

## The Institute's primary research groups

*The coordinators of each of the Institute's five primary research groups report on their group's activities during the 2005/2006 academic year.*

### The Environment and Culture Research Group

Coordinator: Simon Hillson

**T**he Environment and Culture Research Group brings together the staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute whose research concerns past interactions between people and their environments. Several members of the group also participate in the activities of the AHRC Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity, which is directed by James Steele (see pp. 20–22). This year two student coordinators, Andrew Shapland and Anna Clement, were elected.

#### Research projects

A growing focus is Palaeolithic archaeology, and there is a new interest group that meets regularly at the Institute. Andrew Garrard, Norah Moloney, Dietrich Stout and Ignacio de la Torre outline their Palaeolithic research on pp. 14–19. The Qadisha Valley project is jointly directed by Andrew Garrard and Corine Yazbeck, and it focuses on an Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic site in the mountains of Lebanon. Excavation continued this year, with a major award from the British Academy. Andrew has continued work on the Azraq Project (Upper Palaeolithic, Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic sites in Jordan), with funding from the Council for British Research in the Levant, and the first volume on this is to be published this year. Ignacio de la Torre is co-directing excavations at four Palaeolithic sites in Spain: Pinedo (Toledo), La Roca dels Bous (Lérida), Abrigo de Buendía (Cuenca) and Cova Grana (Lérida). He has also published on lithics from the Olduvai beds of Tanzania. Norah Moloney has continued work on the Palaeolithic Azokh cave site, in Nagorno Karabagh.

Several members of the group work on the Çatalhöyük project in Turkey, which is directed by Professor Ian Hodder (Stanford University). The project is an international collaboration with many participants (120 in the 2005 field season). Louise Martin coordinates the faunal-remains team, along with Nerissa Russell (Cornell University) and Katheryn Twiss (Berkeley). Other Institute personnel involved include Jane Sidell (eggshell analysis), Arlene Rosen (phytolith analysis) and Simon Hillson, who, with Clark Larsen (Ohio State University), coordinates the human-remains team.

The work of Ken Thomas and Marcello Mannino continues on prehistoric human

ecology in the coastal zone of western Sicily, a project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. They have carried out fieldwork in Sicily and have also worked on shellfish assemblages stored in the Archaeological Museum in Palermo. Stable-isotope analysis of shell carbonates has continued at the NERC Isotope Geoscience Laboratory at Keyworth, near Nottingham, to build a picture of the seasonality of shellfish exploitation and to follow climatic changes (as indicated by surface seawater temperatures) from the Late Pleistocene to the mid-Holocene.

Simon Hillson has continued to work on the biology of past human populations. He was awarded a three-year Leverhulme Trust grant to work with Daniel Antoine on the development of children in London from Roman to post-Medieval times, using the large collections of the Museum of London. This project involves collaboration with Gustav Milne, Bill White, Derek Keene (Centre for Metropolitan History) and Tony Waldron. Thanks to an Alexander S. Onassis Foundation Foreigner's Fellowship, Simon Hillson spent three months on Rhodes working on material from the unique children's cemetery on the Greek island of Astypalaia, in collaboration with the 22nd Ephorate of Prehistoric & Classical Antiquities.

Dorian Fuller has carried out field and laboratory work in China, supported by a British Academy Sino-British Trust grant, working on the pre-domestication cultivation of rice and nut collectors in the Lower Yangtze region. He also returned to south India to work on Neolithic sites as part of the Bellary District Archaeological Project, which focuses on threatened Neolithic and Iron Age sites in this District of Karnataka. Dorian and Eleni Asouti (who has left the Institute for a lectureship at Liverpool University) have sent to press their book, *Trees and woodlands in south India*. Mary Anne Murray and Dorian organized the Fifth International Workshop for African Archaeobotany at the Institute. Mary Anne is also continuing her AHRB-funded project on Egyptian crops and is assistant director of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project in Egypt (director: Mark Lehner of the University of Chicago). David Jeffreys continued work on the Egypt Exploration Society's Memphis survey, investigating buried sediments and structures at the foot of the Saqqara Plateau. The main finding of this season's work demonstrated that,

throughout the development of Memphis, the valley floor and flood levels of the Nile were lower than had previously been thought. This has implications for the area of inundated land, and its potential carrying capacity.

Mark Nesbitt, an honorary research fellow of the Institute, who manages the Plant Cultures Project at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, published *Identification guide for Near Eastern grass seeds* in the Institute of Archaeology publication series. Other honorary members of the group include Ann Kendall, who continued to direct the Cusichaca Trust's excavation and mapping project on agricultural terraces in Ayacucho, Peru. Steve Rosen has been undertaking fieldwork in the Negev Desert of Israel; radiocarbon dating of sheep and goat dung from the Ramon IV rockshelter has yielded the earliest date (6000) for the penetration of domestic herd animals into the desert.

#### Seminars

The autumn 2005 Institute research seminars were organized by Dorian Fuller and Eleni Asouti. The topic was "Social frontiers of economies: a worldwide perspective on interactions between hunter-gatherers, herders and farmers". Speakers included Steve Rosen on desert pastoral nomadism, Dorian Fuller on agricultural frontiers in South Asia, Bill Finlayson (University of Reading) on increasing sedentism during the PPNA of Jordan, Douglas Baird (University of Liverpool) on sedentarization in Anatolia, Paul Halstead (University of Sheffield) on herders and farmers of the Pindos Mountains in Greece, Steven Mithen (University of Reading) on Wadi Faynan in Jordan, Ole Grøn on Yakut pastoralists, Eleni Asouti and Dorian Fuller on transitions from hunting and gathering in south India, Chris Stevens (of the archaeological service organization, Wessex Archaeology) on the Neolithic transition in Britain, and Simon Kaner (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures) on the Jomon-Yayoi transition in Japan.

Andrew Shapland and Anna Clement, our student coordinators, organized and chaired a highly successful "Environment and culture" session for the Graduate Conference in March. Andrew and Anna both contributed papers, on zoo buildings and Natufian tooth wear respectively, and there were also contributions from Edgar Samarasundera (quantitative modelling of landscape dynamics and land-use change), Jago Cooper (the pre-Columbian coastal exploitation in Cuba), Emma Harvey (early agriculture in India), Geoff M. Smith (Lower and Middle Palaeolithic hominins as taphonomic agents) and Andie Byrnes (pigs in Neolithic Egypt).

## The Material Culture and Data Science Research Group

Coordinator: Thilo Rehren

**T**he Material Culture and Data Science Research Group brings together staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute who are interested in the analysis of archaeological materials, particularly by instrumental and quantitative methods, within broader archaeological frameworks. It aims to apply these methods to archaeological questions by generating data that are independent of, and complementary to, traditional archaeological methods of enquiry. A major focus is the study of ancient technologies by analyzing the form and composition of artefacts, raw materials and waste products, and through experimental studies. We aim to optimize the productivity of the Institute's substantial human and technical resources in this field, and to promote the understanding of science-based archaeological information as an essential component of material culture. One way to achieve this is for the group to facilitate cooperation in projects being developed by the Institute's other research groups, and for its individual members to contribute to group research in addition to their own projects.

### Research projects

Most of our research is done collaboratively, with colleagues in the Institute and with external partners. From the wide range of research undertaken by members of the group, I highlight in this year's report three areas of activity: ancient ceramics, glass and glaze production, and past lead and silver technology. Ceramics are exceptionally important archaeological materials in virtually all areas of the world, and several new staff and research students are focusing their research on ceramics. Their activities range from the petrographic and chemical investigation of domestic pottery production and trade in the Levant to the study of the specialized technical ceramics used in Bronze Age Egyptian glassmaking and European silver refining in the early Modern period. Several links emerge from these studies, demonstrating how the various activities in the research group and the Institute as a whole are often closely interconnected. The analyses are based on optical and scanning-electron microscopy and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis; the growing demand in this area led to the purchase of new microscopes in the Wolfson Laboratories (see below). The ceramic vessels from Egypt were used for glassmaking (see p. 5 in *AI 2004/2005*), and the investigation and experimental reconstruction of them is proving to be more informative about glassmaking practices than the study of the actual glass materials themselves. Similarly, understanding late medieval and early Modern silver metallurgy crucially

depends on an appreciation of the various ceramic crucibles and furnaces used during the production and refining of silver. This metal has become a major focus for several staff and students, addressing a major gap in archaeometallurgical research. Three PhD projects currently address lead and silver production in Roman Spain, Austria in the Renaissance period, and colonial to present-day Bolivia, respectively. The Bolivia study, by Claire Cohen, is breaking new ground with the first-ever investigation of traditional (i.e. non-European) silver production in South America, and is receiving much attention in both the Americas and Europe.

### The Wolfson Archaeological Science Laboratories

This winter, we have finally seen the end of the building works in the Wolfson Laboratories, which were necessary because of the erection of a new five-storey building for UCL's Department of Anthropology directly above the labs (see p. 5 in the 2004/2005 issue of *AI*). As a result, we now have more space than before, although some of it is divided into rather small and less-than-ideal units. Despite this, among the major improvements is a dedicated laboratory for optical microscopy, with four new microscopes for thin-section petrography and one combined transmitted and reflected-light microscope with a digital camera attached to project images onto two large screens. Another improvement is that we now have space to lay out specimens before selecting those that need to be cut or otherwise sampled, as well as dedicated storage facilities for students' research materials. Finally, with substantial financial support from the European Union via the Marie-Curie project (see below) and a grant from the Institute for Archaeo-Metallurgical Studies, we were able to set up a study room to house our reference collection for technical materials, the R. F. Tylecote Library of archaeometallurgical literature, with desks and computer facilities for visiting scholars and honorary members of staff. The most recent arrival in the laboratories is a brand-new Hitachi scanning-electron microscope with energy-dispersive spectrometry, replacing an ageing machine that was seriously damaged during a particularly unfortunate episode of the building works. Work is also in hand to utilize the inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer, which we took over from the UCL Department of Chemistry in late 2005; it will be used mainly for trace-element analyses of metals and glass. (See pp. 32–35 for an application of this analytical technique).

### Conferences, seminars and visitors

A major event for the group was the two-yearly International Symposium for Archaeometry, which this May took place in Quebec. Among about 200 researchers from all over the world, there were 12 members of our research group: eight research students, two permanent staff and two honorary staff. Our contributions covered ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, as well as Egyptian and Byzantine glass and early Islamic glazes; the emphasis of our presentations was very much on ancient production technology and the development of suitable methods for studying these. A similarly strong delegation from the Institute, again including several members of our group, attended the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeologists, held in Puerto Rico, presenting continuing research in Bolivia and Cuba, among other topics.

The Institute has always attracted overseas visitors undertaking extended research periods here. Thanks to the Marie Curie Early Stage Training awards (see p. 5 in *AI 2004/2005*), as well as other sources of funding, research students and scholars from India, China, Romania, Greece, New Zealand and the USA used the Wolfson Laboratories and the Archaeological and Geographic Information Systems Laboratory for three-month training and research visits. Although this at times adds to the pressure on our equipment and other resources, it contributes very positively to the international outreach of the Institute, and helps us to establish and strengthen long-term research partnerships.

### The experimental archaeology field course

Another exciting development is the Institute's growing links with West Dean College and the Edward James Estate, West Sussex, in a five-year project of archaeological surveys of the 2430 ha estate, studying changes in the form and location of occupation and land use over time. This year Bill Sillar organized the Experimental Archaeology Field Course at West Dean, a four-day induction course for all first-year students in archaeology, which provides students with first-hand experience of activities and technologies such as flint knapping, butchering using flint tools, tar making, woodworking and many more. More structured experimental aspects are also developing, as more staff and research students become involved in organizing activities and recording specific data and observations. At West Dean we can have year-round access, enabling the setting-up of permanent structures and follow-up visits. This year's training excavation was located at Batten Hanger Roman villa on the estate. At the time of writing, these excavations are in progress, and among the artefacts recovered from the site were iron slag and hammer scale, which could form the focus for a future MSc dissertation.

## The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group

Coordinator: Todd Whitelaw

**T**he Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group brings together staff, postgraduate students and honorary members of the Institute whose primary interest is in anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of past societies, with the common aim of studying comparatively the dynamics of systems of material culture, cutting across the regional and chronological boundaries that have traditionally divided archaeology.

### Research projects

Members of the group have been involved in research on five continents, many in collaboration with colleagues at UCL and at other institutions in the UK and abroad. Some are continuing projects, and a significant number are new; most have involved Institute students, from first-year undergraduates to doctoral researchers.

The Mediterranean continues to be a strong focal area for research. Ruth Whitehouse and Sue Hamilton's Tavoliere-Gargano Prehistory Project focuses on Neolithic to Iron Age landscapes in southern Italy. In the Aegean, Cyprian Broodbank's Kythera Island Project continues to study material collected during the field surveys of 1998–2002, and new survey projects were initiated on the neighbouring island of Antikythera by Andrew Bevan (the Antikythera Survey Project) and on Crete by Todd Whitelaw (the Knossos Urban Landscape Project). All three projects investigate landscapes from the earliest occupation in the Neolithic to the present day. The entire island is encompassed by the project on Antikythera, whereas the Knossos project focuses on the extended urban landscape of a single major centre. In Romania, Michela Spataro excavated at the Neolithic site of Miercurea Sibiului-Petris, and will continue in 2006, along with a new survey project in the Banat region. In the eastern Mediterranean, Tobias Richter conducted a preliminary season of excavation at the early Epipalaeolithic site of Ayn Qasiyah in the Azraq Oasis of eastern Jordan.

Another geographical focal point is the Caribbean, with Liz Graham continuing the Lamanai Archaeological Project in Belize, herself focusing on archaeometallurgy, while Jim Aimers continues work on the Postclassic ceramics. Liz Graham, Jago Cooper and David Pendergast continued work at Los Buchillones, Cuba. Jose Oliver continued excavations at Bateyes de Vivi, as part of the Utuado/Caguana Archaeological Project (Puerto Rico) on early complex societies in the later prehistoric and contact periods. He also initiated the El Cabo-Punta Cana Archaeological Project (Dominican Republic). Finally, moving to the north shore of the Caribbean, Kevin

MacDonald continued with his Cane River African Diaspora Archaeological Project, investigating the earliest plantations of freed slaves through excavations at the Coincoin plantation in Louisiana.

Further afield, Andrew Reid continued fieldwork at Bweyorere in Uganda, investigating one of the former capitals of the Nkore state, and began new fieldwork in western Uganda investigating the distribution of cattle and the organization of society. Kevin MacDonald and Renata Walicka Zeh undertook field and archival research in Mali for the Leverhulme-funded project Patterns of African Statehood (directed by Kevin and Andrew Reid), now nearing completion. Ole Grøn continued with his ethnoarchaeological research among Evenki hunters in the Sacha Republic in Siberia, and Luisa Mengoni participated in the Chengdu Archaeological Survey Project in Sichuan, China.

Closest to home, Andrew Gardner and Bill Sillar, in collaboration with other members of the Institute (including the Field Archaeology Unit), initiated a five-year landscape project at West Dean, West Sussex. Among various investigations this year, an excavation was undertaken on a Roman villa at Batten Hanger.

Other research work by group members includes the three-year AHRC project of Ruth Whitehouse, John Wilkins and Kathryn Lomas, Developmental Literacy and the Establishment of Regional and State Identity in Early Italy: Research Beyond Etruria, Greece and Rome, which concluded in October. This was followed up immediately by another three-year AHRC project, The Social Context of Etruscan Literacy 750–400. Michela Spataro completed her Leverhulme-funded project The Early Neolithic in the Balkans: Ceramic Analysis and Cultural Processes. Ulrike Sommer is in the final phase of archival research in Leipzig for her project The Self in the Other – Archaeology, Regional and National Identity in Saxony (Germany). Holding a British Academy Readership, Liz Graham is researching conversion processes among the Maya during the early Spanish colonial period. Luisa Mengoni, holding an AHRC postdoctoral fellowship, is studying collections and archival material from the 1950s to the present from excavations of Bronze Age tombs in Sichuan and Yunnan, for her project Along the Border: Cultural and Social Identities in SW China During the First Millennium BCE. Kevin MacDonald is collaborating with colleagues in the USA on Creole identity formation on the colonial and early American frontiers, as a development of his Cane River research.

### Publications

Two major volumes by members of the group appeared this year: Jeremy Tanner's monograph *The invention of art history in ancient Greece: religion, society and artistic rationalisation* (Cambridge University Press), and Kevin MacDonald's edited volume (with Jay Havisser) *African re-gensis: confronting social issues in the diaspora* (UCL Press). In addition, members of the group produced some 40 individual journal articles and chapters in edited volumes.

### Conferences and conference papers

Integral to research is its dissemination, and members of the group were extremely active, organizing conferences and presenting their work. During the year, graduate co-ordinators were appointed for each research group, in order to encourage graduate participation. Susanna Harris took on this role for our group, and was immediately immersed in the first Institute Graduate Student Conference, at which six graduate members of the group (Sarah Byrne, Rachel Fentem, Nick Golson, Rebecca Rennell, Tobias Richter and Ben Samphire) presented papers on their research, provoking lively discussion at the conference and in the pub afterwards. Other conferences organized by members of the group included "Gender identities in Italy in the first millennium", co-organized by Kathryn Lomas and Edward Herring at the Institute of Classical Studies, and "A short walk through the Balkans: the first farmers of the Carpathian Basin and adjacent regions", co-organized by Michela Spataro, Stephen Shennan and Paolo Biagi, at the Institute of Archaeology.

Members presented papers at a wide range of conferences, including: the Society for American Archaeology 71st Annual Meeting (held in Puerto Rico); the Belize Archaeological Symposium (Belize City); the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Washington DC); the "Rethinking the Cretan Neolithic" Aegean Round Table (Sheffield); the Postgraduate Cypriot Archaeology conference (Dublin); the Nordic Graduate School in Archaeology (Rome); the Theoretical Archaeology Group (Sheffield); the Cultures of Contact conference (Stanford University); the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (Cambridge); the Central Mediterranean Prehistory Workshop (Manchester); the Embedded Technologies workshop (at the Institute); the Sixth European Social Science History conference (Amsterdam); the Gender Identities in Italy in the First Millennium conference (Institute of Classical Studies, London); Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (Manila); the 12th Congress of the Pan-African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies (Gaborone); the British Association of Near Eastern Archaeology (Edinburgh); and the conference *WIR Exilafrikaner – Die Wege des Menschen* (Dresden).

## The Complex and Literate Societies Research Group

Coordinator: Andrew Reynolds

The Complex and Literate Societies Research Group continues to promote and support Institute staff and research students whose interests lie in the archaeology of literate societies throughout the world by providing a cross-cultural forum for debate and other research-led activities. The group has had a successful and enterprising year, with a series of research projects entering the post-fieldwork phase, others continuing, and new ones being initiated.

### Research projects

Roger Matthews's Paphlagonia regional survey in Turkey is now in its post-fieldwork phase, as is the Buckfastleigh Project in Devon directed by Andrew Reynolds (see *AI 2004/2005*). Kris Lockyear continues fieldwork at Roman Noviodunum in Romania (see *AI 2002/2003*), funded by the AHRC, which has led to the development of new methods of analysis for data derived from fieldwalking, as well as a fundamental revision of our understanding of the form of the site resulting from detailed topographical survey. Alan Johnston is continuing his work with the Kythera Island Project, and also with the publication of inscriptions from Croatian sites. Much time has recently been devoted to a review of the inscribed pottery from the excavations of Petrie and others, housed mainly in British Museum; the database now holds some 2600 entries. Tim Williams has gained further funding for the International Merv Project in Turkmenistan to investigate urban landscapes. Julia Shaw's project Landscape, Water and Religion in Ancient India is being funded by the Society for South Asian Studies (British Academy). This multidisciplinary study (involving landscape survey, satellite remote sensing, hydrological and environmental research) is aimed at assessing the environmental and economic impact of religious change (especially Buddhism and Hinduism) between the third century and the sixth century AD (see pp. 43–48). To date, the project has centred on the UNESCO World Heritage site of Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh. Following a year of GIS development and data consolidation (with Anthony Beck, University of Durham), the project is now being expanded to areas of Maharashtra (with Hans Bakker, University of Groningen) and Gujarat, where fieldwork will begin in December 2006.

Elizabeth Bloxam holds a postdoctoral Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship for a project titled The Social Context of Raw-Material Acquisition in Antiquity. This research aims to develop the application of cross-cultural and cross-level conceptual models in social archaeology to production data in second millennium

quarry and mining sites in Egypt. Stuart Brookes is now close to completing the first year of research for the Leverhulme-funded project Beyond the Burghal Hidage: Anglo-Saxon Civil Defence in the Viking Age, and Martin Welch has secured a further Leverhulme award for his three-year project Beyond the Tribal Hidage: Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms in Southern England, AD 400–750, which will be undertaken with Sue Harrington as research assistant.

Several new projects have been initiated. Joe Flatman is currently undertaking preliminary fieldwork on medieval coastal settlements along the estuary of the Dee in Cheshire, which is a collaborative project with the University of Durham, and is completing his book on medieval maritime iconography. David Wengrow is developing a new area of research, investigating the phenomenon of commodity branding across broad cultural and temporal contexts, in order to question its perceived status as a unique feature of post-industrial, capitalist societies and their economic peripheries. Andrew Reynolds begins a new project investigating early medieval rural settlement in northeastern Spain, in the Basque country near Vitoria, as a collaborative venture with the University of Pais Vasco. The project is supported by Spanish funding and builds upon an international research network, examining issues of space and territorial scale in early medieval Europe. Clive Orton has submitted a bid for EU funding for the project, Ceramic Production Centres in Europe, on behalf of the Medieval Pottery Research Group, covering the period AD 400–2000. So far, nine countries are involved, with a further nine expressing interest.

### Publications

David Wengrow's first book, *The archaeology of early Egypt: social transformations in North-East Africa, 10,000–2650*, has been published by Cambridge University Press. Clive Orton's book *The pottery from medieval Novgorod and its region* has also been published, being the first in a series of four books about recent archaeological work in Novgorod and its hinterland. Julia Shaw's recent papers on her work in India were published in *South Asian Archaeology 2001: proceedings of the 16th international conference of the European Association of South Asian Archaeologists* (editors C. Jarrige & V. Lefèvre, 2005) and in *South Asian Studies* (2005). Andrew Reynolds has published several papers on European early medieval archaeology in *Early Medieval Europe* (2005), *Archaeological Journal* (2005), in *The Avebury landscape* (editors G. Brown, D. Field, D. McOmish, 2005) and also in *Twenty-five years of Gloucestershire*

*archaeology* (editors N. Holbrook & J. Jurica, 2006).

### Conferences and seminars

The group organized various seminars throughout the academic year, the first of which showcased research by graduate student members in November 2005. Papers were given on "Homeric texts and historical sources: issues surrounding a culture-historical approach to cloth in prehistory" (Susanna Harris), "Iron Age households in Lebanon and Palestine/Israel" (Lydia Evdoxiadi-Verniory), "Mass-produced bowls in IV millennium Near East" (Paolo Guarino) and, finally, "New approaches to early Egyptian visual culture" (Kathryn Piquette). The meeting was well attended by both students and staff, and it generated much fruitful discussion. Alexandre G. Mitchell (lecturer in classical archaeology and Latin at the University of Reading, and research fellow at the University of Oxford) presented a well received paper on the topic of "The archaeology of humour – a case study: ancient Greek carnival in context" in March 2005, which was followed by a lively discussion and social gathering. Joe Flatman hosted two maritime-related events in February. The first, "Maritime archaeology in South America", was held with two discussants, Virginia Dellino-Musgrave (English Heritage) and Jorge Herrera (University of Southampton). The second of the seminars, "Cromwellian shipwreck from Duart Point, Sound of Mull", was given by the eminent maritime archaeologist Colin Martin. Tim Williams, Sjoerd van der Linde and Louise Cooke organized a very successful conference "Earthen architecture in Iran and Central Asia: its conservation, management and relevance to contemporary society", which took place in November 2005; and, in December, John Tait, Kathryn Piquette (the group's graduate coordinator) and Yvette Balbaligo hosted the conference "Framing plots: the grammar of ancient Near Eastern narratives". The group also sponsored a highly successful two-day conference in April 2006 organized by graduate students at the Institute, with a session dedicated to complex and literate societies. The Institute's joint early medieval seminar with the British Museum hosted presentations from Naimh Whitfield, Alexandra Sanmark, Helen Persson, Antonio Sennis and Martin Carver.



## The Heritage Studies Research Group

Coordinator: Elizabeth Pye

The Heritage Studies Research Group is the primary research group for all those staff, post-graduate students and honorary members of the Institute who have research and professional interests in the interpretation, preservation and management of the cultural heritage. Close links have been formed with other Institute research groups, particularly the Materials and Data Science Group, with other parts of UCL such as the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, and with many museums, notably the British Museum and the Museum of London.

This broad research field embraces a wide range of interests, including: laboratory-based investigation and conservation of artefacts; museum curatorship; visitor studies; the management of archaeological sites; ethics, public policy and law relating to heritage; and also the diversity of views about values and uses of both tangible and intangible heritage. The research group also aims to encourage staff collaboration, and to support research students, by providing formal and informal opportunities for discussion and exchange of ideas. Regular informal seminars also provide students with valuable experience in presenting their research to the group.

During this year several staff changes have affected the group. Paulette McManus retired in summer 2005, having made a major contribution to shaping teaching and research in museum studies at the Institute. Nick Merriman the curator of the College Collections and the previous coordinator of the group, left UCL to take up the post of director of Manchester Museum in March 2006; Nick had played a crucial part in the Panopticon Project. In succession to Nick, Sally Macdonald became director of UCL Museums and Collections, and is taking the Panopticon Project (now known as the Institute for Cultural Heritage Project) forwards. In March 2005 Renata Peters joined the Institute as Lecturer in Conservation, and, in September 2005, Theano Moussouri was appointed to a lectureship in museum studies.

At the beginning of the year it was decided that each Institute research group should have a graduate student representative. James Doerer was elected as our representative and has been very successful in encouraging increased student participation in the group's activities.

### Research and publication

Another innovation this year was the Graduate Student Conference, and held in April and involving all of the five Institute research groups. The Heritage Studies Research Group opened the conference with excellent papers given by Michael Seymour on intangible heritage and human

rights in Iraq; Monika Steinel on research in Nazi archaeology; Georgios Alexopoulos on values and heritage management at Mount Athos; Kalliopi Fouseki on managing conflicts at *in situ* museums; and Maria Eleni Alivizidou on museums and intangible heritage.

Many of the staff research projects mentioned in last year's report have developed further during the year. Beverley Butler has continued her research into cultural loss and post-colonial politics with a focus on Palestine, and will be editing a new publication series for the Institute, on aspects of the cultural heritage. Suzanne Keene's book was published in autumn 2005.<sup>1</sup> She has worked on a plan for further research into this field, and also investigated museums and the postmodern (see pp. 36–39), and the disruptive effects of information and communication technologies on museums.

Sally Macdonald's interests focus on broadening access to museums and she is collaborating with me in producing the publication of the recent conference on touching and handling museum objects, with the provisional title of "Magic touch: touching and handling in a cultural heritage context" (see *AI 2004/2005*). Theano Moussouri has established collaborative research projects with the British Museum and the National Trust, each looking at an aspect of the impact of museum experiences on visitors.

Renata Peters is developing her research on uses of collections originating from indigenous peoples of South America and she has also been responsible for the investigation of First World War battlefield artefacts for the project Finding the Fallen in collaboration with the No Man's Land project and the Discovery Channel. John Merkel has worked on the publication of Chalcolithic copper mines in the Timna Valley (Israel) with Beno Rothenberg, a visiting professor at the Institute. Clifford Price has been investigating salt damage at the Wakefield Tower at the Tower of London, and with Alison Sawdy has been participating in a project funded by the European Commission that is looking at the use of crystal-growth inhibitors as a possible means of preventing salt damage in porous materials (see also *AI 2004/2005*).

Dean Sully's research on the decolonizing of conservation focuses on Maori material culture and he continues to collaborate with the National Trust and the London-based Maori community in his work on the Maori meeting house at Clandon Park in Surrey. Kathy Tubb's interests concern cultural heritage law and the antiquities trade; later this year she will resume her conservation of the 9,000-year-old 'Ain Ghazal lime plaster statues (one of which

is shown on the Institute's website). My work focuses on the theory and philosophy of conservation, in particular related to work at Çatalhöyük in Turkey and the development of conservation practice in response to current changes in museums and the cultural heritage field. I am editing the volume arising from the group's conference (see *AI 2004/2005*).

Members of the group are responsible for conservation of the structures, artefacts and animal and human remains at the international project based on the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük, Turkey.<sup>2</sup> A range of collaborative research projects is developing from this involvement, particularly focused on the technology and use of plaster and pigments at the site.

### Meetings and seminars

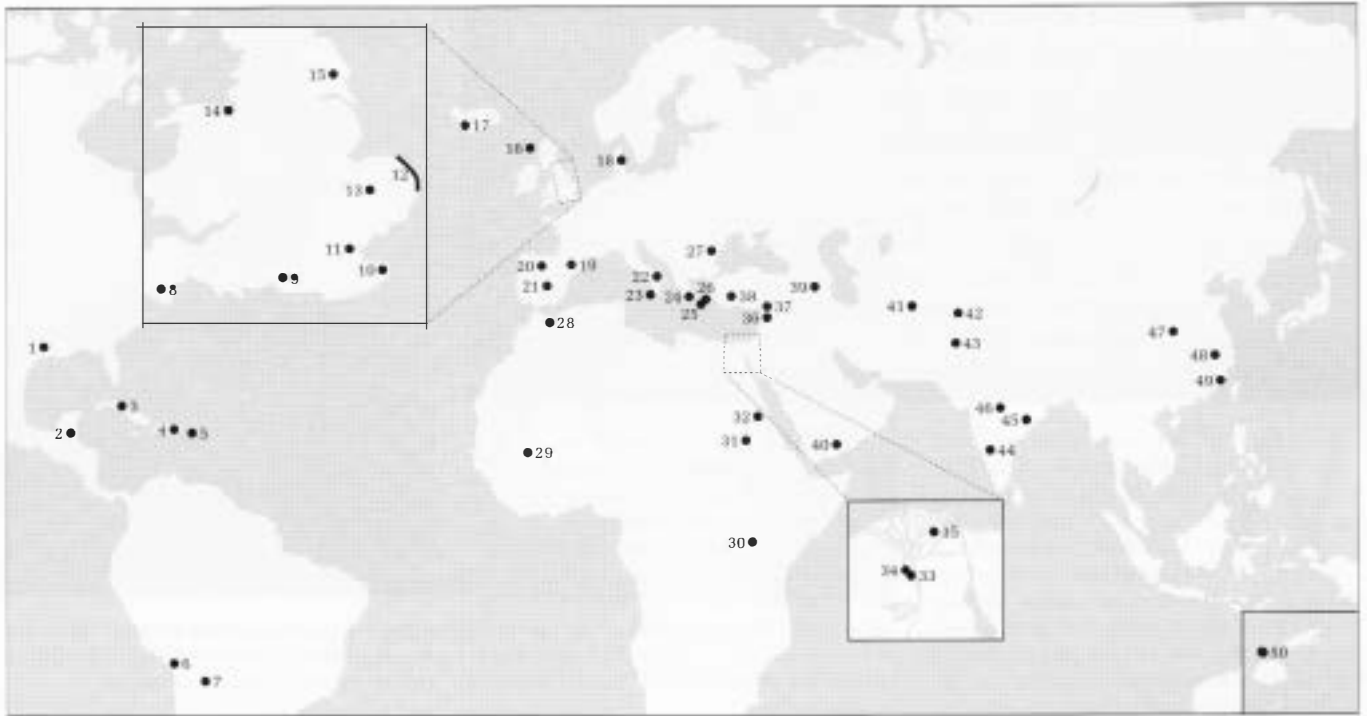
At the beginning of the year we held two informal meetings with the aim of encouraging members to meet each other and discuss and plan group activities. Nick Merriman and Sally Macdonald organized a meeting to discuss current progress on the Panopticon Project, its future development as the Institute for Cultural Heritage Project, and implications for research throughout UCL into the cultural heritage.

We sponsored a seminar on the Suffolk Garbology Project given by Jezz Meredith and Duncan Allan (Archaeological Service, Suffolk County Council). This project involves secondary schools in archaeological activities that are intended to stimulate questions about recycling and rubbish disposal. This subject was particularly relevant for all those interested in public archaeology, education and access, and the seminar brought together students and staff of the Institute of Archaeology and of the Institute of Education, which made for wide-ranging discussion following the seminar. Dr Jean-Marc Verniory, adjoint director of juridical affairs for Geneva, gave a seminar entitled "A short introduction to the law of treaties with an emphasis on cultural heritage protection". This gave us a clear and informative review of international law as it affects designation and protection of sites and monuments, and (most recently) of intangible heritage.

Informal monthly seminars have been established, with one staff speaker and one student presenting an aspect of their research. So far these have provided an effective way for members to meet and share ideas, and we intend to continue them into next year.

### Notes

1. *Fragments of the world: uses of museum collections*, S. Keene (Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 2005).
2. [www.catalhoyuk.com](http://www.catalhoyuk.com)



World distribution of current field projects

The Americas	Britain	Continental Europe	Africa	Asia
1. <b>Cane River, Louisiana, USA</b> MacDonald: historical (creole)	8. <b>Buckfastleigh, Devon</b> Reynolds: medieval	17. <b>Reykholt, Iceland</b> Sveinbjarnardóttir: medieval–present	28. <b>Taforalt, Morocco</b> Parfitt: Middle–Upper Palaeolithic	36. <b>Sidon, Lebanon</b> Doumet, Griffiths: multiperiod
2. <b>Lamanai, Belize</b> Graham, Aimers: multiperiod	9. <b>Boxgrove and the Valdoe, Sussex</b> Roberts, Pope, Hillson: Lower Palaeolithic	18. <b>Zealand, Denmark</b> Grøn: Mesolithic underwater landscapes	29. <b>Ségou, Mali</b> MacDonald: historical (AD 900–1850)	37. <b>Qadisha Valley, Lebanon</b> Garrard, Yazbeck: Palaeolithic
3. <b>Los Buchillonos, Cuba</b> Graham: 12th–17th century AD	10. <b>Sandwich, Kent</b> Clarke, Milne: medieval (Cinque Ports project)	19. <b>Roca dels Bous and Cova Gran, Spain</b> de la Torre: Middle & Upper Palaeolithic	30. <b>Bweyore, Uganda</b> Reid: historical African state	38. <b>Çatalhöyük, Turkey</b> Martin, Rosen, Asouti: Neolithic
4. <b>Punta Cana, Dominican Republic</b> Oliver: Prehispanic	11. <b>Thames estuary</b> Sidell: prehistoric–present	20. <b>Zornoztegi, Spain</b> Reynolds: medieval	31. <b>Nile 4th Cataract, Sudan</b> Fuller: multiperiod	39. <b>Azokh Cave, Nagorno Karabagh</b> Moloney: Palaeolithic
5. <b>Utuaño, Puerto Rico</b> Oliver: Prehispanic	12. <b>East Anglian coast</b> Parfitt: Lower Palaeolithic	21. <b>Buendía, Spain</b> de la Torre: Upper Palaeolithic	32. <b>Gebel Gulab, Aswan, Egypt</b> Bloxam: multiperiod	40. <b>Southern Jol, Yemen</b> Martin: Neolithic
6. <b>Ilo &amp; Leymebamba, Peru</b> Hillson: multiperiod	13. <b>Great Dunham, Norfolk</b> Shepherd: multiperiod	22. <b>Northern Puglia, Italy</b> Whitehouse, Hamilton: Neolithic–Iron Age	33. <b>Memphis, Egypt</b> Jeffreys: multiperiod	41. <b>Merv, Turkmenistan</b> Williams: multiperiod
7. <b>Porco, Bolivia</b> Rehren: 15th–16th century AD	14. <b>Wirral, Cheshire</b> Flatman, medieval	23. <b>Northwest Sicily, Italy</b> Thomas, Mannino: Palaeolithic–Neolithic	34. <b>Giza, Egypt</b> Murray: Dynastic	42. <b>Akhsiket, Uzbekistan</b> Rehren: early Islamic
	15. <b>Pickering, Yorkshire</b> Schadla-Hall: Mesolithic	24. <b>Kythera, Greece</b> Broodbank, Johnston: multiperiod	35. <b>Qantir/Pirameses, Egypt</b> Rehren: Late Bronze Age	43. <b>Bannu, Pakistan</b> Thomas: multiperiod
	16. <b>South Uist, Outer Hebrides</b> Reynolds: medieval	25. <b>Knossos, Greece</b> Whitelaw: multiperiod		44. <b>Karnataka, India</b> Fuller: Neolithic
		26. <b>Astypalaia, Greece</b> Hillson: Late Archaic–Classical		45. <b>Gopalpur, India</b> Fuller: Neolithic
		27. <b>Noviodunum, Romania</b> Lockyear, Popescu: Roman–Byzantine		46. <b>Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh, India</b> Shaw: multiperiod
				47. <b>Yiluo River, China</b> Rosen: Neolithic–Bronze Age
				48. <b>Baligang, China</b> Fuller: Neolithic
				49. <b>Tian Luo Shan, China</b> Fuller: Neolithic
				50. <b>Mamanuca Islands, Fiji</b> Cochrane: prehistoric (1000 to AD 1700)

• The above list includes only the projects that involve survey or excavation (or both) run by members of the Institute or to which they make a major contribution (individual research student's field projects are excluded, as are study visits to museum and other collections), and only the main members of the Institute involved in each project are named. Staff from other UCL departments and other UK and overseas universities and organizations also participate in many projects and in some cases co-direct them, but there is insufficient space to list them all here.

• All the overseas projects depend on collaboration with local archaeologists and with the relevant antiquities services, museums or universities. Several of them also involve collaboration with other UK universities, museums and other organizations.