

# Society for East Asian Archaeology Newsletter

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Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons 2015

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# SEAA'S FIRST STUDENT CONFERENCE

By: Katrinka Reinhart

SEAA's first student conference was held online this summer on June 26-28, co-organized by Dr. Katrinka Reinhart and Dr. Seungki Kwak and co-hosted by SEAA and Professor Sungjoo Lee of Kyungpook National University. Over 300 attendees from around the world registered to attend the conference, including well over 100 student presenters from East Asia, the Americas, and Europe speaking in eighteen different sessions across three Zoom rooms over three days.

The diversity of research concerns in contemporary East Asian archaeology was reflected in the wide range of sessions in the [conference program](#), from traditional topics such as settlement patterns and social organization to more recent concerns about heritage and public archaeology. Some sessions illustrated the embrace of cutting edge science while others reflected social approaches, such as the archaeology of gender. I believe this is the first SEAA conference to hold a session on East Asian diaspora archaeology.

In addition to the undergraduate and graduate student sessions, we also held several sessions with established scholars of East Asian archaeology, including an opening session with keynote talks by Dr. Sungjoo Lee and Dr. Katheryn Linduff; a student award session moderated by Dr. Francis Allard; a memorial session in honor of Dr. Sarah Nelson, moderated by Dr. Simon Kaner with speakers Dr. Yangjin Pak, Dr. Hyo-jae Im, Dr. Gina Barnes, and Dr. Alice Kehoe; and a closing session with remarks by SEAA President Dr. Francis Allard, SEAA Acting Secretary Dr. Katrinka Reinhart, and Dr. Seungki Kwak.

I'd like to extend special thanks to my co-organizer Dr. Seungki Kwak and to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at Kyungpook National University for streaming the sessions onsite and providing session moderators Dr. Seungki Kwak, Jiyun Yi, and Valentina Pellizzaro, who engaged attendees in substantive discussions. We are grateful for the financial support from BK (Brain Korea) 21 Research Team of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Institute of Humanities Studies at Kyungpook National University National University.

It was a real joy to watch the many interesting talks and compelling discussions. I do hope the student conference will become a regular tradition at SEAA for years to come!

# SEAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Francis Allard

The Executive Board of SEAA wishes to inform the membership of several on-going and upcoming activities.

- The Board is presently revising SEAA's Constitution, which has been in effect since the Society's founding in the mid-1990's. The decision to update the Constitution was prompted by several factors, including the significant growth of the Society over the past decade, its evolving internal structure, as well as the need to clarify its role in the broader legal and economic environment within which it operates. Within the next few months, a revised Constitution draft will first be submitted to the SEAA Council for discussion, after which it will be made available to the membership for voting and ratification.
- Following approval of the Constitution, SEAA will hold elections for several Board and other positions. Note that all members are eligible to vote and run for any open elected position. We will communicate information regarding these positions (including nomination procedures) at a later date.
- As recently communicated to the membership, preparations are now underway for the (in-person) SEAA9 Worldwide Conference, which will take place on June 29 – July 3, 2022 at Kyungpook National University (KNU), Daegu, South Korea (Republic of Korea). Professor Sungjoo will serve as the host of the conference.

# Academic and Employment Opportunitites

Call for Experts, Database of Religious History

Funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the Database of Religious History at the University of British Columbia is actively recruiting experts to fill out entries on East Asian religion. Entries may be written in **Chinese OR English**.

**Benefits of Writing an Entry:** Contribute to an international database on world history; Receive a publication credit; Honorarium available while funds last for complete entries finished within 60 days.

**Entry Requirements:** Introductory paragraph (approx. 400 words); All quantitative questions answered; As many qualitative comments as possible (no set word count); Approximately 20-40 pdf pages (number will vary based on topic).

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<https://religiondatabase.org/landing/get-involved>

## Winners of the SEAA 2021 Awards

### The winners of the SEAA Student Award Competition take the place of Field and Lab notes for this edition of the SEAA Newsletter

William Harrison, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto

Title: No Supper for the Ancestors: An analysis of Shang Utilitarian Mortuary Ceramics at Daxinzhuang, Jinan

This paper scrutinizes differences between the use of utilitarian ceramics and bronze vessels within Shang Dynasty tombs. Assuming that bronze vessels and ceramic vessels were used by Shang mourners to connect with the dead through food and feasting, this paper compares and contrasts bronzes and ceramics using a synthesis of published research and original statistical analysis on pottery from the Daxinzhuang site. The analysis demonstrates that pottery vessels were not analogous to bronze vessels, showing that they were offered in separate ceremonies with different audiences. However, statistical analysis shows that ceramic burial vessels tended to be unused, throwing their relationship to food and feasting into doubt. This paper highlights the needs for further research on lesser-studied burial goods and provides a foundation for further research on burial ceramics, the role of food in Shang burial, and the process of socializing new ancestors.

Fu Rongyu, School of History, Zhengzhou University

Title: The Grave Value Analysis and Stable Isotopic Analysis of Shangshihe Cemetery

Historic documents of the Zhou Dynasty recorded distinct differentiation of social classes to regulate funerary and dietary practices. Fu Rongyu's research focused on a cemetery showing distinct social stratification in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (771–476BCE) in Shangshihe, Henan Province, China. The research assessed differences in grave values and diet structure between people of different social ranks, sex and age groups using grave value analysis and stable carbon and nitrogen isotopic analysis. The study indicated that there were significant differences in total grave values between people of different social classes, independent of age and sex variables. Isotopic analysis indicated that people buried with two or three coffin layers consumed more protein-rich food than people who were buried with one layer. Also, it appears that the elderly had better nutrition than the young, however, there was no sex-based difference

in nutrition. These findings revealed that people of the Guo State maintained stratification in their social structure while in exile. Evidence of social stratification should be considered when assessing the nutrition and health of ancient individuals and communities.

Fung Ying Tung, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Title: The Climatic, Demographic and Economic Influences on the Rise of Shimao in the North Loess Plateau, China

This paper comes from part of my PhD research, which aims to understand how and why the large Neolithic settlement of Shimao and surrounding sites developed in the climate-sensitive North Loess Plateau in northern China (hereafter the Shimao region) during the period from 2800–1300 BC. This paper focuses on discussions of climatic, demographic, and economic influences to the rise of Shimao and more broadly the southern part of the Shimao region, in which the unusual combinations of herd animals, millet, and ceramic tripods were discovered. Multiple boundaries and sources of published data were considered to identify the developmental trajectory over time and space from a holistic regional perspective. In this paper, the radiocarbon dates were reviewed and subjected to Bayesian modelling for a firmer chronology; other information including settlement size and distribution, and economic basis as judged from faunal abundances and mortality profiles were considered within this chronological framework. The findings suggest that the population presumably became more concentrated at Shimao after human occupation density shifted southwards, with an unprecedented socio-economic network formed in the southern part of this region.

Xu Hailun, School of Archaeology and Museology, Sichuan University

Title: The Emergence of Early Complex Societies in Western Tibet -- The example of Dingdong, Jiwen and Kardong settlement sites

By taking two dimensions, namely, specialization and hierarchy, and by analyzing settlement patterns, we can explore the motivation for the gradual development of early society in western Tibet. Through recent archaeological excavations and based on the previously published materials, this paper focuses on the three settlement sites of Dingdong, Jiwen and Kardong, together with other sites and cemeteries of the same period and region. It tries to make an exploratory interpretation of the social complexity of the early Metal Age in western Tibet by exploring settlement site morphology, spatial

distribution of the sites and their resource domains. Accordingly, I hypothesize that the stage when social production in western Tibet specialized and social stratification developed significantly was in the Early Metal Age, represented by sites such as Kardong, between about 200BC-AD600. The emergence of advanced wheat farming and sheep breeding techniques, settlement architecture with increasingly subdivided functions, and even hierarchical burial groups all represent the transformation of economic production activities, political structures, and ideological systems from simple to complex. The reason for this change may be large-scale population movement, but due to the available materials, we can only briefly construct an overview of the social development of the Early Metal Age in western Tibet by using three typical sites as the core settlement groups.

Hao Yixuan, Department of Archaeology, School of history, Wuhan University

Title: The Archaeological Landscape of Western Zhou: Mound-like Sites in Jianghuai Region, Southern China

My study focused on the mound-like sites in the Jianghuai area from the Western Zhou Dynasty. By analyzing chronological sequences of the pottery, relationships between various artifacts recovered from these sites were sorted out. Due to cultural traditions and location factors, I found that there are differences in settlement modes in two places I analyzed. People in the western Jianghuai region lived on the edges of their sites, discarding garbage or handling public affairs in a central area. There are also small-scale sites with special functions, such as being dedicated to sacrificial offerings. These small sites may have helped connect surrounding settlements. In the western part of the region I analyzed I found that there are no divergences in settlement levels. In the eastern part of Jianghuai, on the contrary, people lived in the center of mound-like sites, and other facilities are placed in the outer areas. In addition to many small villages, there is also a magnificent city with walls in this area, which may be indicative of a hierarchical settlement pattern. Based on analysis of pottery styles, the Jianghuai region can be divided into two parts, one of which belongs to 'Huaiyi,' who may be related to the Wu culture south of the Yangtze River. The two settlement patterns in the Jianghuai area reflect the existence of two diametrically opposed social organization methods in the surrounding areas of Zhou Culture. The "hierarchization" of settlements was not the only choice for the people around the Zhou Dynasty.

# SEAA Newsletter submission Guidelines

New fieldwork or research discoveries? Do you have anything to share about your experience in East Asian archaeology? Please write to us!

- Articles should be limited to 500 words.
- Please include a title for your article.
- To submit, e-mail: [web-editor@seaa-web.org](mailto:web-editor@seaa-web.org)
- Include "SEAA newsletter submission" in the subject line of your submission e-mail.
- Include your first name, last name and your affiliations in your message. Your name will appear in the newsletter (unless you ask to be anonymous).
- Articles should be sent as attachments in Word (.doc or .docx).
- You are highly encouraged to submit images along with your articles. But be sure they fall into one of these categories: (1) your own work, (2) public domain or (3) fair use.

Please note that SEAA reserves the right to carry out minor editing, or to decline contributions which are not in keeping with the society's mission or topical scope.

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