

CAS SEMINAR SERIES PRESENTS:

TRADITIONAL GLUE, ADHESIVE AND POISON USED FOR COMPOSITE WEAPONS BY JU/'HOAN SAN IN NYAE NYAE, NAMIBIA.

PRESENTER: PROFESSOR LYN WADLEY, UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND

Lyn is an Honorary Professor of Archaeology in the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interests are the African Stone Age, cognitive archaeology, experimental archaeology and gender studies. She is best known for her excavations of Sibudu, KwaZulu-Natal, and Rose Cottage Cave, Free State. Lyn is listed on the Thomsen-Reuters highly cited list for the top 1% of researchers globally, and has a h-index of 41. She is one of the 80 A-rated scholars from across all disciplines in South Africa.



SEMINAR

DATE: THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 12.30PM-1.30PM
VENUE: 41.157, UOW
TALK TITLE: TRADITIONAL GLUE, ADHESIVE AND POISON USED FOR COMPOSITE WEAPONS BY JU/'HOAN SAN IN NYAE, NAMIBIA. IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDYING HUNTING EQUIPMENT IN PREHISTORY

Ju/'hoan hunters from Nyae Nyae in Namibia, demonstrate the manufacture of three fixative pastes made from plant extracts, and poison made from processed grubs and plants. Extracts from bulbs and tree gum produce simple glue. Plant latex mixed with salivary extracts of bark and the tuber sap of *Asparagus*. In order to document potential variability in the *chaîne opératoire*, and to eliminate inherent biases associated with unique observations, manufacturing processes were recorded in three separate Nyae Nyae villages. Although there are methodological similarities, we observed a few differences in contemporary traditions of poison manufacture. For example, some hunters make powder from tuber sap by boiling, reducing, hardening and grinding it, while others simply use heated sap. The Ju/'hoan hunting kit provides insights for archaeologists, but we must exercise caution when looking for continuity between prehistoric and historical technical systems. Some traditions have been lost to modern hunters, while others are new. We should also expect variability in the stone age because of geographically restricted resources. Simple glue, compound adhesive, and poison recipes identified in the Stone Age have no modern equivalents.

