



Exploitation of marine and terrestrial invertebrates as a window into coastal adaptations: Kuumbi Cave, Zanzibar

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS)

DATE: FRIDAY 19TH MAY
TIME: 3:30-4:30PM
VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW
PRESENTER: DR PATRICK FAULKNER



Pat is a Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sydney, and as a zooarchaeologist, he specialises in archaeomalacological research with a particular focus on understanding human-environment interactions and the spatial and temporal dimensions of coastal economies. Following his PhD research in the Northern Territory, he has worked collaboratively on a range of projects investigating the coastal economies of tropical northern Australia, the Torres Strait and Papua New Guinea, as well as remote Oceania, Eastern Africa and more recently in Oman. In addition to ongoing research on a number of Eastern African sites from Kenya, the Zanzibar Archipelago and Madagascar, with several colleagues he is currently investigating shell mound deposits from the Darwin region and freshwater middens of semi-arid southeastern Australia.



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

SEMINAR OVERVIEW: EXPLOITATION OF MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Archaeological research from Kuumbi Cave on Unguja (Zanzibar) Island provides evidence for the long-term human occupation on the offshore islands of Eastern Africa, having been occupied (albeit not continuously) over the last ~18,000 years. While an extensive body of research exists for the region, considerable emphasis has been placed on the coastal adaptations and maritime orientation of the Swahili coastal people, particularly focussed on the last 1,000 years. The trajectory of coastal and marine adaptations prior to the Swahili period requires further research to more fully understand the transition from hunting and gathering to proto-urban Swahili settlements of the first millennium CE, and to more clearly define the nature and timing of maritime specialisations across the region. To this end, the diversity and complexity of the use of marine and terrestrial molluscs at Kuumbi Cave are considered, as these resources are often neglected in broader archaeological discussions across the region. Importantly, therefore, the archaeomalacological evidence from Kuumbi Cave contributed to a broader understanding of the trajectory of coastal and marine adaptations, island occupation and long-term trends in subsistence strategies.

