

SEMINAR FOR ARABIAN STUDIES

Posters 2009

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Ali al-Mahrouqi is a graduate from the Department of Archaeology, Sultan Qaboos University. He is an MA student in History Department of the same university. Currently, he works as an archaeologist in the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, Sultanate of Oman, where he is engaged in a documentation project about the Omani historical buildings.

Poster Title

Documentation of Old Township (*harat*) in the Sultanate of Oman

This research aims to study the old Omani *harat* (quarters). These *hārāt* (sing. *hārah*) represent significant elements of the architectural heritage of the country. The Ministry of Heritage and Culture has been striving to maintain these *harat* in different regions of the Sultanate. In order to conduct the project successfully, and in my capacity as the *rapporteur* of the 'Historical Buildings Protection and Registration Committee' established by the Ministry, I suggested conducting a comprehensive documentation for these *harat*. Two phases were planned.

The first phase, which started in 2008, included a survey of all *harat* in the Sultanate. A documentation form was designed for this purpose and was distributed to local people through town governors and municipal offices. After preparing the lists of *harat*, selected sites were visited and a map of the distribution of *harat* was produced.

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Faisal Abdulla Al-Naimi is Head of the Antiquities Department at the Qatar Museums Authority. His research interests include the management of the archaeological resource of Qatar, prehistoric lithics technology and archaeological field survey.

Poster Title

An Upper Palaeolithic and Early Holocene flint scatter at Ra's ʿUshayriq, western Qatar

A flint site thought to date to both the Upper Palaeolithic and the Early Holocene has been discovered during archaeological survey work near the Ra's ʿUshayriq peninsula, western Qatar. Diagnostic flint types include flake cores, a possible Levallois point core, single and double ended side scrapers, a possible disk scraper fragment, retouched flakes and denticular flakes. Two of the cores suggest that the earliest occupation of the site may be contemporary with Jabal al-Fāyah (Assemblage C) which produced Levallois and discoidal cores, provisionally dated to Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5a or older (approximately 85 ka years ago). During this period Ra's ʿUshayriq would have been inland, not a coastal site as it is now, and the reasons for occupation must be explained in terms of inland resources or an increase in rainfall. Other Middle and Upper Palaeolithic stone-tools from the Arabian Peninsula have been found at Filī, and Jabal Barākah. These show clear typological differences with Palaeolithic tools found in Africa suggesting regional variation of these technologies.

Technological differences in the assemblage may be indicative of different phases of occupation and possible abandonment. Heavy patination across the flaked surfaces of some fragments (for example, the Levallois point core) is consistent with the tools being of some antiquity, while other flints show no patination. None of the later assemblages at Jabal al-Fāyah (A and B) produced Levallois cores, and like Jabal al-Fāyah the scatter at Ra's ʿUshayriq also has a disk scraper, end-scraper and denticulated flakes that are more typical of the Late Holocene.

As the site demonstrates the potential for stratigraphy, an extensive programme of works is proposed for 2010 which will include; flint distribution mapping; geophysical survey (magnetometer), test pitting and coring of the *rawtha* soils in the wadi to the south.

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Khudooma al-Na'imi is interested in using the technique of forensic science in physical anthropology and archaeology. She received her MSc in forensic anthropology from the University of Central Lancashire (UK) in 2008 and worked in forensic laboratory in the Abu Dhabi Police for seven years. She obtained her first degree, in Biology, from the UAE University.

Poster Title

Estimation of body height of old Omani *aflāj* builders from hands impressions on *sarooj* disks

Body height (stature) is an important health, genetic, nutrition, culture and forensic indicator. Yet, there is little knowledge of the stature of old people who build the complicated *aflāj* (sing. *falāj*) systems (water canals) in Oman. Studying the hand impressions for those people on *sarooj* can help filling this gap in anthropometric studies. *Sarooj*, a traditional Omani mortar, was used in *aflāj* construction. The samples of hand impressions on *sarooj* were measured in the village of Khutwah, located in Muhada in the Sultanate of Oman. The samples included seven disks and their date was estimated to be in the Islamic period. Stature was calculated using hand breadth (HB). As gender was unknown the data were used in estimating male and female stature. Hand impression breadth was found to be 7.677 ± 0.4 cm (3 ± 0.2 in) (mean \pm SD). The estimated stature was found to be 163.567 ± 5.60 cm (64.4 ± 2.2 in) (mean \pm SD) for male and 157.454 ± 4.50 cm (62 ± 1.8 in) (mean \pm SD) for female. *Sarooj* hand

impressions were a useful estimation stature in this former population of Oman. The problematic aspects of this method will be discussed.

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**BERGER, Ora**

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Ora Berger obtained her PhD in Art History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 2007. Her PhD dissertation, 'The Jewellery of the Jewish bride in San'ā' as a cultural and artistic message - the eighteenth century', licensed under Creative Commons BY-SA 3.0. can be downloaded from [www.oraberger.co.il](http://www.oraberger.co.il). The synopsis is in English (1–29) and the dissertation is in Hebrew (30–348). Her focus is on Jewish art in Yemen and its relationships with the arts in Yemen, especially with Islamic Art.

**Poster Title**  
**Fishes (Hūtī)**

Hebrew Illuminated Bibles from Yemen are famous, but hardly researched. The focus is on fishes in two 'carpet pages' from a Hebrew Illuminated Bible (Sanaa, 1469). The poster aims to show that the art model is a pair of swimming fish originating in Yemen under the Rasūlid sultans of Yemen (r. 1229–1454), ruling from Ta'izz. To prove this assumption, the twelve pairs of micrography\* fishes are compared with the Rasūlid pair of swimming fishes on a brass tray made for the Rasūlid sultan of Yemen Muayyad Dawud (r. 1296–1321) and two coins from Aden. As far as is known, such juxtaposition was never done before and the similarity shows the connection. Why fishes? Fishes are Jewish iconography with the meaning of fertility and protection, following Jacob's blessing (Genesis 48:17). The Jewish Talmud explains that in Jewish belief the evil eye cannot penetrate water, and therefore water shields and protects fish against it.

The art formula of a pair of swimming fish, one swimming right and the other swimming left, was the brand of Aden in the Rasūlid coinage. As Rasūlid money was struck in south Yemen and circulated in Yemen, this brand spread quickly and easily with no limitation of religion.

By reusing this art formula in different artistic configuration (large scale, multiplying the pair of swimming fishes twelve times, micrography and redesigning the new twelve pairs of swimming fishes as the central composition of two juxtaposing 'carpet pages' in a big Hebrew Illuminated Bible), the Jewish Scribe made a clear statement. He switched, what was once the official Rasūlid brand of Aden, to a Jewish brand. By so doing, he burnt in the collective mind of the Jewish community the idea of being protected and blessed following Jacob's blessing. This is the power of a brand: to promote with visual means an idea that had been fixed in the mind. Though the term 'brand' is modern, its use in art is antique.

\* Micrography is a Jewish unique and exclusive style. It is defined as the minute Hebrew Biblical text used by the Scribe to create the contour of a form in Hebrew Illuminated Bible manuscripts. In our case, twelve pairs of swimming fishes.

**Poster Title**  
**Sanaa and Aden: Arabic Writing in 'carpet pages' of Hebrew Illuminated Bibles**

The phenomena of Arabic writing in 'carpet pages' of Hebrew Illuminated Bibles in Yemen has never been researched. I wish to point on that phenomena and to try to understand its origin.

Three examples are known to date. The two from Sanaa, dated to 1469 and 1475, show the name of the donor in big, bold coloured Arabic writing in the horizontal zones of the pages. The other example is probably from Aden from the 13th century or earlier. To the best of my knowledge, this example has not yet been researched. Here, the Arabic writing, or pseudo-Arabic writing, appears in the frame and surrounds the Hebrew writing. The 'Arabic writing' here might be for beauty only, as it is hard to read. This is a unique and rare juxtaposition of Hebrew and Arabic writing in the context of a 'carpet page' in a Hebrew Illuminated Bible in Yemen.

What is the origin of the Arabic writing in 'carpet pages' of Hebrew Illuminated Bibles in Yemen? Is it a Jewish source, or Arabic? Did it originate in Yemen, or outside Yemen? Why in 'carpet pages' of Hebrew Illuminated Bibles? What can we conclude from it about the relationship between Arabic writing and Hebrew writing in Yemen? I hope the poster will help to shed light on this unique phenomena.

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Luca Belfioretti is an archaeologist and graduated from University of Bologna in Italy. His thesis addressed the reconstruction of a third-millennium BCE reed boat in the Western Indian Ocean. He has worked in Oman periodically from 2000/01, first with the University of Bologna and later for the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman. He presently resides in Oman, and is employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a site manager on the Jewel of Muscat Project, a reconstruction of a ninth-century CE sewn-plank ship.

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Dr Tom Vosmer is a maritime archaeologist specialising in watercraft of the western Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. He is resident in Oman, working as a consultant to the government on maritime heritage, culture and archaeology. Currently he is employed as project director (construction) on the Jewel of Muscat Project, the reconstruction of an early ninth-century sewn-plank boat that will sail to Singapore in early 2010.

Poster Title

Jawharat Muscat Project

The Sultanate of Oman has a long maritime history with early navigators, seamen and traders sailing the world's oceans. At the heart of Oman's unique maritime heritage lay the expertise of local craftsmen who constructed traditional vessels that would carry precious cargoes across the vast oceans to distant lands.

The Jawharat Muscat Project is an ambitious initiative to recreate an early ninth-century sewn plank boat of the type that traded between Oman and China more than 1,000 years ago. The reconstruction is based on a shipwreck, the only one of its kind ever discovered, which was excavated in 1998 and clearly showed, from its construction, that it was built by Western Indian Ocean shipwrights, possibly in Oman. When it sank, the ship was returning from China to the Middle East with a cargo of over 60,000 pieces of Tang Dynasty ceramics, bronze mirrors, spices, gold and silver vessels, as well as ten tons of lead. Every aspect of construction of the Jawharat Muscat is comprehensively documented: research and design, experimentation, construction, navigation and sailing.

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Manfred Böhme studied pre- and protohistory at the University of Muenster, Germany. He has been involved in the archaeology of the Bat site from 2004 and has led the restoration workshop from 2006.

Poster Title

Wādī al-ʿAyn: First investigations at Qubur Juhal, Oman

The 'beehive tombs' from al-ʿAyn are a well known part of a UNESCO World Heritage Monument site in Oman. Despite the popularity of the tombs, detailed records are rare. The 'Bat Research & Restoration Project' has now started with the documentation as preparatory work for urgent preservation treatment. This preliminary report describes helpful indications concerning a chronological order within this assemblage of tombs.

BREEZE, Paul

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Paul Breeze works with HP VISTA at the University of Birmingham. His work and research interests are largely focused upon the characterisation of archaeological landscapes through remote sensing and geophysics, and the application of GIS to archaeology, with further interests in global prehistory.

Poster Title

Cultural Mapping and Signature Landscape Characterisation in Qatar using Remote Sensing

The potential for large-scale cultural prospection across Qatar using remotely sensed datasets is currently being examined as part of collaborative project between the Qatar Museums Authority and University of Birmingham. Two study zones, constituting 20% of the total landmass of Qatar are designed to cross a wide variety of anthropogenic and natural landscape types to assess the effectiveness of different types of remotely sensed data in the varying environments of Qatar.

Among the datasets under investigation are high-resolution remotely sensed IKONOS (2003) and Aerial Orthophoto data (2004) which are showing a high potential for the identification of cultural archaeological sites within the study areas. This effectiveness is due in part to the absence of the large sand seas that cover many other parts of Arabia, with aeolian deposits from the northwest that would normally cover Qatar, being deposited in the Gulf of Salwah. Additionally, the absence of extensive soil coverage and a good state of cultural preservation enhances the effectiveness of these data.

Survey work is ongoing, however a wealth of information has already been revealed, including former settlements (of varying morphologies and size), the remains of Ottoman-period forts known to fringe the northern coast, former enclosures, and clusters of cairns. In addition extensive networks of large stone-built intertidal fish-traps, have been identified along vast swathes of the coast. Some of the fish-traps are unusual as they are located far from the coast, and a comparison of data from different acquisition dates (GAMBIT etc) provides information about sedimentation regimes within these areas.

This survey is beginning to highlight the large volume of cultural remains present within Qatar, and (in addition to other on-going work) to populate the new QNHER and contribute to the preservation and investigation of Qatar's unique cultural heritage.

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Philipp Drechsler completed his PhD study in 2007. He currently holds a postdoctoral position at the Institute for Pre- and Protohistory in Tübingen, Germany. His research concerns the origin and development of the Neolithic period on the Arabian Peninsula.

AL-TALHI, Dhaifallah

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Dhaifallah al-Talhi, Director General for Survey and Research at the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, received his PhD from the University of Southampton in 2000. As a specialist in the Nabataean period, he is the leading archaeologist of the Saudi Arabian Team at the excavations in Madā' in Sālih.

AL-HASHASH, Abdulhamid

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Abdulhamid al-Hashash is Head of the Dammam regional archaeological museum. With an excellent knowledge in regional archaeology, his responsibilities cover all archaeological excavations in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Poster Title

Dosariyah revisited – new archaeological investigations in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dosariyah [al-Dawsariyah], located close to the present shore of the Arabian Gulf between Dammam and Jubayl in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is a key site for the study of the Neolithic in Eastern Arabia. The preservation of a unique succession of at least seven settlement horizons allows for detailed investigations into cultural developments and local economic adaptations. The preservation of both fish and mammal bones as well as innumerable mollusc remains provides insights in both subsistence and environmental studies. Typological and technological studies on stone artefacts can reveal cultural origins and contacts of the inhabitants of the site. The discovery of substantial quantities of Ubaid ['Ubayd] pottery as well as so called 'coarse ware' during the 1970s initialized the debate of the character of Ubaid settlements along the Gulf coast.

The poster will outline the history of research at the site. Results of geomorphological investigations based on remote sensing data will be presented, that demonstrate the sensitivity of the landscape around the site to sea level changes. It is proposed that the settlement of Dosariyah could have been located on an island during the inhabitation of the site. This poster will further highlight the potential for research and depict strategies for new archaeological investigations at Dosariyah.

EL REYES, Abdulla

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Poster Title

The National Center for Documentation and Research (NCDR)

'Memory of the Nation'

Established in Abu Dhabi in 1968 under the directives of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi and the first President of the UAE, the National Center for Documentation and Research (NCDR) is a premier archival and research institution in the Middle East. The NCDR's vision is to provide distinctive archival, documentation and research services that foster in-depth understanding and appreciation of the rich history of the UAE and the Arabian Peninsula. By carrying out its mission of preserving the documentary heritage of the region, and as a trusted source of information for decision makers and the public, the NCDR enhances civic spirit and national identity.

Over a period of four decades, the NCDR has collected historical documents related to the UAE and the Arabian Gulf region from archival repositories around the world. These records come in a variety of formats such as microfilms, manuscripts, books, rare maps, photographs and audio-visual materials which are restored and preserved using latest technology. The foreign records are complimented by the corpus of indigenous 'oral history' resources of a bygone era.

As the trusted custodian of the UAE Government records, the NCDR stands today as a national institution equipped with a vast library and excellent digital and print resources. Its state-of-the-art facilities include a high-tech 700-person auditorium, a 97-person 3-D theatre which takes visitors on a special voyage through the UAE's history; an in-house printing facility; and an exhibition featuring interesting displays related to the nation's history and heritage. Its public outreach programmes include rendering knowledge services, publishing scholarly books, hosting and participating in regional and international conferences, and membership in leading international archival and research centres. The NCDR takes the lead in transforming UAE's history of yesterday and today into tomorrow's permanent record and represents the 'Memory of the Nation'.

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Poster Title

First three campaigns of survey to Ādam from 2007 to 2009

After the discovery of an engraved stone in 2006 near Ādam, dated by Professor Serge Cleuziou to the third millennium BC, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, Sultanate of Oman, instigated an archaeological study of the region of Ādam, nowadays the last oasis in the north of the deserts Umm al-Samīm and the Rub' al-Khālī. For centuries, this area has been the last shelter before entering the desert, being the last oasis and the last crossroad at the same time. During the first three campaigns led by French team from 2007 to 2009, this area has revealed a high archaeological potential with 1155 structures already found. Those sites can be dated from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic period. Among the main results are the discoveries of a large Hafit [Ḥafīt] necropolis at Jabal Qara [Jabal al-Qarā'], Bronze Age graves and possible settlements near Ādam, three small Iron Age graveyards near Jabal Hamra Kaif and two pits undated pits containing camel skeletons.

IBRAHIM, Moawiyah M.

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Moawiyah M. Ibrahim, President for the Friends of Archaeology and Heritage Society, Jordan, representative for the World Heritage Center, former founder Director of the institution for Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University 1984–1992, Jordan. Founder Director of the Department of Archaeology, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. Field researches at numerous sites in Jordan (Sahab, Dayr Allah, Zeiraqoun and Jordan Valley), Bahrain (Sār), Kuwait ('Akāz), Yemen (Wādī Beihan [Baihān], Ma'rib), and Oman (Wādī al-Safafir, Wādī Banī Karūs, al-Balīd, Manal, and Nizwa). Published several books, and over than 150 articles.

Poster Title

Arabic Epigraphy and Writing Materials in Oman

The poster will explore the history of Arabic writing and writing materials in Oman. The first signs in the Arabian Gulf to be identified as writing were observed on small stamp seals excavated at Ra's al-Jinz in the eastern region of the Sultanate of Oman. These signs were dated by the excavators to the second half of the third millennium BC. Other inscriptions (nearly of the same period) from the same site were inscribed on jars and stamp seals imported from the Indus Valley.

Hesaic inscriptions from the Arabian Gulf have been found at al-Dor, Thāj and other Gulf regions. South Arabic inscriptions of the first century AD were restricted to Khawr Rūrī in Dhofar. Other pre-Islamic inscriptions, also found in Dhofar, have been recorded on rocks and inside caves. A small number of Greek and Latin inscriptions have been found at sites on the Oman peninsula.

Arabic inscriptions and graffiti are found on rocks, tombstones, mosques, wooden doors and ceilings, pottery and plastered walls. Other inscriptions are found on household items, coins, silver jewellery and other metals. Monumental inscriptions are mainly found in mosques and Dhofari tomb inscriptions, while other tomb inscriptions were found on simple upright stones and pottery sherds. Inscriptions on wood are found on doors, ceilings, boats and other objects. Silver jewellery and amulets are frequently inscribed with Qur'anic verses, proverbs and *ada'i*. Many 19th- and 20th-century examples have been found in various regions of Oman and other parts of Arabia. Some examples may date from earlier periods, although it was common to smelt older pieces to produce new ones.

Tomb inscriptions were prohibited by the 'Ibādī confession. This practice was also followed by the Sunni population. Exceptions were occasionally made for deceased imams, theologians and scholars. In some limited areas tomb inscriptions were tolerated for other individuals including influential women. I have investigated tomb inscriptions in 'Ibādī regions including Nizwa, Wādī al-Haymala and Wādī Banī Kharous.

Coins were minted in Oman as early as the Umayyad period of the first century AH and continued to be struck in this region bearing the name Oman during the following centuries. Writing was practiced on stones and camel shoulder bones for several centuries, while others practiced writing on rock outcrops, and this continued into the second half of the twentieth century. Teaching in mosques and outside, under the trees, was common.

PARTON, Ash

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Current research involves developing a framework of late Quaternary palaeoenvironmental changes within southeast Arabia, based upon a series of fluvial and lacustrine deposits, as part of his doctoral thesis. Interests include how landscape and climatic changes are reflected within the physical, geochemical and isotopic record, and how such palaeoenvironmental variability may be related to changes within the archaeological record.

PARKER, Adrian

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Adrian Parker's current research interests involve the prehistory of the Middle East and southern England (especially Neolithic and Bronze Age), Quaternary Science, Geoarchaeology/Geomorphology, Environmental Archaeology/palaeoecology. Application of multi proxy techniques e.g. phytoliths, pollen, geochemistry.

FARRANT, Andrew

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Andrew Farrant is a senior geologist within the British Geological Survey and is currently leading an extensive, long-term mapping project of the UAE. He is also involved in an ongoing study to identify and constrain a series of pluvial phases within Arabia between 250,000 and 80,000 years ago.

LENG, Melanie

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Melanie Leng is a senior research scientist within NIGL, Chair of Isotope Geoscience at the University of Nottingham, and Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester. She primarily manages palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironmental research.

UERPMANN, Hans-Peter

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Hans-Peter Uerpman has been working in south-east Arabia from the 1980s, mainly in regard to the Neolithic period, but also extending to the Palaeolithic and Metal Ages with regard to environmental history and Archaeozoology. Fieldwork has concentrated on the Emirate of Sharjah during the last decade in close cooperation with the local Directorate of Antiquities.

SCHWENNINGER, Jean-Luc

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Jean-Luc Schwenninger is a member of the Luminescence Dating and Research Group within the Research Laboratories for Archaeology and the History of Art, in Oxford. He is currently involved in a wide variety of luminescence dating projects, including an ongoing study to identify and constrain a series of pluvial phases within Arabia between 250,000 and 80,000 years ago.

GALLETTI, Chris

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Christopher Galletti is a graduate research student at Oxford Brookes University. His research interests include remote sensing, GIS, human ecology, palaeoenvironments, and human origins. He is currently conducting research on prehistoric sites in Dhofar, Oman.

WELLS, Jon

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Jon Wells is a senior laboratory technician at Oxford Brookes University who specialises in the preparation and analysis of thin section sediments for micromorphology. He is currently involved in a number of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental research projects in south-eastern Arabia.

Poster Title

Evidence for an early MIS3 wet phase from within Southeast Arabia

Southeast Arabia is uniquely positioned with respect to both palaeoclimate and archaeological studies. Whilst its role in the migration and dispersal of early modern humans continues to generate debate, its location at the critical interface between two of the world's major climate systems; the Indian Ocean Monsoon (IOM) and the mid-latitude westerlies (MLW), has prompted a wide variety of palaeoclimatic studies to be conducted. A continually expanding body of work now indicates that Arabia has experienced significant climatic and environmental changes since the last interglacial around 135–120,000 years before present (BP), largely as a result of Indian Ocean Monsoon (IOM) variability, however the timing of such changes remain unresolved. In particular, the occurrence of a pluvial phase during Marine Isotope Stage 3 (MIS3) continues to generate debate, with a variety of records often providing conflicting evidence as to its timing. To address this issue, we present a high-resolution multi-proxy

terrestrial record of an early MIS3 wet phase within the Arabian interior at approximately 56,000 years BP. Geomorphological evidence indicates that during this period, the northward migration and incursion of the IOM into Arabia caused large-scale alluvial fan and wadi networks to become active, issuing from the Hajar mountains towards the Gulf. Of these, a large alluvial fan and its associated drainage network became heavily constrained around the Jabal Faya [Fā'iyah] anticline, causing significant ponding of surface water, which subsequently formed a large overbank palaeolake deposit. Isotopic, geochemical and bulk physical evidence are also presented which provide important information regarding hydrological and catchment stability processes during this period. The evidence presented here therefore not only provides important information regarding the timing and intensity of low latitude climatic excursions, but also provides substantial support for the ability of Arabia to support autochthonous human occupation and development during the Late Pleistocene.

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Sabrina Righetti is a PhD student at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her research concerns the Wādī Sūq period and Late Bronze Age (2000–1300 BC) in the Oman peninsula. She is involved in a survey project in the region of Ādam, Sultanate of Oman.

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Serge Cleuziou is Professor of Oriental Archaeology at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. From 1977 to 1984 he excavated Early Bronze Age remains of settlements and graves at Hili (UAE). He also directed survey in Yemen (1986–1993). From 1985, he has been codirecting, with Prof. M. Tosi, the Joint Hadd Project in the Ja'alan (Oman).

Poster Title

The Wadi Suq potter : typological study of the pottery assemblage at Hili 8 (UAE)

At the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, a new set of pottery appears in the Oman peninsula, reflecting a new society: the Wadi Suq culture. Hili 8 was the first settlement site discovered for this period and was excavated by a French team under the direction of Serge Cleuziou from 1977 to 1984. This poster is the result of work carried out on the archives of Hili 8 excavations. Its aim is to show a typological study of the pottery assemblage coming from the period III levels, which will be fully published for the first time. An inter-site study linking typology, fabric and surface treatment has been made to compare Hili 8 pottery to contemporary sites, in order to define the settlement pottery characteristics and to establish if the pottery assemblage is common to all the area or if some regionalization comes out and to determine the place of production.

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Janet Watson is Professor of Arabic Linguistics at the University of Salford. She has published widely on Yemeni Arabic dialects, and on the phonology and morphology of modern Arabic dialects. She has recently begun to conduct research on the Modern South Arabian Language, Mehri; from 2008 this has involved collaborative work with Alex Bellem on the phonetics and phonology of emphatics in Mehri and Yemeni Arabic.

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Alex Bellem is Research Fellow/Director (Syria) for the British Institute, Amman, and post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Salford. She is a theoretical and comparative phonologist who works on Semitic sound systems, particularly the sound systems of modern Arabic dialects.

*Poster Title*

**The changing role of Semitic emphatics? Evidence from Arabic and beyond**

Emphatics across the Semitic languages today are typically classified either as ejectives (as in Ethio-Semitic languages), 'backed' (as in most Arabic dialects), or somewhere between these two types of realisation (as in some Neo-Aramaic dialects,<sup>1</sup> or various Modern South Arabian languages).<sup>2</sup>

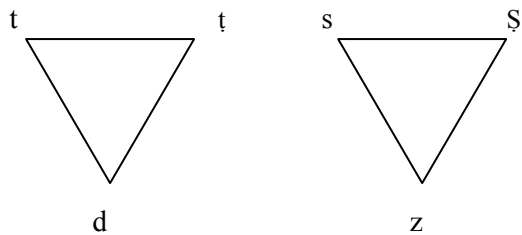
Where emphatics are purely ejectives, 'emphatic' is clearly involved in a three-way laryngeal contrast (voiced–ejective–voiceless), and with respect to obstruents a series of such triadic oppositions may be set up. In Arabic, by contrast, where emphatics are predominantly of the 'backed' variety, they are generally assumed to function as part of a diadic 'backed'–'non-backed' contrast. There is little discussion in the literature, however, of how the Arabic dialects themselves also provide evidence for the changing role of emphatics within Semitic sound systems.

In this paper, we show that in some dialects of Arabic, 'emphatic' consonants still enter into a basically three-way voiced–emphatic–voiceless opposition, while in others they do not. We summarise our acoustic evidence from various types of Arabic dialects as well as Ethio-Semitic, demonstrating the triadic vs dyadic systems as follows:

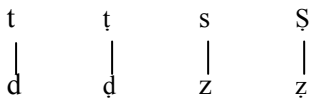
<sup>1</sup> See Dolgopolsky's (1977) trajectory of emphatic development, as per various Neo-Aramaic dialects.

<sup>2</sup> See in particular the discussion in Watson (in press) and Watson & Bellem (forthc.).

a.. *Triadic system (as in Iraqi and Ṣan'āni Arabic, Tigrinya, among others)*



b. *Diadic system (as in Cairene and Damascene Arabic, among others)*



Such evidence not only contributes to Arabic dialectal sound-system typology, but also lends weight to the hypothesis that the early (Common) Semitic emphatics were ejectives. The data may also force us to question the category of voicing in Semitic.

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#### YULE, Paul

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Paul Yule completed his *habilitation* at the University of Heidelberg, where he currently teaches. His most important publications deal with Arabia of the late pre-Islamic period as well as the early metallurgy of South Asia. He is a successful fund raiser with numerous projects seen to completion. Corresponding Member of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.

#### Poster Title

##### Relative Chronology of the Stone Building at Zafār, Capital of the Himyarite Confederation

The Stone Building at Zafār spans over 500 years of history. It is best explained neither as a palace nor a villa, but rather as a temple. Archaeologists attempt to order the structure and its debris into a relative historical sequence of events. Fragmentary walls made of black *habash* stones appear to predate the main structure, which seems to have arisen as a single event. To judge from three <sup>14</sup>C dates in a levelling course below the pavement, this happened at around the time of Christ. During perhaps the later 5<sup>th</sup> century CE nearly life-size figures were set into the interior courtyard wall. Scanty evidence at Zafār suggests its destruction or desertion during the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>14</sup>C datings help to date the debris from the courtyard. This predates the latest architectural finds (the crowned figure relief) by some 200 years. How is this possible? The charcoal which accumulated in the court derives evidently from the refurbished (not original) wooden roof and furniture inside the structure.

This explains why the wooden debris predates also the pottery, which dates to the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> century – immediately after the reliefs. In the 6m thick debris there is no clear stratigraphy and it has been churned up. Even the very late debris, the slaggy ashy deposit (task 400-025), shows the same <sup>14</sup>C dates as the debris from the floor and upper debris. Squatter settlement remains came to light.

#### Z A I D, Zaydoon

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#### Poster Title

##### Awam Temple (Mahram Bilqis)

The latest excavations by the American Foundation for the Study of Man have revealed one of the most significant temple complexes in ancient South Arabia, the Awam temple, located near the ancient city of Ma'rib, about 160 km to the east of the Yemeni capital Sanaa. The main concern of the poster is the presentation of the architectural layout of the Temple Complex. The poster seeks to discuss and to present the changes and alterations applied to the architectural layout during the different occupational phases of the Awam temple.

**ISENBERGER, Bill**

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William H. Isenberger, CEO of Digital Mapping and Graphics, Springfield, Missouri, specializes in archaeological cartography, GIS development and digital reconstructions. Since the early 1980s, Isenberger has been involved in over 300 archaeological and historical projects, primarily in the United States and the Middle East with extensive experience in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

*Poster Title*

**The west wall of the Peristyle Hall, Awam Temple (Mahram Bilqis)**

This poster presents a modelling project of the west wall of the Peristyle Hall of the Awam Temple, created with the new PhotoModeler Scanner software using Dense Surface Modeling (DSM). The wall is 19 m long and 2.8 m high. The photos used for the PhotoModeler Scanner project were taken using a Canon Digital Rebel with a 20 mm lens in the spring of 2006. Some of the targets used for photo referencing were shot in with a reflector-less total station to provide control points to reference the PhotoModeler project to the site coordinate system. The final images were rendered in 3D Studio Max.

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