



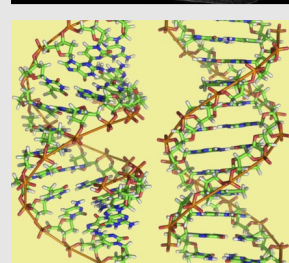
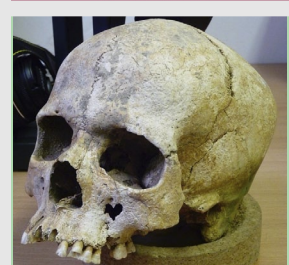
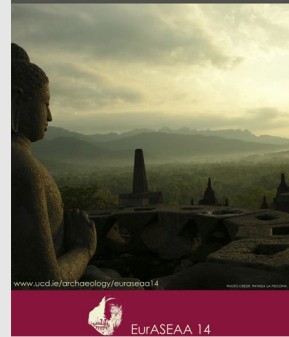
# *People and their Worlds*

## Archaeological Research Seminar 2013/14

Room A109, Newman (Arts) Building, University College Dublin, Thursday, 1st May



European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists  
14th International Conference  
18-21 September 2012, Dublin, Ireland



This year's UCD School of Archaeology Research Seminar will include a range of presentations from staff, researchers and PhD students, showcasing ongoing and new research being carried out at University College Dublin.

Topics will include reconstructing health patterns in the early medieval Irish community; Palaeolithic occupation and ancient genomics of early modern humans; Reconstructing living conditions in early medieval Ireland; UCD School of Archaeology's contributions to Southeast Asian prehistory; Loughmoe Castle and the end of the middle ages; Early medieval Ireland in northwest Europe; and lots more!

Staff publications and reports as well as postgraduate research posters will also be on display. A wine reception at 5.15pm will celebrate 160 years of UCD staff writing some of Ireland's best known archaeology books.

All welcome! Attendance is free but places are limited; please email [archaeology@ucd.ie](mailto:archaeology@ucd.ie) to reserve a place.

11.05–11.15am

**Welcome and opening remarks**

Prof. Ron Pinhasi, UCD School of Archaeology

**Session 1 Morphological variation, genetics, health and diet**

11.15–11.30am

**Reconstructing health patterns in the early medieval Irish community: osteoarchaeological study of the Omey Island skeletal collection**

Dr Mario Novak - UCD School of Archaeology (*IRC Fellowship*)

11.30–11.45am

**The palaeolithic occupation and ancient genomics of early modern humans from Western Georgia**

Prof. Ron Pinhasi - UCD School of Archaeology (*ERC, IRCHSS and IRC*)

11.45–12.00pm

**Farming and Forging: Living with stress in Neolithic and metal age Central Europe**

Abigail Ash - UCD School of Archaeology (*ERC funded PhD*)

**12.00–12.30pm Tea & Coffee / Poster sessions / Books and research reports**

**Session 2 Medieval Europe**

12.30–12.45am

**Loughmoe Castle and the end of the middle ages**

Prof. Tadhg O’Keeffe - UCD School of Archaeology

12.45–1.00pm

**Early medieval Ireland in northwest Europe, AD 300-1100 - or, what’s next for the Early Medieval Archaeology Project (EMAP)?**

Dr Aidan O’Sullivan - UCD School of Archaeology (*Heritage Council/INSTAR*)

**1.00–1.15pm Discussion of morning papers**

**1.15–2.00pm Lunch / Poster sessions / Books and research reports**

*UCD School of Archaeology gratefully acknowledges funding and other supports provided by a range of national and international bodies:*



### Session 3 Environmental archaeology and the reconstruction of living conditions in past societies

2.00–2.15pm

**The Hill of Ward Archaeological Project: latest surveys and future prospects**

Dr Stephen Davis - UCD School of Archaeology (*Royal Irish Academy, Meath Co. Co., Office of Public Works and the Heritage Council*)

2.15–2.30pm

**'Is it (h)all or nothing?'. Recent geophysical investigations of chamber-towers in Ireland**

Karen Dempsey - UCD School of Archaeology (*IRCHSS Scholarship*)

2.30–2.45pm

**Reconstructing living conditions in early medieval Ireland: examining the environmental evidence**

Dr Eileen Reilly - UCD School of Archaeology (*IRC Fellowship*)

2.45–3.00pm

**Similar but different? Understanding the connections between Late Neolithic timber circles and Middle Neolithic passage tombs in Ireland and Britain**

Dr Neil Carlin - UCD School of Archaeology (*IRCHSS Fellowship*)

**3.00–3.15pm Tea & Coffee / Poster sessions / Books and research reports**

### Session 4 European and Asian prehistory

3.15–3.30pm

**UCD School of Archaeology and Southeast Asian prehistory: the past three years updates**

Dr Helen Lewis (presented by Prof. R. Pinhasi) - UCD School of Archaeology (*British Academy, CBNC and RTN*)

3.30–3.45pm

**Digitising Cretan Bronze Age Figurines**

Dr Alan Peatfield, Dr Christine Morris & Brendan O'Neill - UCD School of Archaeology/TCD (*UCD Seed Fund, Trinity College Dublin and Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens*)

3.45–4.00pm

**Living in the mountains: hunter-gatherer settlement strategies, technologies and changing environments in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland**

Dr Graeme Warren - UCD School of Archaeology (*National Trust for Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council*)

4.00–4.15pm

**Blue stone from a red mountain: the North Roe (Shetland) Project**

Prof. Gabriel Cooney - UCD School of Archaeology (*National Geographic Society*)

**4.15–4.30pm Discussion of afternoon papers**

**4.30–4.45pm Concluding remarks**

**5.15pm**

***Celebrating 160 years of UCD staff writing Ireland's archaeology books***

Reception in The Campus Bookshop, Belfield

# UCD School of Archaeology Research Seminar

Thursday 1st May 2014

## ABSTRACTS

11.05–11.15 Prof. Ron Pinhasi, UCD School of Archaeology: *Welcome and opening remarks*

### **Session 1: Morphological variation, genetics, health and diet**

11.15–11:30 Dr Mario Novak: *Reconstructing health patterns in the early medieval Irish community: osteoarchaeological study of the Omey Island skeletal collection*

Study of human remains from archaeological context or osteoarchaeology reveals details about past populations that are rarely mentioned in written historic sources such as emergence of infectious diseases, subadult mortality, population structure and ancestry, nutrition and subsistence strategies, etc. A similar study was recently conducted on a large skeletal collection deriving from Omey Island, Co. Galway aiming to reconstruct demographic characteristics and health patterns of the early medieval inhabitants of this island. The study involved the analysis and comparison of anthropometric measurements, data on demographic parameters, and data on the frequency and distribution of various pathological features (alveo-dental pathologies, indicators of subadult stress and infectious diseases, musculoskeletal stress markers, and skeletal trauma). Beside the conventional osteoarchaeological approach, the study of this collection will also include radiocarbon dating, ancient DNA analysis and stable isotope analyses.

11.30–11.45 Prof. Ron Pinhasi: The era of genome-wide ancient DNA: a European perspective

11.45–12.00 Abigail Ash: *Farming and Forging: Living with stress in Neolithic and metal age Central Europe*

Studies of health in prehistoric populations have tended to focus on the transition from hunting and gathering to largely agricultural subsistence with the adoption of the Neolithic lifestyle in Europe. However there is a growing awareness of diversity between Neolithic communities and a need for greater investigation into the effects of later agricultural intensification, and the development of copper, bronze and iron industries, on the health of populations. Results are presented from the examination of stress indicators in thirteen Central European populations dating from the Early Neolithic to the Iron Age, implications of these results for the understanding of socio-behavioural changes occurring during this time frame are discussed.

12.00–12:30 Tea & Coffee / Poster sessions / Books and research reports

settlement strategies and technologies as well as detailed understandings of the changing environment. Excavations have taken place at two Mesolithic sites, with survey ongoing. Initial results indicate activity in the later 6th and early 4th millennia cal BC – the latter of particular interest as the period when agricultural practices begin to emerge in Scotland. It is already clear that different sites served different functions, and that there is considerable variation in the use of the uplands; in addition, we have an unparalleled opportunity to explore differences between inland, upland inhabitation of the landscape with other areas of Scotland during the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition. With some Mesolithic sites identified at >500m asl the relationship between climate change and human activity, the impact of human activity on the environment and vice versa can also be examined. Our project also contributes to developing management strategies for early Holocene archaeology in mountain landscapes, especially in the face of modern day climate change and land use pressures.

14:30–14:45 Prof. Gabriel Cooney: Blue stone from a red mountain: the North Roe (Shetland) Project

The complex of felsite dykes at North Roe, Mainland Shetland is both the best preserved Neolithic axe (and stone knife) quarry complex in Britain or Ireland. It is also the predominant source for stone axes and Shetland knives in the Shetland archipelago. The results of the 2013 field season involving archaeological survey, portable x-ray fluorescence (PXRF) analysis in the field and work with museum collections will be discussed.

4:15–4:30 Discussion of afternoon papers

4:30-4:45 Concluding remarks

5.15pm **Celebrating 160 years of UCD staff writing Ireland's archaeology books**

Reception in *The Campus Bookshop*, Belfield

## Session 2: Medieval Europe

12:30–12:45 Prof. Tadhg O’Keeffe: Loughmoe Castle and the end of the middle ages

Loughmoe Castle near Templemore, Co. Tipperary, familiar to passengers on the Dublin-Cork train, is the most spectacular example in Ireland of an early modern incastellated house incorporating a late medieval tower-house. Despite its status as a National Monument in State Care, there has been no analysis in print of its design, nor any assessment of its importance in understanding the transition from the middle ages to the early modern period in Ireland. In this short presentation I offer such an assessment.

12:45–1:00 Dr Aidan O’Sullivan: Early medieval Ireland in northwest Europe, AD 300–1100 - or, what's next for the Early Medieval Archaeology Project (EMAP)?

This paper will briefly summarise the research achievements of EMAP 2007–2013, its strategies, publications and other outcomes, and offer some thoughts on what the boom in archaeological excavation has revealed about Ireland's place in the world. It will then pose the question, what's next for EMAP?

1:00–1:15 Discussion of morning papers

1:15–2:00 Lunch / Poster sessions / Books and research reports

## Session 3: Environmental archaeology and the reconstruction of living conditions in past societies

2:00–2:15 Dr Steve Davis: The Hill of Ward Archaeological Project: latest surveys and future prospects

This paper presents the results of recent research at the Hill of Ward, Co, Meath, a large quadrivallate hilltop enclosure to the east of Athboy. In particular it will present geophysical surveys from the 2013 season, focusing on Earth Resistance and Ground Penetrating Radar. These provide significantly more detail than the previous magnetic surveys alone and provide further information regarding the construction sequence of the site. The Hill of Ward enclosure is presented in the context of other similar enclosures within Ireland and future prospects are also discussed, in particular proposed excavation at the site in summer 2014.

2:15–2:30 Karen Dempsey: *'Is it (h)all or nothing?'. Recent geophysical investigations of chamber-towers in Ireland*

Understandings of the type of castles traditionally known as 'hall-houses' remains very poor. Recent work suggests that these castles are chamber-towers, which were accompanied by external timber-built halls. To prove this hypothesis geophysical investigations were conducted at a number of chamber-towers. The results of which and their implications will be discussed.

2:30–12:45 Dr Eileen Reilly: *Reconstructing living conditions in early medieval Ireland: examining the environmental evidence*

The post-doctoral project 'Dirt, Dwellings and Culture: Reconstructing living conditions in Early Medieval Ireland and Northwestern Europe AD 600-1100' is a multi-disciplinary study encompassing archaeology and archaeological science, anthropology and contemporary written sources. However, the initial seed of the project came from observations on insect assemblages from inside houses of early medieval date in different settings e.g. from the rural 8<sup>th</sup> century rath at Deer Park Farms, Co. Antrim, and those on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century Fishamble Street, Dublin. This short presentation outlines some of the similarities and differences between these homes, as indicated by the insect evidence, and some of the possible factors (behaviourial, environmental, ecological) that may have influenced them.

2:45–3:00 Dr Neil Carlin: *Similar but different? Understanding the connections between Late Neolithic timber circles and Middle Neolithic passage tombs in Ireland and Britain*

Over 26 Late Neolithic wooden circular structures have been excavated in Ireland, most notably at the Middle Neolithic ceremonial centres at Newgrange, and Knowth in the Boyne Valley, Co. Meath and Ballynahatty in the Lagan Valley, Co. Down. Most of these are 'square in a circle' buildings comprising a single ring of posts which enclose a square arrangement of four posts and resemble contemporary structures known from Britain. Due to the many difficulties associated with distinguishing between domestic and ritual spheres at this time, our understanding of the nature of these structures and of their role in settlement or ceremonial activities is quite poor. In this paper, I will highlight the connections between these buildings and Middle Neolithic passage tombs, as well as discussing their implications for our understanding of the Irish and British Late Neolithic.

3:00–3:15 Tea & Coffee / Poster sessions / Books and research reports

#### **Session 4: European and Asian prehistory**

3:15–3:30 Dr Helen Lewis (presented by Ron Pinhasi): *UCD School of Archaeology and Southeast Asian prehistory: updates from the past three years.*

This presentation summarises our involvement in Southeast Asian archaeology over the past three years, including progress updates from the Niah Cave Project (Malaysian Borneo), Palawan Island Prehistory Project (Philippines), Middle Mekong Archaeological Project (Laos) and the EurASEAA14 conference (Dublin).

3:30–3:45 Dr Alan Peatfield, Dr Christine Morris & Brendan O'Neill: Digitising Cretan Bronze Age Figurines

3:45–3:30 Dr Graeme Warren: Living in the mountains: hunter-gatherer settlement strategies, technologies and changing environments in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland.

This paper reviews ongoing and collaborative archaeological and palaeoenvironmental work exploring Mesolithic activities in one of Britain's most dramatic upland landscapes – the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland. Identifying Mesolithic activity in montane landscapes is difficult. Our multidisciplinary project (2013- present) is providing new data on Mesolithic