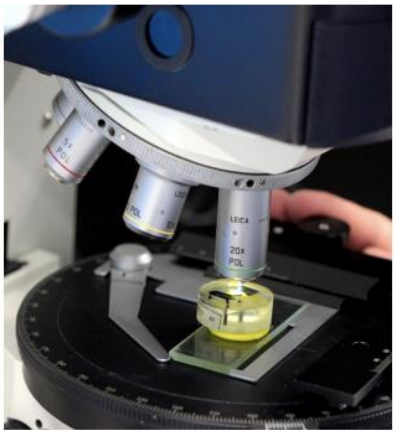
Advancements in Archaeology






SAMS Annual Conference

13 May, 2019

SOCIETY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MASTERS STUDENTS

UCL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

SAMS Graduate Conference | Institute of Archaeology
University College London

Conference Agenda Monday 13th May 2019

1000 – 1030 Registration

1030 – 1045 Welcome address

Professor Kevin Macdonald FSA
Masters Tutor | Institute of Archaeology | UCL

Lauren Lien
President, Society of Archaeological Masters Students | UCL

1050 – 1200 Session 1

1200 – 1230 Break

1230 – 1330 Session 2

1330 – 1430 Lunch

1430 – 1500 Archive Lottery (MOLA)

1500 – 1620 Session 4

1620 – 1645 Break / Voting

1645 – 1700 Announcements

1700 – 1800 Keynote

Dr Claire Lucas
Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory | British Museum

1800 – 1805 Closing remarks

1805 – 2000 Reception

UCL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
82 Years Leading Global Archaeology and Heritage
2019

History of the Institute of Archaeology

Over 80 Years of history 1937 - 2019

The origin of the Institute of Archaeology goes back to Mortimer Wheeler's vision of creating a centre for archaeological training in Britain, which he conceived in the 1920s. Thanks to his efforts and those of his wife, Tessa Verney Wheeler, his ambitions were realised when the Institute was officially opened in 1937, with Mortimer Wheeler as its first director.

Among its early members of staff were some of the founding ancestors of archaeology in Britain. Foremost among these, apart from Wheeler himself, was Gordon Childe, director from 1946 to 1957, but there were many others, including Kathleen Kenyon, excavator of Jericho, initially secretary then the Institute's acting director during World War II; Frederick Zeuner, one of the founders of quaternary studies and of zooarchaeology; Joan du Plat Taylor, the Institute's librarian for many years, who was a founder of underwater archaeology; and Max Mallowan, Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology (and second husband of Agatha Christie).

Initially the Institute was based in St John's Lodge, Regent's Park, but in 1958 it moved into purpose-built new premises in Gordon Square, next to UCL in the heart of Bloomsbury, where it remains to this day, ideally placed between the British Museum and the British Library and with its own outstanding library, laboratories and collections. Until the mid 1980s the Institute of Archaeology was an independent institute within the University of London but in 1986 it joined UCL. Although the Institute is proud of its founding ancestors it has never rested on its laurels and today it is the largest Department of Archaeology in Britain, and one of the largest in the world. The Institute is at the forefront of research and teaching in world archaeology, archaeological sciences and heritage studies, focusing on the importance of the past in the present, and has a student body whose remarkable diversity is second to none.

The Institute of Archaeology's mission is:

- to be internationally pre-eminent in the study, and comparative analysis, of world archaeology
- to enhance its national and international reputation for the quality and breadth of its multi-disciplinary and thematic approach to the study of the human past
- to promote best practice in the management of cultural heritage and in the study, care and preservation of archaeological artefacts
- to promote awareness of the problems caused by illicit trade in antiquities and the destruction of archaeological heritage that it entails
- to ensure that the social, political and economic contexts of the practice of archaeology are taught and appreciated
- to be at the forefront of international research in archaeological sciences
- to play a major role in furthering the understanding of London's archaeological and historical past

- to provide archaeological opportunities of the highest quality to all, regardless of background

More Information: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/about-us/history-of-the-institute/index

The Society of Archaeological Masters Students

Established in 2012, the Society of Archaeological Masters Students (SAMS) was created to represent the master's students throughout the 18 MSc and MA programmes available at the Institute.

SAMS helps promote the master's students as contributors to the greater archaeological community by hosting academic conferences, workshops, and trips. SAMS provides a great social and networking environment for Master students at the Institute of Archaeology.

Besides academic support, **SAMS is here to help**. SAMS puts on social events throughout the academic year for all master's students in the IoA including a weekly coffee morning. Additionally, SAMS acts as a point of contact for all master's students if there is an issue that needs to be dealt with, working alongside degree representatives.

As a relatively new society, SAMS is still growing into its role, but we aim to continue to become more and more of an integrated and vital part of the Institute for years to come. We aim to help ensure that master's students are given every opportunity to excel in their academic, social, and personal life during their time here. Anyone and everyone doing a postgraduate course at the IoA who would like to volunteer to help out with SAMS activities are very welcome to join! We want all graduate students at IoA to make the most of their experience in London and within the IoA.

Want to get in contact?

facebook.com/samsioa

@IoA_SAMS

@ioa_sams

Website - https://sams-ucl.weebly.com

Executive Board

Lauren Lien | President

MSc Palaeoanthropology & Palaeolithic Archaeology

Tori Bianchi | Vice President

MSc Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology

Tom Dwyer | Secretary and Treasurer

MSc Palaeoanthropology & Palaeolithic Archaeology

Phoebe Yates | Events Coordinator

MA Mediterranean Archaeology

Alex Rodzinka | Fundraising Coordinator

MSc Archaeological Science

Katherine Dixey | Conference Coordinator

MSc Palaeoanthropology & Palaeolithic Archaeology

Abstracts

Session 1

Lauren Lien | MSc Palaeoanthropology & Palaeolithic Archaeology | University College London

Form, Functionality, and the Social Sphere: An Analysis of Byzantine Period Ceramics from Tall Dhiban, Jordan

Tall Dhiban is an archaeological site, inhabited over the course of multiple millennia, with the pinnacle of its occupation falling within the Byzantine Period. Through an analysis of ceramic remains from Dhiban, various insights can be drawn that contribute to the discussion of the role of community relations in the Byzantine Empire as a whole. A close comparison between the ceramics utilized at Dhiban with nearby sites provides useful understandings regarding aspects of social life such as potential trade networks and routes, political and local organization, craft production and specialization, and site activity and use. With little information available regarding the role of ceramics in the region, this study adds to the collective pool of typological, functional, and elemental characterization of Byzantine ceramics, and a greater understanding of the role of ceramics in the Transjordan region overall.

Charlotte Nash | MA Archaeology and Heritage of Ancient Egypt and the Near East | University College London

Accounting for the broad spectrum of social, symbolic, and technological innovations that accompanied the adoption and spread of domesticates in the Middle East: A comparative, cross-disciplined approach

This study explores how Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN) sites in the Middle East (ca.13,000-9,500BP), such as Jericho, Göbekli Tepe, Hallan Çemi and Çatalhöyük, demonstrates the inconsistencies of past universal socioeconomic models. It challenges past assumptions of an immediate, unilinear and universal adoption of agriculture, leading to sedentism, revealing that a huge variety of polycentric subsistence models and lifestyles coexisted for thousands of years before gradually favouring sedentary agricultural economies. The eventual spread and adoption of various domesticates in this period was accompanied by a broad spectrum of social, symbolic and technological innovations. By employing a multifaceted approach, the intention is to offer additional insights and clarification to this regionally variable, complex and protracted development. The significance of socio-symbolic expressions under similar and differing climatic environments and subsequent human alterations to the landscape is compared, alongside localised climate sequencing data and recent DNA evidence of the variegated domestication process. Combined evidence suggests differing reactions to local environmental opportunities and challenges resulted in increased mobility, sedentism and increase in pan-regional trade and communications networks. This enabled an adaptive support system of cohabiting, interlinked but differing lifestyles and further experimentation

that resulted in the dissemination of innovations across the Middle East. One of the key findings is that many of these complex processes had their roots in earlier - less visible - Natufian group practices. This indicates, not a depart from earlier activities but, cultural continuities and further development of pre-existing Epipalaeolithic social developments.

Claire Holubowskyj | MPhil Archaeology | University of Oxford

Shedding light on colonial trade and diplomacy: an analysis of Dutch cannons in Vietnam

The pursuit of spices and silks from Southeast Asia drove the development of long-distance European trade in the 17th and 18th centuries. Dutch East India Company (VOC) involvement was extensive and reliant on carefully curated relations with local rulers, often bought with diplomatic gifts. As a waypoint on the voyage undertaken by VOC ships from Batavia to Japan and a source of smuggled Chinese goods, the use of diplomacy in Vietnam can highlight the broader trends in VOC policy across Southeast Asia. X-Ray Fluorescence and Scanning Electron Microscope analysis of a cannon collection in Hue highlight the complex and multi-faceted nature of cross-cultural contacts. The cannons analysed represent a range of provenances: VOC made for VOC use, VOC gifts to local rulers, and Vietnamese commissions from the VOC. Analysis reveals variations in decoration and make quality that suggest political influence played a role. One cannon, commissioned by the Vietnamese, was of significantly poorer quality than the other cannons analysed, with unusual composition suggesting origins in a Southeast Asian cannon foundry rather than the Dutch Republic. By applying analytical technologies to the products of known trade relations, new light can be shed on the role of diplomacy on the complex and nuanced nature of early colonial trade.
I look forward to hearing back soon.

Session 2

Natalie Bankuti | MA Artefact Studies | University College London

Archaeoastronomy of the Classic Maya: Terrestrial Evidence of Celestial Influence

For as long as humans have existed, we have turned to the sky as a means for navigation and timekeeping, and eventually, we began to use the stars for spiritual purposes or as celestial blueprints for our Earthly constructions. The sky, and the heavenly bodies within it, have been the inspiration for etiological myths and home to a variety of pantheons across the world's ancient cultures; among them, the Maya stand out as having one of the most intimate understandings of these skyscapes. By studying the stars with mere naked eye observations, Maya astronomers noted the movement of these celestial bodies and integrated them into the very fabric of their sociopolitical structures. This paper will explore the connection between the archaeological record in the Maya landscape and the cosmological record in the skyscape, using archaeoastronomy and its many interdisciplinary facets. Though this approach draws upon many disciplines, such as ethnography and historical astronomy, it is through this archaeological approach that we can get closer to uncovering the intricacies of the Maya culture. Examining such examples as the Maya Calendar and the accompanying hieroglyphic script used to write Long Count dates, I will attempt to highlight how integral studying the sky must have been to ancient Maya people; albeit using an approach that is solely based on terrestrial evidence.

Miguel Fuentes | PhD Candidate | University College London
Sven Ransijn | MRes Student | Leiden University

A re-assessment of the local component of Huánuco Pampa from a spatial and architectural perspective

A spatial and architectonical analysis of the Inca 'administrative site' of Huanuco Pampa is used in this presentation to assess the unit densities, building areas, architectural clustering and spatial associations. On the basis of this analysis we propose that local populations played a much more central role in the economic, social and politic dynamics of this Inca center than suggested by Craig Morris's original interpretation. We suggest that local populations played a much greater role in the control, or management, of many of the collcas or storage system (which are usually interpreted as being under strict state control). Other examples of the authority of local populations could be potentially seen in the association of local structures with a concentration of probable animal corrals near the area interpreted as an accllahuasi (which a significant activity of the 'chosen women' is thought to have been textile production)This evidence also points to a more permanent occupation by the local occupation (which Morris previously interpreted as mostly a temporary/seasonal presence in relation to state taxation and festivals) suggesting a greater significance of local economic, social and ritual household dynamics within the site. From this basis we review other lines of the archaeological and ethnohistorical evidence, to re-evaluate the characterization of this Inca site as an administrative centre and the nature of Inca power in the Huanuco region.

Tori Bianchi | MSc Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology | University College London

Difficulties in identifying the remains of transgender, gender diverse, and gender non-conforming individuals in forensic anthropology

An integral part of the process for a forensic anthropologist is the development of a biological profile. The development of a profile includes the analysis of sex. This determination can help narrow the pool of people who may be matched to a set of remains. This may seem straight forward; if a skeleton is determined to have female features, males can be eliminated from the ID pool. However, this process becomes complicated when transgender, gender diverse, and gender non-conforming individuals are considered.

Identity is composed of a number of components; biological, social, and legal aspects which may or may not be consistent within a single individual. These inconsistencies can create challenges in the process of forensic identification and police processes. Accurately matching individuals to a set of remains is a vital part of an investigation, and one which is inhibited unless the person's lived identity as well as their biology is captured. As of now, investigative processes are poorly equipped to handle these complex situations, often to the detriment of the investigation and in disrespect to the identity of the deceased.

Session 3

Hugo Cano and Marcos S. Sola-Conesa | MSc Palaeoanthropology and Palaeolithic Archaeology | University College London

Are group interactions the origin of the human evolutionary transition? An example from the distribution of countries

The major transitions in evolution are events in which a set of individual elements interact producing an increase in biological complexity. Some examples are the origin of life, the prokaryotic cell or the multicellular organisms. In this sense, it has been proposed that the human eusociality may represent the last evolutionary transition. In addition, the relationships between the elements in some of these systems have been studied. For instance, it has been shown that the cellular metabolism presents a Small World Scale-free topology. Moreover, social networks usually have the same structure. Interestingly, although it has been proposed that individuals are the elements interacting in this event, communication and trading between tribes have been suggested as one of the reasons for the success of our species. Consequently, the coordination between groups may have been the origin of the human evolutionary transition. A prediction of this hypothesis is that human groups should interact with similar rules than individuals in a society or molecules in a cell. As a result, the same Small World Scale-free structure should be found these systems. To test this statement, we propose an example using the countries of the world as nodes and the presence of terrestrial borders as edges. However, the degree of the resulting network does not have an undoubtedly power-law distribution. Nevertheless, its mean random path and transitivity are larger that an equivalent random network. This suggests that it may have small world properties. Finally, the tools applied here may be useful in similar contexts. For example, it may be interesting to test if the relationships between human groups in a smaller scale follow a power-law distribution. Furthermore, the concept of interactions between groups may also be applied to other non-human primates.

Alex Rodzinka | MSc Archaeological Science | University College London

Identification of pigments from 22nd Dynasty coffins in the British Museum collections

In this presentation pigments used in Dynastic Egypt are discussed, with focus on 22nd Dynasty coffins. The ongoing study investigates pigments employed in the decoration of cartonnage mummy-cases of Theban and non-Theban styles in the British Museum collections. It is a part of a larger project which seeks to fully catalogue Egyptian funerary objects at the museum. Pigments, varnishes and resins applied to the coffins will be eventually examined. Polarised light microscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and Raman spectroscopy will be employed to identify the pigments present. Close examination of the objects is an opportunity to study the order in which the decoration was applied by the ancient craftspeople as well as their mistakes and techniques. Another goal of the study is to determine whether any differences in pigments used can be discerned between Theban and non-Theban style coffins and to further our understanding of Ancient Egyptian palette.

Dr Andrew Gardner | Senior Lecturer, IoA | University College London

On most ancient Earth: the narrative role of stratigraphy and deep time in terrestrial science fiction

It is axiomatic that science fiction is about the present as much as the future, but this means it is also about the past: any fictional world needs a sense of history to make it a convincing setting. Just as the genre allows creators to experiment with future outcomes of present moments, it also makes use of the ways in which real past societies are understood to document that path to the future. These temporal permutations are particularly interesting in science fiction set on a distant future Earth, where 'the archaeological' is often a very powerful presence. This paper will explore how science fiction novels, comics and games use archaeology, and particularly stratigraphy, to create tales of future pasts. I will triangulate some common themes and motifs from three case studies: the relatively near-future setting of *2000AD*'s Judge Dredd; the richly elaborated Terra of the Warhammer 40,000 universe, featured in the core game and numerous other media produced by Games Workshop; and the dying Urth of the *Book of the New Sun*, by Gene Wolfe. These disparate creations across a range of media share ways of using ideas derived from archaeology to tell often-dark tales of our future Earth.

Keynote Speaker

Dr Claire Lucas | British Museum

Decoration on Palaeolithic weapons

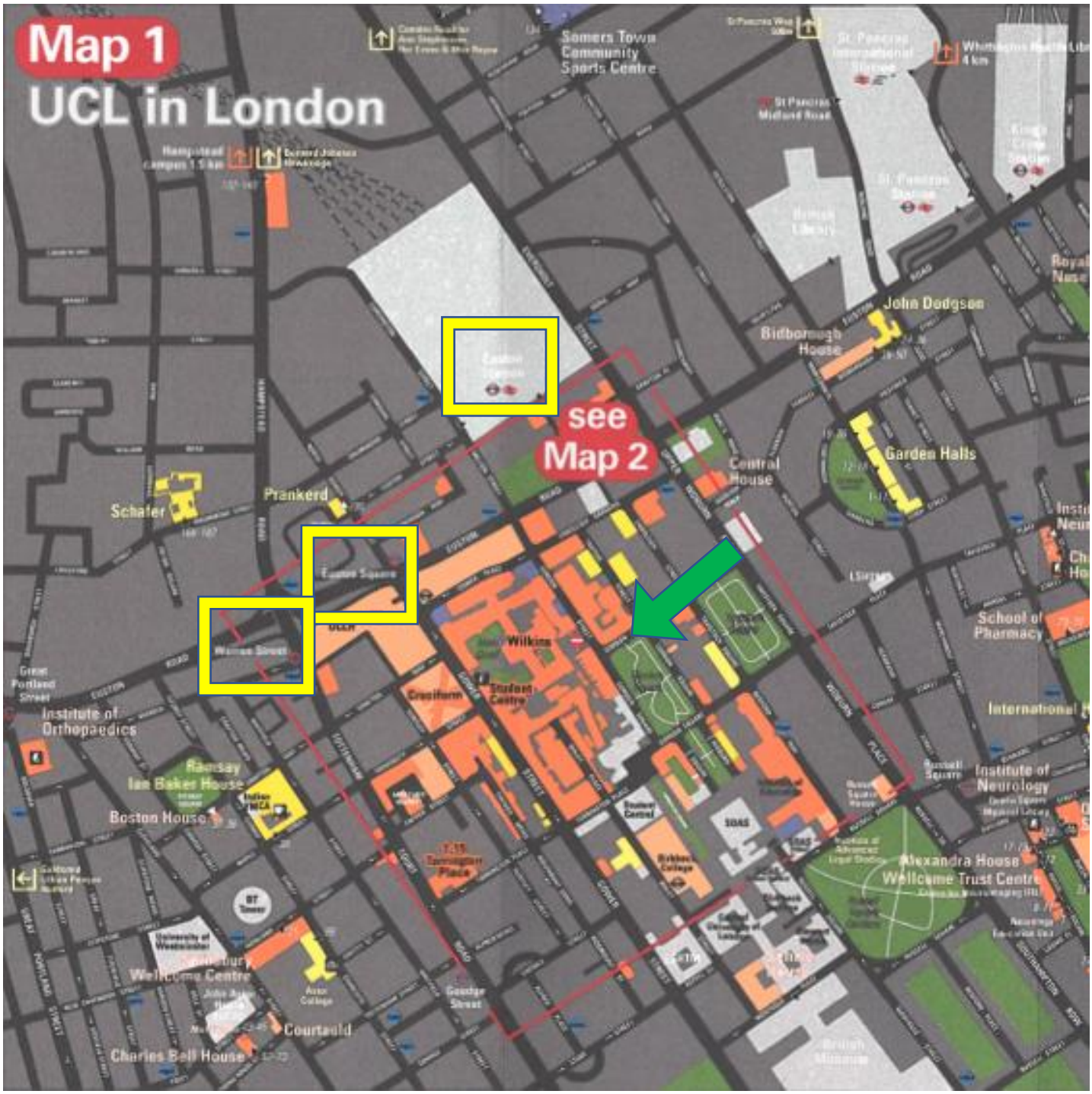
Decorated weapons from the European Upper Palaeolithic show an original thematic which is dominated by geometric patterns while animal depictions are rare and primarily associated with particular types of weapons. In order to clarify the circumstances of production and the organisation of such geometric decorations, we have undertaken a technological analysis of Magdalenian weapons from southern France in addition to the structural analysis of their decoration. This study notably allowed us to highlight some of the signs associations, syntax rules, and declensions systems structuring the organisation of geometric patterns in Magdalenian portable art. It also emphasized the association of peculiar types of decorations with different sub-types of weapons that are more or less outstanding within the equipment. Moreover, variations in the areas of spread of decorated weapons suggested an evolution of the relationships between Magdalenian populations from southern France and northern Spain. Commenting on this particular study, the presentation will give an example of building up and evolution of a research project, from its early beginning as part of a PhD thesis (at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) to further developments amongst collective research discussing the organisation of Upper Palaeolithic societies.

Posters

George Francis | MSc Palaeoanthropology and Palaeolithic Archaeology | University College London

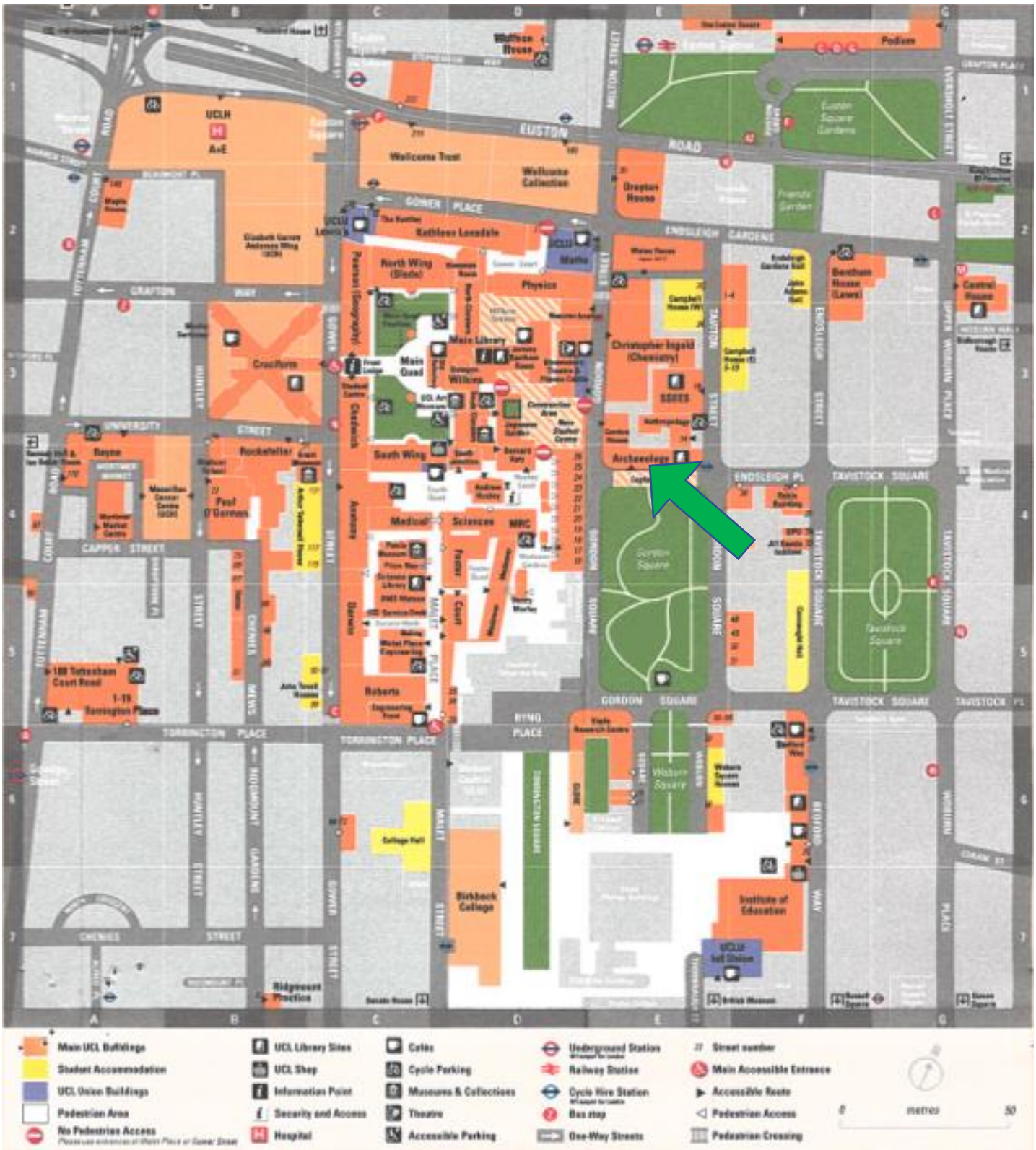
The primate fossil record is sparse, which has made their phylogenetic reconstruction a difficult task. This is particularly a problem for studies looking to discern ancient migration patterns, adaptive radiation events, or for their biochronological utility. The interpretation of primates' evolutionary relationships has frequently relied upon cladistic analyses of craniofacial traits. However, significant morphological deviations can occur in the fossil record on the account of homoplasies. These are hypothesised to most often affect morphology of the mandible and nasal bones, and, although they offer potential inference of ecological conditions for accompanying specimens, they have the ability to greatly distort the accuracy of phylogenetic reconstructions. Therefore, in order to reconstruct phylogeny in the fossil record, it is important to analyse instances in extant species of which we have a far greater sample size and thus range of variation. Although several studies have sought to do this, few have done so analysing morphological shape, favouring size. This is important as morphological size is known to be more ecologically liable than shape, and therefore presents a greater challenge for accurate evolutionary reconstructions. As a result, I conducted a study of nonallometric shape variation on several taxa of OWM to distinguish whether potential homoplastic traits may even be registered across craniofacial shape, and to quantify the extent this may distort the reconstruction of evolutionary relationships of primate taxa.

How to find us



Closest stations (yellow boxes);

Warren Street – Victoria Line / Northern Line **(ideal from London Victoria and London Waterloo)**
Euston Square – Hammersmith & City Line / Metropolitan Line / Circle Line **(ideal from London Paddington)**
Euston – Victoria Line / Northern Line


EUSTON ROAD
GOWER PLACE
ENDSLEIGH GARDENS
GRAFTON WAY
UNIVERSITY STREET
CAPPER STREET
TORRINGTON PLACE
GORDON SQUARE
TAVISTOCK SQUARE
RING PLACE
UCLH
A&E
Wellcome Trust
Wellcome Collection
Kathleen Lonsdale
North Wing (Slade)
Physics
Main Library
Main Quad
Christopher Ingold (Chemistry)
South Wing
Medical Sciences
Archaeology
Rockefeller
Roberts
Birkbeck College
Institute of Education
Ridgmount Practice
Main UCL Buildings
Student Accommodation
UCL Union Buildings
Pedestrian Area
No Pedestrian Access
UCL Library Sites
UCL Shop
Information Point
Security and Access
Hospital
Cafés
Cycle Parking
Museums & Collections
Theatre
Accessible Parking
Underground Station
Railway Station
Cycle Hire Station
Bus stop
One-Way Streets
Street number
Main Accessible Entrance
Accessible Route
Pedestrian Access
Pedestrian Crossing
0
metres
50

Institute of Archaeology / UCL Facilities

A **Water Fountain** can be found on the 5th floor of the Institute, outside of the library.

Toilets within the institute alternate between male and female from the second floor upwards, gender neutral toilets can be found on the first floor.

…

Tea and Coffee will be available throughout all of the breaks. At lunch time, there are numerous cafes and eateries within UCL (Map 2).

…

UCL Museums

Grant Museum of Zoology
Rockefeller Building
University College London
21 University Street
London WC1E 6DE

The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
University College London
Malet Place
London WC1E 6BT

UCL Art Museum
South Cloisters
Wilkins Building
University College London
London WC1E 6BT

(other museums can be found on the UCL Museums website https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/museums/)

Please do ask any member of the SAMS executive board for any other information

Special thanks

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82 Years Leading Global Archaeology and Heritage
2019

The British Museum

MOLA
MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY