



Complexity and
Socio-Ecological Dynamics

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INSTITUCIÓN MILÁ Y FONTANALS



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

Second Circular

Tracing cultivation: Human manipulation and management of plants

7th April 2014 – Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Dear colleagues,

CaSEs (Complexity and Socio-Ecological Dynamics) Research Group is organising a workshop that aims at deconstructing current perspectives of agricultural origins through a critical interrogation of practices loosely termed cultivation. These practices were precursors to every form of agriculture, but the focus to date has been predominantly upon implementations that led to classical forms of agriculture, of which the most manifest evidence is a domestication event. An effect of this focus on domestication has resulted in a lesser investment in understanding the processes of plant management and manipulation, which are consequentially under-theorised and poorly understood.

In many parts of the world, including Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, Australia and South America, many plant manipulation practices do not comfortably fit into current definitions of agriculture and, as a result, are often marginalised. Management of plants includes several practices such as planting seeds, suckers or tubers, clearing competing species, selective burning, as well as forms of horticulture in house gardens. These approaches to boost plant production and assure resource availability can maintain not only hunter-gatherers but also hierarchical sedentary societies, such as the Indonesian managed stands of wild sago palms.

The incipient nature of these systems (or their mode of reproduction) and the consequential absence of clearly identifiable morphological changes in the plants make the identification of these processes and practices difficult by means of current theoretical and methodological approaches.

The aim of the workshop is to share the insights of several experienced researchers in the field and to pave the road for innovative approaches for studying plant manipulation and cultivation within a wide variety of environments and ecologies.



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Provisional Programme

The event is organised as a one-day workshop; the morning will be reserved for presentations (by invited speakers only) of the theoretical/methodological approaches to the issue under study, while the afternoon will be dedicated to discussion and debate.

Schedule:

9.00-9.30h	Opening
9.30-11.00h	Communications
11.00-11.30h	Coffee-break
11.30-13h	Communications
13-14.00h	Lunch
14.00-15.30h	Debate
15.30-16.00h	Coffee-break
16.00-17.30h	Debate
17.30-18h	Closure

Invited speakers

The following researchers have accepted to give a talk during the workshop:

Robin Allaby, PhD (University of Warwick). Research interests: plant evolutionary genetics; evolution of plant domestication; molecular archaeobotany; molecular anthropology; phylogenomics; software design for population dynamics and molecular evolution.

Andreas Angourakis, MA (University of Barcelona). Research interests: modelling spatial interactions between pastoralism and agriculturalists in Central Asia; processes of coevolution between plants and humans, including those resulting in domestication.

Manuel Arroyo-Kalin, PhD (University College London) (to be confirmed). Research interests: South American pre-Columbian history; historical ecology and landscape history; human niche construction; plant cultivation).



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Huw Barton, PhD (University of Leicester). Research interests: subsistence practices of extant and prehistoric hunters and gatherers in tropical rainforest; use-wear and organic residues on stone and organic artefacts; analysis of starch granules preserved as tool residues and within sediments as a direct indicator of the use of roots, tubers, rhizomes, and palm sago.

Girolamo Fiorentino, PhD (Univeristà del Salento). Research interests: morphological and morphometrical analysis of seeds and fruits of the main fruit plants of the Mediterranean (olive and grape); carbon isotope variations analysis of cultivated plants in relation to environment and cultivation technique; experimental protocols to analyse morphological, morphometrical and taphonomical variation due to charring activities.

Dorian Fuller, PhD (University College London). Research interests: human plant use in prehistory; reconstructing agricultural systems; approaches to interpreting archaeobotanical evidence and its integration with theoretical issues in archaeology; origins and spread of agriculture; plant domestication, including work in Asia and Africa.

Maximilien Guèze, PhD (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Research interests: acculturation and market integration of indigenous communities; biodiversity conservation; South East Asia; traditional ecological knowledge.

Victoria Reyes García, PhD (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/ICREA). Research interests: local ecological knowledge – how it is transmitted, how it responds to economic development, and what benefits it produces; ethnoecology; biocultural diversity.

Valentí Rull, PhD (Spanish National Research Council). Research interests: paleoecology, ecology, evolution and biogeography; global warming and biodiversity conservation.

Participation in the event

We welcome attendance to the workshop and participation in the discussion. However, we wish to maintain the total number of attendees limited to 25-30 to favour discussion and debate. Therefore, people interested in attending should contact the Organising Committee in advance stating their motivation to attend the workshop. The deadline for registration to the event is Friday 14th March 2014.



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Information

Date: Monday 7th April 2014.

Location: Mercè Rodoreda Building, Campus de la Ciutadella, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (C/ Trias i Fargas 25-27, Barcelona).

Contributions: Oral contributions, by invited speakers only, will be 15-20 minutes long.

Workshop fees: Attendance to the workshop is free.

Language: The workshop will be in English.

Organising Committee

- Juan José García-Granero, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, IMF-CSIC (jgarciagranero@yahoo.es)
- Marco Madella, ICREA – Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, IMF-CSIC – UPF (marco.madella@icrea.cat)
- Carla Lancelotti, Department of Information and Communication Technologies, UPF (lancelotti.carla@upf.edu)

Best regards,

Juanjo, Marco and Carla