Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org. **May/June - 2024**

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Please note the following events for the next few months.

May 2024

May 4, 2024 – Saturday 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM - **SAS Tour** "*Locke, California America's Last Remaining Rural Chinatown in America"*

May 11, 2024 - Saturday, 11:00 AM PT – 12:30 PM Zoom **SAS Board Meeting** at UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

May 11, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT - **SAS Webinar** "*A tale of two teosintes: how genetics is reshaping our understanding of maize domestication*", Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, Professor University of California at UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

June 2024

June 9, 2024 to June 15, 2024 - **SAS Tour** *"Mogollon Culture: Arizona and New Mexico"*

July 2024

July 13, 2024 – Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM PT **SAS Webinar** "*Diving into the Archaeological Mystic – A Taíno Underworld and Sacred Landscape in the Caribbean*", John Foster at UCD, Young Hall, Room 224

Sixth Annual SAS Pool-Party/Pot-Luck/Social TBD

See announcements: https://sacarcheology.org/announcements/ for **webinar access information** and calendar: https://sacarcheology.org/archaeology-activities/calendar-of-events/ for the complete set of events in our website: www.sacarcheology.org.

For all SAS Webinars friends are welcome and also invited to join our organization. There is no participation fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAS Tour

Locke, California

America's Last Remaining Rural Chinatown in America

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11 AM PT

The historical walking tour of Locke, CA exemplifies the last remaining rural Chinatown in America. The town still looks very much as it did when it included restaurants, markets, brothels, an opera, speakeasies, gambling houses, mills, and canneries. At its height, in the 1920s, Locke's population was 600. Today, it is about 70. Recognizing its historical significance, Locke was named a National historic Landmark In 1990.

Our tour leader, Alfred Yee, is a local historian and member of the Locke Foundation.

The itinerary is as follows:
Meet on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 11 am, at the Locke Boarding House Museum, 13916 Main Street, Locke, CA. From I-5, take Twin Cities Road west, to River Road south. Turn left onto Locke Road. The tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours.
Lunch afterward will be at Al's, a restaurant in Locke.

If you plan to attend, please notify Lynette Blumhardt at yellowbean14@yahoo.com. The number of participants is limited. In case you haven't registered for the Locke Tour there are still some spots available. Members will be given priority.

All participants are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement at the beginning of the tour.

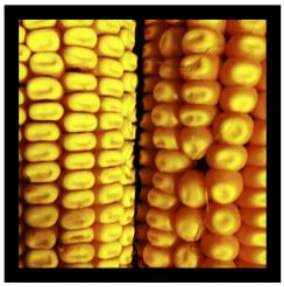
SAS Webinar

"*A tale of two teosintes: how genetics is reshaping our understanding of maize domestication*"
by

Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra

Saturday, May 11, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM PT

We are pleased to have a Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, Evolutionary Biologist at University of California, Davis discuss his research in the evolution and adaptation of maize.



Abstract: The widely accepted narrative of maize domestication posits a single origin from the wild grass *Zea mays ssp. parviglumis* (lowland teosinte) in southwest Mexico, likely beginning with de novo mutation at an important gene controlling kernel architecture. However, recent genomic surveys challenge this simplicity, revealing evidence of gene flow from another wild relative, *Zea mays ssp. mexicana* (highland teosinte). Here we demonstrate widespread hybridization between maize and highland teosinte across time and geography, suggesting a revised model of maize origins in which maize hybridized with teosinte in the central Mexican highlands around 4000 years post-domestication. We also revisit the origin of the important domestication gene tga1, using population genetic analysis and simulations to show that relevant diversity at this key locus likely predated domestication, highlighting the importance of adaptation from pre-existing genetic variation. Together, our findings challenge existing models of maize evolution and illustrate domestication as a complex evolutionary process rather than a single event.

Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra is an evolutionary biologist who uses computational and genetic approaches to understand the evolution and adaptation of maize and its wild relatives. Dr. Ross-Ibarra's undergraduate and early graduate background in ethnobotany has long influenced his interest in the coevolution of humans and their crop plants. More about Dr. Ross-Ibarra's work can be found at his website rilab.ucdavis.edu.

The presentations will be presented at Young Hall, Room 224 and available via Zoom. The webinar will start at 2:00 PM PT and formally conclude at 3:30 PM. You may join starting at 1:45 PM to say “Hello” and participate in a social time.

SAS Tour

Mogollon Culture: Arizona and New Mexico

Sunday, June 9, 2024 to Saturday, June 15, 2024

Sacramento Archeological Society is pleased to offer an archaeological tour in Arizona and New Mexico featuring Mogollon culture. "Mogollon Culture" is a loose term applied to any of the people who were living in the environs of the Mogollon Rim (bounded by the Little Colorado River on the north, Verde River on the west, Pecos River on the East and south into Chihuahua, Mexico) from about 200 BCE to the mid-1400s CE. Several groups inhabited this area. The Mimbres designates one group that will especially be highlighted.

Oasisamerica Cultures in 1350 CE
https://www.eyesofthepot.com/history/mimbres.php#google_vignette

The tour is led by Denise Ruzicka who did post graduate research in the Mimbres area. She wants to share this culture with SAS Members. In April 2024 other tour committee members (Johansens and Peakes) enjoyed a pre-trip to several of the tour sites. The photos below are attributed to Jan Johansen.

The following major sites will be visited on the tour.

Kinishba Ruins is the remains of a village that predates today's Zuni and Hopi Pueblo tribes. Nearby pit houses indicate settlement as early as 800 CE. Around 1325 CE when Kinishba reached its maximum size of about 600 ground-floor rooms (400-800 occupants) the village was made up of four main blocks of rooms. Thanks to the effort of Dr. Bryon Cummings, Director of the Arizona State Museum and founder of the University Of Arizona Department of Archaeology the site is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Casa Malpais is an ancient pueblo from the Mogollon Culture which was built and occupied between 1240 and 1350 CE. It contains a great kiva, solar calendar, 50-60 room pueblo remains and an ancient staircase that when ascended, takes you to the rim of a shield volcano. The site

located on the edge of a volcano that created a lava flow was labeled the “fissure pueblo” by Frank Hamilton Cushing in 1883. The site became a National Historic Landmark in 1964.

Gila Cliff Dwellings are the largest known Mogollon (Tularosa phase) cliff dwellings complex.
For thousands of years, groups of nomads used the caves above Cliff Dweller Creek as temporary shelter. In the late 1200s, people of the agricultural Mogollon (Southern Ancestral Pueblo) culture made it a home. Archaeologists estimate that 40-60 Mogollons constructed the Gila Cliff Dwellings. They built their dwellings in five caves and each dwelling had approximately 40 rooms. By approximately 1300 CE, the Mogollon had moved on, leaving the walls behind. Established by presidential proclamation on November 16, 1907, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument preserves the cliff dwellings.

Mimbres Culture Heritage Site includes the Mattocks Archaeological Site, Mimbres Museum and two New Mexico Territorial Adobe homes built in 1880s. The Mattocks Site is a large collection of pit houses and pueblo villages dating from 550 to 1140 CE. Bowls recovered from the site are recognized worldwide as some of the finest examples of Classic Mimbres Artwork. Beginning with a site visit in 1883 by Adolph Bandelier through the ownership and research of the Mimbres Foundation in the 1970s, the site has long attracted the interest of archaeologists. In 1929-31, the first scientific excavation was led by Paul Nesbitt of Beloit College, Wisconsin. From 1975-79 research done by the Mimbres Foundation at the Mattocks Site firmly established the time line for the Classic Mimbres culture.

Western New Mexico University Museum houses one of the world’s largest permanent collections of Mimbres pottery, baskets, artifacts and cultural information about the Mimbres people. Mimbres pottery, which dates from the ninth to the twelfth centuries, is known for its distinctive, oft-imitated, black-on-white geometries and figures of animals, people, and other cultural imagery. Between cases of pottery throughout the hall, you find the museum’s collection of historic photographs documenting the campus’s history, as well as other curious features. Think green chalkboards and tiered, old-fashioned student desks left intact, heavy wood and glass display cases obviously too large to move, traces of basketball markings on the gymnasium floor, and a water fountain gifted by the class of 1929.

Several rock art site visits are scheduled. These include:

Dragonfly petroglyphs near Silver City, **Pony Hills** and **China Draw** sites near Deming

Also a short hike into Whitewater Canyon offers a flourishing oasis in the desert southwest. The canyon is relatively easy to enter, traversing historic bridges and enchanting **catwalks**. The massive volcanic walls recount intriguing tales of mining, hidden treasures, Wild West outlaws and the lure of gold and silver.

Mogollon is a ghost town, filled with historic buildings of the once rich mining camp that made millions during its heydays, survived numerous floods and fires but still hangs on today despite its isolated location. It all began when a soldier named James Cooney from Fort Bayard, some 80 miles to the south east, was scouting for the 8th U.S. Cavalry in nearby Mineral Creek Canyon in 1870. North of where the mining camp of Mogollon would later be established, Cooney discovered rich gold.

The itinerary for the tour of these sites is projected as follows:

June 9, Sunday Drive or fly to Phoenix or drive to Northwestern Arizona (Pinetop or Holbrook)

June 10, Monday Drive to Fort Apache Museum and view Kinishba Ruins, then drive to Springerville
June 11, Tuesday Tour Casa Malpais, drive to Silver City and in route visit Mogollon and Cat Walk
June 12, Wednesday Visit Gila Cliff Dwellings and Mimbres Culture Heritage Site for dinner and introduction to Mimbres culture
June 13, Thursday Tour Mimbres sites and hike to Dragonfly Petroglyphs
June 14, Friday Guided tour of Western New Mexico University Museum, Treasure Hill
June 15, Saturday Experience City of Rocks, Hike to Pony Hills Petroglyphs, and China Draw Petroglyphs and attend a farewell dinner in Deming

Guided tours are arranged for Casa Malpais (access to the site is only via a guided tour), Mimbres sites by Marilyn Markel, member of Grant County Archaeological Society, and Western New Mexico University Museum by President of Grant County Archaeological Society. An overview of Mimbres Culture will be given by Marilyn Markel.

Time permitting we may visit Treasure Hill (Archaeological Conservancy site near Silver City), Mitchell (Nature Conservancy site), Elk Ridge (GNF and Archaeological Conservancy site), Vista Village at Lake Roberts and Old Town Mimbres.

This is a Members only event and attendance is limited. Reservations are accepted on a first come basis. This event is expected to fill up and lodging reservations need to me made as soon as possible. Make your reservation now. A non- refundable reservation fee of $50 per person to SAS is also required with the reservation.

To make reservations contact Jan Johansen janjohansen@sbcglobal.net. Also, send the registration fee of $50 per person to Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. at P.O Box 163287, Sacramento, CA 95816-9287 or use our web site https://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/sas-donations-and-membership-payment/.

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging reservations, arranging their own transportation to and on the tour, and paying for their food, fees and incidentals. A list of recommended lodging will be provided to registered attendees.

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc., but participants will be notified of significant changes in advance. All participants are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement prior to the tour.

PAST EVENTS

Scholar Webinar – "*Field School Presentations*"

On Saturday, March 9, 2024 two recipients of 2023 scholarships gave talks on their experiences at the field schools. Noor Sullivan, graduate student in Cultural Heritage Resource Management at University of Maryland, College Park talked about the "Gallina Field School". The field school focused on archaeological skill building through a survey of Navaho/Diné land in the Gallina area of New Mexico. Noor who has conducted ethnographic and historical research broadened his perspective through this field school experience.

Brianna Ramirez, a recent graduate of New Mexico State University talked about "Blackfriary Archaeological Field School". This experience was particularly beneficial to Brianna's career because she is interested in forensic anthropology. At this field school near Trim, Ireland she had the opportunity to inspect, survey and excavate artifacts and bone remains from a Franciscan cemetery. She learned how to properly excavate, clean, bag and document artifacts, use the Total Station, and perform flotation.

Scholar Webinar –"*Finding Evidence for Ancient Maya Canal Use at Rio Azul, Guatemala"*

On April 13, 2024 Emily Johnson, UC Santa Barbara PhD student gave a presentation on "Finding Evidence for Ancient Maya Canal Use at Rio Azul, Guatemala". Before discussing her excavations at Rio Azul she described her research interests in nixtamalization (the maize cooking process), the impact of intensive agriculture especially at Teotihuacan, and soil analysis for micro and macro botanical residue. Rio Azul was a Mayan city occupied by approximately 3500 people during the period 900 BCE to 850 CE. Recent LIDAR imaging of Rio Azul has identified raised fields, terracing and canals that suggest extensive agriculture was practiced there in the past. Emily set out to validate the presence of the agricultural features by excavating in three test pits. So far no clear evidence of human activity was found in these test pits. To continue her work she plans to analyze soil samples from the test pits and perform additional excavation. This work relates to her dissertation which is focusing on early maize nixtamalization in Meso America.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Annual Memberships

All memberships are renewable on **January 1** annually except for those who joined recently (after September 1 of the previous year). Please support the society by promptly paying your **2024** dues. Remember your dues help make **scholarships** possible. We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students. You may now use our web site https://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/pay-dues/ to renew and make payment using a credit card or Paypal. Remember a membership benefit is email receipt of archaeological/anthropological articles and notices of related events.

The annual dues are:	
Student/Limited Member	$15
Individual Membership	$30
Family Membership	$40
Sponsor	$100 - 999 (individual)
	$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	$1000

Alternatively, please make out your check to "**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc**." and mail it to:

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 163287
Sacramento, CA 95816-9287
We really appreciate your support.

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Annual Dues for 2024

Name(s):_____ Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address:

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Student/Limited Member	$15	____	$_____
Individual Membership	$30	____	$_____
Family Membership	$40	____	$_____
Sponsor	$100	____	$_____
Scholarship Donation			$_____

Total enclosed $_____

Member Renewals

We thank everyone who has renewed your membership.

Major Donors for 2023/4

We are pleased to acknowledge our major contributors for 2023. These donations support our scholarship program.

Patron ($1000 or more)
Dennis Fenwick and Martha Lewis
Jan and Tom Johansen
Ruth McElhinney
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor

Sponsor ($100 - $999)
OSISoft a division of AVEVA
Lynette Blumhardt
Jeannie Coy
Penelope Coy
Paul K. Davis and Knuti VanHoven
George W. Foxworth
Jeremy Johansen
Tori Lyon
Roger and Lydia Peake
Diane Sangster

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

Recent Articles

The reviewed article(s) chronologically presented (oldest subject first) are:

- "The demise of the giant ape *Giantophithecus blacki*"
- "Indigenous Australian genome show deep structure and rich novel variation"
- "Homo sapiens reached the higher latitudes of Europe by 45,000 years ago" (Lead article)
- "Facial Piercing Dates back at least 11,000 years"

"The demise of the giant ape *Giantophithecus blacki*"

"The largest ever primate and one of the largest of southeast Asian megafauna, *Gigantopithecus blacki*, persisted in China from about 2.0 million years until the late middle Pleistocene when it became extinct. Its demise is enigmatic considering that it was one of the few Asian great apes to go extinct in the last 2.6 million years, whereas others including orangutan, survived until the present. The cause of the disappearance of *G. blacki* remains unresolved but could shed light on primate resilience and the fate of mega fauna in this region.

In this article the researchers present three multidisciplinary analyses—timing, past environments and behavior—to 22 caves in southern China. They used 157 radiometric ages from six dating techniques to establish a timeline for the demise of G. blacki. They show that from 2.3 million years ago the environment was a mosaic of forests and grasses, providing ideal conditions for thriving G. blacki populations. However, just before and during the extinction window between 295,000 and 215,000 years ago there was enhanced environmental variability from increased seasonality, which caused changes in plant communities and increase in open forest environments. Although its close relative Pongo weidenreichi managed to adapt its dietary preferences and behavior to this variability, G blacki showed signs of chronic stress and dwindling population. Ultimately its struggle to adapt led to the extinction of the greatest primate to ever inhabit the earth." (Yingqui Zhang et al, *Nature*, V625, 2024-01-18 pp. 535- 548)

"Indigenous Australian genome show deep structure and rich novel variation"

"The Indigenous peoples of Australia have a rich linguistic and cultural history. How this relates to genetic diversity remains largely unknown because of their limited engagement with genomic studies. In this article the researchers present the analysis of the genomes of 159 individuals from four remote Indigenous communities, including people who speak a language (Tiwi) not from the most widespread family (Pama-Nyungan). This large collection of Indigenous Australian genomes was made possible by careful community engagement and consultation. The researchers observed exceptionally strong population structure across Australia, driven by divergence times between communities of 26,000-35-000 years ago and long-term low but stable effective population sizes. This demographic history, including early divergence from Papua New Guinean (47,000 years ago) and Eurasian groups, has generated the highest proportion of previously undescribed genetic variation seen outside Africa and the most extended homozygosity compared with global samples. A substantial proportion of this variation is not observed in global reference panels or clinical data sets, and variation with predicted functional consequence is more likely to be homozygous than in other populations, with consequent implications for medical genomics. Their results show that Indigenous Australians are not a single homogeneous genetic group and their genetic relationship with the people of New Guinea is not uniform. These patterns imply that the full breadth of Indigenous Australian genetic diversity remains uncharacterized, potentially limiting genomic medicine and equitable heath care for Indigenous Australians." (Matthew Silcocks *et al*, *Nature*, V624, 2023-12-21 pp. 593-601)

"Homo sapiens reached the higher latitudes of Europe by 45,000 years ago"

This research was reported on in the last newsletter. This is the summary from the research article.

"The Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition in Europe is associated with the regional disappearance of Neanderthals and the spread of Homo sapiens. Late Neanderthals persisted in Western Europe several millennia after the occurrence of H. sapiens in Eastern Europe. Local

hybridization between the two groups occurred but not on all occasions. Archaeological evidence also indicates the presence of several technocomplexes during this transition, complicating the understanding and the association of behavioral adaptations with specific hominin groups. One such technocomplex for which the makers are unknown is the Lincombian-Ranisian-Jerzmanowican (LRJ), which has been described in northwestern and central Europe. This article presents the morphological and proteomic taxonomic identification, mitochondrial DNA analysis and direct radiocarbon dating of human remains directly associated with an LRJ assemblage at the site Ilsenhöhle in Ranis (Germany). These human remains are among the earliest directly dated Upper Paleolithic H. sapiens remains in Eurasia. The researchers show that early *H. Sapiens* associated with the LRJ were present in central and northwestern Europe long before the extinction of late Neanderthals in southwestern Europe. The results strengthen the notion of a patchwork of distinct human populations and technocomplexes present in Europe during this transition period." (Dorothea Mylopotmitaki *et al*, *Nature* V626, 2024-02-08 pp. 341-346)

"Facial Piercing Dates back at least 11,000 years"

"People who lived some 11,000 years in what is now Turkey probably had facial piercings. Ergül Kodaşat at Mardin Artuklu University in Mardin Turkey and his colleagues analyzed 85 ornaments found at an archaeological site in southeast Turkey that could date back as far as 12,000 years. Most of the ornaments were made of limestone, obsidian or river pebbles.

Many of the artifacts were found in graves, where they were positioned close to the buried individuals' lower jaws and where their ears would have been, suggesting that they were worn in piercings. Analysis showed that distinctive parts of the lower incisor teeth of same of the skeletons had been worn down by an object rubbing against them—an indication that the region between the lower lip and the chin had been pierced.

The findings are the oldest known evidence of facial piercing in southwest Asia. Because evidence of the ornaments was found only in adult burials, the findings suggest that facial piercings served as a coming-of-age sign, the authors say." (*Nature*, 2024-03-21 p. 469)

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