

19 May 2023

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Campus Ciutadella
And hybrid via ZOOM

RAINDROPS workshop

Voices from African Drylands: current research in African Archaeology and Heritage



Drylands cover 43 percent of Africa's surface (excluding deserts), and provide vital ecosystem services for more than half a billion people. They harbour some of the continent's most celebrated species, produce much of its food, and contribute significantly to economic growth. Yet, too often, the narrative applied to these landscapes is one of scarcity and neglect. Changing that narrative was a goal of the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) digital conference: GLF Africa 2021: Restoring Africa's Drylands, Accelerating Action On the Ground. One of the key message of this forum was that drylands restoration must be driven by local communities whose local knowledge and traditional strategies and capacities should be paired with, and enhanced by, scientific and technological interventions to improve resilience for all. Local knowledge is the product of long-term adaptation processes that are testified by the archaeological and cultural heritage at large.

In the framework of the ERC Starting Grant RAINDROPS we invite you to participate in a workshop dedicated to recent research on African archaeology and heritage. This will serve a starting point for a reflection on how present archaeological and heritage research can contribute to the present debate of resilient drylands.

The morning session of the workshop is open to everyone. The session will be held in hybrid form and it will be possible to participate via ZOOM. Please sign up using this [FORM](#).



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RAIN DROPS



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Program

- 9.15- 9.30 Welcome
- 9.30-10.00 Paul Lane - *Traditional wells: Water security and heritage assets among Gabra and Boran pastoralists, northern Kenya*
- 10.00-10.30 Catherine A. D'Andrea - *Archaeology in Post-Conflict Tigray, Ethiopia*
- 10.30-11.00 Alemseged Beldados - *Archaeobotanical evidence for Late-Holocene agricultural economy in North Ethiopia*
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.00 Hassan Mustafa Alkhidir - *Land use and lifestyle during the late prehistory in the Middle Nile region - New results from the Fifth Cataract Project*
- 12.00-12.30 Donatella Usai - *Riverine life and environment: the site of al-Khiday on the White Nile, Sudan*
- 12.30-13.00 Giulio Lucarini - *Plant processing in the Green Sahara: Use-wear and residue analysis on ground stone tools from the Egyptian Western Desert*
- 13.00-13.30 CASEs Projects in Africa: CAMP, GEA, FiCaPro, DiARy and more....
- 13.30-15.00 Lunch break
- 15.00-18.00 Afternoon - focus session on RAINDROPS [various members of the project will present the results of their research followed by discussion]
Discussion will be open to everyone