



Quaternary palaeoenvironments and human occupation of Arabia since the last interglacial (MIS5)

CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS) SEMINAR SERIES

DATE: FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018

TIME: 3:30-4:30PM

VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW

PRESENTER: ADRIAN PARKER

Adrian Parker is Professor in Geography at Oxford Brookes University where he leads the Human Origins and Palaeoenvironments (HOPE) Research Group. Adrian's work lies at the interface between archaeology and geography/earth sciences. His research interests include Quaternary science, geoarchaeology, geomorphology, environmental archaeology and palaeoecology using the application of multi-proxy techniques including phytoliths, pollen and geochemistry. His work is focussed mainly in Arabia but also includes excursions into North Africa, Southern Africa and southern England.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

The Arabian Peninsula is located at the interface between the Indian Ocean Monsoon and the mid-latitude Westerlies, which are arguably two of the most dynamic components of the Earth's climate system. The interplay between these two systems has generated intense variations in climate (wetness and aridity) during the Quaternary. Arabia is a key region for addressing anatomically modern human (AMH) 'Out of Africa' dispersals. To date this region has been under-researched which has largely been limited by a landscape of vast deserts, mountains and inaccessibility. Recent evidence has shown that humans occupied the Arabian interior during MIS5 with palaeoenvironmental records supporting multiple windows of opportunity for dispersal out of Africa during the late Pleistocene.



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