

Session proposal

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Title

Old excavations, new data: the use of archives and of original documentation in current archaeological research projects

Organizers

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Commission

History of Archaeology

Aim

For thirty years now, the history of archaeology has been a growing field of investigation, constituting a set of studies based on rigorous historical methods and archival materials, organising a community and research programs (Schnapp et al. 2007). These empirical (i.e. archive-based) investigation strengthened the interest for the production, conservation, dissemination and re-use of the documents produced by past archaeologists, including notes, field documentation, materials from museums storehouses (Merriman & Swain 1999). In return, this aroused a new interest by the archaeologists themselves in the archive of the discipline, not only to get a better understanding of its history, but also to use (and digitalize) the archival materials as a source of archaeological data, sometimes complementing the re-excavation of the sites (Rondini & Zamboni 2016). This renewed interest is parallel to the current concern about open science and (digital) data-reuse in archaeology (Kansa & Kansa 2013) . Several recent research projects had given a crucial role in the study and re-use of ancient archaeological documentation. Examples include, the investigation led at the Abri Pataud prehistoric shelter in Southern France (Nespoulet & Chiotti 2007), at the rediscovered Moulin Quignon site in Northern France (Antoine et al. 2019) or at Niah's Cave in north Borneo, Malaysia (Barker et al. 2013).

This session will welcome papers presenting other case-studies of archaeological projects integrating an in-depth use of archive materials. Authors are invited to address issues such as: 1) the scientific use of archival information: how the data from past research are integrated in the current production of knowledge ? 2) the organisation of research projects: who led the projects, and what division of labour between archaeologists, historians or archivists are at stake? 3) publication policy: to which audience (scientific, laypeople) and in which journals the results of projects combining new and old archaeological data are addressed?

Session organisation

Papers for this session have to be sent to the organizers by the 30 June 2020. They will be distributed between the session's participants: at the Meknes conference, each participant will be asked to present his paper and to briefly discuss another participant's paper. The publication of the session is planned after the conference.

References

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