

Abstracts

Global Outlands Workshop Stockholm 25-26 May 2023

Museum of far eastern antiquities

Uppsala Universitet

Upplandsmuseet

The project *Global Outlands* aims to generate new knowledge regarding what role the large-scale resource exploitation of non-agrarian resources played in societal development in prehistoric and historic periods. The purpose of the planned workshop is to bring together international researchers with an interest in questions concerning the exploitation of non-agricultural lands, and products, and how these lands were integrated in networks of production and exchange. The goal is to create an arena for discussion that could lead to the initiation of further research co-operations. As a result of the workshop the publication of a “position paper”, is planned, focusing on non-agrarian production in the outlands as a relevant but underexplored aspect of societal development, locally and regionally but with a global impact.

For the group discussions on Friday, please have this question in mind while listening to the presentations:

- Are global perspectives a fruitful way to work with Outland questions and what would be the benefits.

Preliminary program

Thursday 25/5

09:00 coffee at Östasiatiska museet

09:30 Welcome – presentation of participants and the ideas of the project

10:00 **Kathleen Morrison** from University of Pennsylvania, Human land use and its consequences for global and local change, 35 min + questions

10:45– 11:30 Short presentations of case studies max. 15 minutes, including some short questions

- **James Scott Lyons**, Kyushu University, Overview of iron/ware production in Japan's Kofun Period (AD 250-600).
- **Ezekia Mtetwa**, Uppsala University, Iron production around Great Zimbabwe.
- **Chenghao WEN**, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences/Archaeology, Huangniangniangtai: A Qijia Gateway Community in the Hexi Corridor. Wen will only participate online.

11:30–12:30 **Discussion Eva Myrdal – moderator**

Lunch - museum of modern art

14:00 **Jonas Monié Nordin** Stockholm University, Global networks in early modern period, 35 min + questions.

14:45 – 15:45 Short presentations of case studies max. 15 minutes, including some short questions.

- **Angus Graham**, Uppsala University & **Kristina Winther Jacobsen**, University of Copenhagen Copper mining in Cyprus.
- **Sergio Escribano Ruiz**, University of the Basque Country, Leioa, Baskian whale hunting in New Foundland and its effects on European fashion in early modern period.
- **Daniela de Simone**, Ghent University, The Nilgiri Archaeological Project: Culture and Environment in the Upland Forests of South India from Antiquity to Early Modernity.
- **Maria Riep**, Leiden University/Linköping University, What happened in the mountains? Including mountain landscape in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) 's regional and long-distance activities between the 6th and 9th century.

15:45 – 17:00 **Discussion Eva Svensson - moderator**

18:00 Dinner

Restaurang Tradition, Österlånggatan 1, Stockholm

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Friday 26/5

09:00 **Stefan Lundblad** director of Upplandsmuseet presentation/ welcome

09:15–10:00 **James Barrett** from Trondheim University, NTNU, Ecological globalisation and exploitation of marine resources in the north Atlantic

10:00–10:30 Short presentations of case studies max. 15 minutes, including some short questions.

- **Terje Gansum & Ragnar Orten Lie**, Vestfold Fylkeskommune, The project "Vikingavejen, från Hardangervidda till Kaupang".
- **Andreas Hennius**, Upplandsmuseet, Resource exploitation, resource colonization and networks in Middle Iron Age Scandinavia

10:30-11:00 **Discussion Torun Zachrisson - moderator**

Coffee

11:15 – 12:15 Discussions in smaller groups as a first step for writing position paper and research application

Lunch - museum of modern art

13:30 – 14:30 Discussions in smaller groups as a first step for writing position paper and research application

14:30 – 15:45 Summary and conclusions

The Nilgiri Archaeological Project: Culture and Environment in the Upland Forests of South India from Antiquity to Early Modernity

Daniela De Simone, Prof. Assistant Professor of Indian Studies

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In the latter half of the second millennium BCE, networks of trade and exchange developed throughout South Asia. Urban polities thrived on the extraction of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), feeding them into networks across the region, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. South Asian forest-dwellers remained first-tier suppliers of the 'spice trade' until the early nineteenth century, when the British started to 'legally' appropriate forested land from indigenous owners. Colonial ethnography misrepresented South Asian forest communities as primitive, remote and isolated therefore research on their past is rare and limited. However, the evidence gathered so far by the *Nilgiri Archaeological Project*, a 5-year research programme based at Ghent University focusing on the Nilgiri mountains in southern India, a region of montane subtropical forests, suggests that the forest-dwellers inhabiting the area were connected to short- and long-distance trade and exchange networks. Assemblages excavated from sites in the Nilgiri mountains, dating between the 12th and 16th century, include artefacts imported from the surrounding lowlands, where Jain temples were built in the forests at the feet of the Nilgiri mountains, between the 11th and 14th century, and had inscriptions recording the donations of NTFPs from merchants for the upkeep of religious establishments. This paper will discuss the preliminary results of the *Nilgiri Archaeological Project* on the integration of the Nilgiri forests into the trade of NTFPs on the Malabar coast.

Copper Production Landscapes and Networks in the Northwestern Troodos, Cyprus

Angus Graham, Dept of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University, Sweden

Kristina Winther-Jacobsen, Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Copper production has been a key element in the development of Cypriot society and its geopolitical significance since the Bronze Age. In the Roman period, massive industrial waste piles were part of the Cypriot landscape. *Life at the Furnace* (LAF) investigates how the copper production associated with foreign control of Cyprus under the Roman Empire affected the complex human/social and environmental impact in the north-western (NW) Troodos foothills. These outland landscapes have complex networks of interconnections at three different scales: local, regional and inter-regional. The local scale is associated with the necessary resources (labour, food, ore, charcoal, water, shelter, transport) to turn rock into copper. At the regional scale, copper is transported from smelting centres to the main administrative centre, Soli, for transshipment into the inter-regional level of the Roman world.

The project seeks to investigate these networks, their organisation and their footprints in the archaeological and environmental record. The project is building an understanding of the Holocene landscapes in the Troodos foothills in order to understand the impact of the Roman and Late Antique/Byzantine period resource exploitation and production on the land use and land cover. The settlement ecology and (road) networks left their mark on the settlement organisation and landscapes beyond this zenith of copper production and export, which the project aims to understand more fully.

The paper will provide a brief overview of some of these questions, the methodologies and theoretical perspectives being used to explore these outland landscapes.

Resource exploitation, resource colonization and networks in Middle Iron Age Scandinavia

Andreas Henni, Phd, Archaeologist, Upplandsmuseet, Uppsala, Sweden

At present, arable land in Sweden is estimated to cover eight percent of the total area, and other types of open land cover, in turn, an additional eight percent. Forested land represents almost seventy percent. Most of the cultivated farmland is located in the southern part of the country, while the boreal forest dominates the northern two thirds of the country. In archaeological research, however, the focus has mainly been on the central agricultural areas and the northern, forested, part have gained less attention. The colonisation and utilisation of the forested areas have previously primarily been studied from an agrarian perspective. As such it has been regarded as a (late) Viking Age or Early Medieval complement to the agrarian economies. When agriculture slowly spread northwards during the Viking Age and early medieval period the outland resources became important commodities for the Viking Age trade.

Recent research and a number of published case studies, however, challenge these ideas. It can be argued that that the outlands saw an intensified resource colonisation already in the period 300 – 600 AD. The resource colonisation of the Outlands contributed to a surplus production that seems to have exceeded the needs of ordinary households, along with serially produced items, distributed along far-reaching trade networks in exchange of exotic commodities. These networks can be interpreted as part of systems connecting distant regions.

It is becoming increasingly clear that outland resource colonisation was an important driving force for the societal developments that took place in the transition phase between early and late Iron age and independent from the agrarian development. Furthermore, understand the Outland exploitation is crucial for our understanding of the societal development during later time periods.

What happened in the mountains?

Including mountain landscape in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) 's regional and long-distance activities between the 6th and 9th century.

Maria Riep, Leiden University, faculty of Archaeology. Linköping Universitet, IKOS

The oasis of Tashkent lies in the piedmont of the north-western Tianshan Mountains in Central Asia. The oasis developed an agricultural economy and was organized around settlements and fortifications. Here, trade and handicraft were important contributions to the economy. Between the 6th and 9th century, the oasis-then called Shash- took actively part in Sogdian trading activities reaching over vast distances from Korea and Japan in the east up to the Volga and Black Sea coast in the west. Shash was initially part of the (West) Turkic Empire, with political centres north and east of the oasis. After power struggles between the West-Turkic Empire, the Tang Chinese Empire, and the Abbasid Empire, they became part of the Samanid Empire in the 9th century. This Empire had its main centre of power in the Zerafshan valley (the Sogdian heartland). The understanding of the role of Shash in political and economic processes is strongly influenced by the interpretation of its position in the landscape. The oasis is often described as being located on the boundary between 'steppe and sown'. Alternatively, Shash is one of the city states on the so-called Silk Road leading around the mountain range from one river valley to the next. The mountains are in a certain way outlands: They are used for resource exploitation, or scholars refer to non-agrarian populations roaming there with their herds. Nomad-pastoralist populations are regularly considered agents in trading networks, and mining is regarded as an important factor for economic prosperity in Shash. However, the mountain landscape is generally left out of the narrative, functioning merely as background in analyses. There are good reasons to take a different approach and integrate the mountain landscape as an essential factor in political and economic processes. This paper will discuss how a different focus on historical sources, Soviet archaeological publications, and landscape modelling could lead to alternative narratives of regional and long distance socio-economic and political processes.

Technology, Space and Urbanism: Iron Production in the Rise and Development of Great Zimbabwe, 900-1600 CE

Ezekia Mtetwa, Uppsala University, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Box 626, 751 26 Uppsala, Sweden, ezekia.mtetwa@arkeologi.uu.se

The main question of this paper concerns the possibility of illuminating the role of iron production in the emergence of Great Zimbabwe urbanism specifically and in southern Africa in general (c.900-1600 CE). Forming the skyline of the broader physical landscape of the Great Zimbabwe site are sharp ridges of mountain ranges that rise between 300-450 meters, rich in haematite, banded ironstones and quartzite. The iron-rich ores from these mountains and associated woodlands sustained premodern industrial iron metallurgy in the area, bringing Great Zimbabwe and the broader region into the global commercial network of eastern Africa and Asia. However, more than a century of recurrent research on the monumental site of Great Zimbabwe has diminished the archaeological value of its outlands, characterised by mountain ranges and Miombo forests/woodlands. Within these limitations, this project takes a landscape approach to explore the seamless connections between the non-agricultural landscapes beyond the Great Zimbabwe urban centre and the Indian Ocean world within the circumstances of the rise and development of urbanism in southern Africa. Specifically, the paper sheds light on mountains as industrial spaces, iron as a resource for mitigating failed agriculture and technology as an active agent for human mobility and contact in an urbanizing world. This way of looking at the outlands around the prehistoric urban centre of Great Zimbabwe has the potential to yield alternative and more socially imbedded insights into the sustainability and resilience of Great Zimbabwe urbanism in a changing world.

Keywords

Great Zimbabwe, mountains, iron ores, forests/woodlands, southern African, Indian Ocean.

Huangniangniangtai: A Qijia Gateway Community in the Hexi Corridor

Chenghao Wen, Institute of Archaeology, CASS

Abstract

The Qijia culture (2300-1500 BC) is assumed to be one important intermediate which links the Central Plains and Eurasian Steppe and Central Asia, and even the major donor of metallurgical knowledge that played crucial role in the statecraft of early Chinese civilization. I argue that a thorough understanding of the Qijia culture, and northwest China more extensively, must be placed in the perspective of economic process including production, redistribution and circulation, and consumption. I propose that the high mobility of the Qijia communities resulted from its social marginality in relation to the pre-existing Majiayao communities. The social marginality promoted the Qijia communities to dwell in some ecological peripheries, which then became the frontier in the new epoch of mobility in Eurasia. By taking advantage of its social marginality, the Qijia communities dispersed with strong strategic considerations by means of occupying the nexus of exchange of population and goods and actively engaged in the trade of rare resources and goods (e.g., copper/bronze, jade). Through the case study of the Huangniangniangtai site in the eastern end of the Hexi corridor, it is argued that this Qijia gateway community once played a critical role in the cultural expansion and resource tapping in the outlands of northwest China.

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Global Outlands Workshop, Stockholm 25–26 maj 2023

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