such a map is not an end in itself and the way in which dynamic analysis applied to this network can be used to assess models of chronological change in trade and communications within the period will be examined.

Re-assembling Aceramic Cyprus
Piotr Jacobsson - P.Jacobsson@sms.ed.ac.uk
MSc by research student, University of Edinburgh

In Re-assembling the Social Bruno Latour proposed means of negotiating networks by tracing the connections between agencies as literally as possible, whilst dealing away with the issue of scales by “flattening” the scene of investigation. Although the potential of this approach is undeniable, working the approach reveals that there are situations where removal of scale becomes increasingly problematic, especially as the actors grow increasingly alien. To highlight the issue three stories of the Cypriot Aceramic Neolithic are presented. The first one outlines the history of research – how the choices of researchers and politicians, as well as impacts of papers and new radiocarbon dates affected the field. The second story traces the cultural ecology of Cypriot Aceramic – how did the Neolithic inhabitants of the island interact with the immediate environment and the climate changes of the early Holocene. The final story explores the culture-history of traits known from the Aceramic Neolithic and follows their connections within the broader frame of origin, escalation and collapse of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic cultures of the Near East. Whilst the actors from the first story are “normal” to our eyes (we all meet researchers, read academic papers and see politicians on TV), with the move towards more indeterminate forms of knowledge, our ability to put actors within Latour’s networks fades away, as the agencies themselves begin to exist on a number of scales and in variable ontologies simultaneously. This rises an epistemological matter of concern: can we follow the social in a fashion outlined by Latour when our actors are under-defined?

Exclusive/Inclusive: Public involvement and collaboration in the archaeology of the recent past
Louise Tolson – l.e.tolson@ncl.ac.uk
PhD Student Newcastle University

Public interest in both archaeology and in the recent past is big business. Can we as academics take advantage of this interest to form lasting and mutually beneficial collaborations with the wider community?
Recent studies in the USA and Australia have shown the fantastic opportunities for community outreach that are abundant in historical archaeology. Results from these studies, and from the Ovenstone Oral History Project and the Newcastle branch of the Young Archaeologist’s Club (YAC), demonstrate why we should cast aside the cult of the ‘expert’ and seek to actively engage with community groups. This process is both necessary and hugely rewarding.

Using object-centred interviewing to generate oral histories not only changes the way archaeologists can use oral histories as a source of evidence, but also the ways in which members of the public can become involved in archaeological research, promoting the idea of an ‘inclusive’ approach to the past. Conclusions drawn from Ovenstone and the YAC project show that meaningful and productive collaborations can be formed between academic researchers and the wider community, creating ‘conversations’ beneficial on multiple levels. This approach has huge potential in introducing archaeology – and academia – to new audiences, as well as highlighting the benefits collaboration can bring to the research process.

**Bones, people and populations: A palaeopathological case study from Chalcolithic Cyprus**
Michelle Gamble - michelle.gamble@newcastle.ac.uk
*PhD Student, Newcastle University*

Experiencing disease is a universal aspect of being human, but also a very personal part of life. All people, from all periods of time experience some form of disease or physiological stress. In prehistory, where there is no textual evidence and limited pictorial imagery, human skeletal remains provide the primary source for understanding the disease processes present during a particular period at a particular location. This paper will seek to present a small portion of a wider palaeopathological study on the human remains from three Chalcolithic sites in Cyprus, with emphasis on the different scales of assessment: the individual, the local community, the wider population and finally the place of a regional study within the greater field of palaeopathology.

**“Elizabeth Ferney, having procured a foul distemper, ordered into the workhouse until cured”: The Parish, the parish workhouse and parochial medicine in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1770-1830**
Graham Butler- g.a.butler@newcastle.ac.uk
*PhD Student – Newcastle University*

It is a historiographical truism that the eighteenth-century saw the first surge in hospital building in England. This period saw the construction of large numbers of hospitals, charitable dispensaries, specialist institutions such as lying-in charities, the London foundling hospital as well as privately run mad-houses. Yet alongside these developments, workhouses also sprouted. Until recently, very few historians have attempted to connect the relationships and networks which existed between these two phenomena. Using evidence from one of the largest parishes in northern England, All Saints in Newcastle upon Tyne, this paper attempts to examine the ways in which the work of hospitals and workhouses overlapped and intertwined with each other. All
Saints was a large and populous parish, on size alone it would have been the fourteenth largest provincial town in England in 1801. This paper argues that the level of sickness and ill health amongst the pauper population in All Saints was so great that the Overseers of the Poor were constantly dealing with the sick, the disabled and the mentally ill. In consequence, the medical care delivered to the poor developed in unusual and not always predictable ways in the period. The paper concludes that an analysis of workhouses, poor relief and hospitals in this period would produce a far more nuanced understanding of the parochial responses to sickness and disease in Georgian and early Victorian England.

**One Nation Networking: Baroness Elles and European Toryism**

David Linden - david.linden@kcl.ac.uk

*PhD Student, Kings College London*

This paper analyses the British Conservative Party’s effort to establish inter-party exchanges with European Conservative and Christian Democratic parties during the 1970s. It also addresses the activities of Conservative International Office in relation to the European Economic Community (EEC). By focusing on the efforts made by Diana Elles (1921-2009) who was ennobled by Edward Heath in 1972, in her role as the head of the European Union of Women (EUW) between 1973-1979, and as head of Conservative International Office, 1972-1978. Structurally the paper will be divided into three sections: First it will address Elles’ attitude to Europe, secondly her attempt to construct European Conservatism with a particular emphasis on her involvement in European Democrat Union and her relationship with Conservative parties outside EEC, in particular those in Scandinavia, and finally, her later political involvement as Thames Valley MEP. The methodology used in this paper will be biography combined with what Susan Pederson has defined as ‘new high politics’, since it will focus on high political protagonists but also consider external circumstances. Thus it will include both traditional ‘high political’ sources such as primary correspondence and ‘new’ sources such as secondary biographies. The archives consulted will be Conservative Party archive at Oxford along with the Thatcher papers hosted by Churchill College in Cambridge. With the historiographical approach in mind, the paper can be categorised as transcending boundaries in research when investigating high political European networks. Hence, it will contribute to chronicle the emergence of a Conservative European Movement and the importance of its protagonists such as Edward Heath and Baroness Elles. Finally, this paper will also show how the study of the perspective of one person can assist in addressing the internationalisation of the British right in the 1970s.

**Sulla and Aphrodisias: Greek and Roman Interaction in the 1st century BC.**

Fiona Noble - f.m.noble@newcastle.ac.uk

*PhD Student Newcastle University*

In his *Bellum Civile*, the Greek historian Appian records that at some point before late 82 BC the Roman general, consul and later dictator Sulla received an oracle instructing him to send an axe to a particular sanctuary in Caria. However, the goddess invoked in the oracle, Aphrodite, and
the terms in which she was introduced, together with the choice of dedicatory items, can tell us much about the various methods of negotiating networks of communication between different Mediterranean cultures in the first century BC.

The oracle, which must be from Delphi, addresses Sulla not in his official military or political role, but rather as a representative of the Roman race, descended from Aeneas; it thus keys into Rome’s own tradition of Trojan origin and ultimate descent from Aphrodite/Venus. The oracle’s choice of this form of address reveals several issues which affected Roman and Greek cultural and religious networks of interaction during this period. Moreover, Sulla’s dedicatory inscription reveals that he conceptualised his relationship with the goddess in a very different context: instead of being a representative of his race, Sulla addresses an apparently personal aspect of Aphrodite, unknown before this incident, which appeared to him in a dream.

Most scholars have associated Sulla’s inscription and the oracle with Sulla’s *cognomen* “Epaphroditos”, claiming that this name must represent a particularly close relationship between the Roman and his “protector goddess”. This paper will argue, however, that in fact it is the Delphic oracle which offers us a better explanation for Sulla’s *cognomen*, as it represents a new method of negotiating the cultural networks and frameworks that tied together Greek and Roman religion and mythology. Taking this viewpoint elucidates not only Sulla’s choice of this goddess and this name as elements of his personal self-representation, but also the varying ways in which a Roman could engage with peoples in a province or territory by both engaging with and altering the existing networks of communication.

Moreover, the choice of item to be dedicated at Aphrodisias had a strong cultural significance of its own: recent scholarship has shown that the double-headed axe was an important iconographical feature on Crete and throughout Western Anatolia; the oracle’s instruction to send this particular dedication therefore combines the religious themes of both Greek and Roman mythology with the native religious symbolism of another culture, and reveals one way in which related, though separate, cultures could interact with one another by drawing on shared networks of religious iconography and themes.

Pagodas, Patronage and Power: The Role of State Sponsored Buddhism in Liao Dynasty China
Jonathan Dugdale - jonathan.dugdale@newcastle.ac.uk
*MA Student, Newcastle University*

The Qidan Liao dynasty (907-1125) was the first of three ‘conquest’ or ‘barbarian’ dynasties of non-Han Chinese descent to rule over a part of what is now China. Due to the fact that their rule was concurrent with both the ‘Five Dynasties’ period (907-960) and the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127), it has proved difficult to assimilate the Liao dynasty into any cohesive national Chinese historical narrative. The result of this is that, until recently, there has been little explicit research into Liao dynasty. That which has been done is often framed within an ethnic discussion of the Qidan people becoming acculturated to Chinese values, a view propagated by the contemporary Chinese sources, and one with no textual alternative as the Qidan language is yet to
be fully deciphered. One of the main examples cited of this ‘sinification’ process is the Liao dynasty's adoption and subsequent patronage of Buddhism as an official state religion.

This paper aims to challenge the dominant narrative regarding the Liao by exploring the largely pragmatic reasons for the adoption of the Buddhist faith and how the belief system was used as an agent of both legitimation and the maintenance of power. The nature of the available written sources necessitates the examination of other evidence with regards to this topic; I therefore propose to use the Liao Buddhist architectural tradition as a means to observe the variety of ways in which the Liao dynasty employed Buddhism within their regime. With reference to specific case studies of Liao dynasty pagodas, this paper will demonstrate how the complex dialectical relationship of acculturation and resistance, of both the Qidan and Chinese people, was played out through the physical medium of religious architecture and its associated symbolism.
Posters

Gladiatorial Graffiti and Wall Paintings at Pompeii
Amanda Devitt - a.devitt@newcastle.ac.uk

Autumn Colours: Painting Politics in Yuan Dynasty China
Johnny Dugdale - jonathan.dugdale@newcastle.ac.uk

Literacy on Hadrian’s Wall
Shannon Erickson - s.erickson@newcastle.ac.uk

The experience of doctors who practised in the Portuguese Colonial War
Tiago Gameiro Inacio - tiago.gameiro-inacio@newcastle.ac.uk

What is Revealed Regarding Change and Continuity in the Treatment of Headache in English Domestic Medicine Literature, 1770-1880?
Eleanor Hackney e.r.hackney@newcastle.ac.uk

An Analysis of Dr. Leo Alexander’s Testimony on 22nd December 1946 at the Nuremberg Medical Trials in relation to the Medical Experiments that took place at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp
Benjamin Lee - b.g.lee@newcastle.ac.uk

Tourism in the Roman Empire
Shaun McAlister - shaun.mcalister@newcastle.ac.uk

Fever, Fear and Hunger: the response of the Irish people to disease and starvation during the Great Famine, 1845-48
Ross McDermott - r.a.mcdermott@newcastle.ac.uk