

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology

Faculty of Science and Technology

2023 Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture

31 October 2023

To be given by Amy Bogaard (University of Oxford)
The Science of early farming in Europe

This free public lecture will be delivered live on the Talbot Campus and also available via Zoom, starting at 7:00pm UK time. For further details, registration, and updates please visit the Eventbrite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seventh-pitt-rivers-lecture-the-science-of-early-farming-in-europe-tickets-648866947507>

Can archaeology reveal the ‘science’ of early farming from the perspective of its practitioners? How can *prehistoric* understandings of agriculture inform our view of wider landscapes and monuments? And in an age of ecological crisis, what principles can we glean from the long-term story of farming across Europe’s varied environments? To address such questions, I will draw upon recent research into the nature of early farming in different parts of Europe. While human aDNA provides increasing detail on ‘who’ early farmers were in a phylogenetic sense, diverse scientific approaches and evidence are needed to assess ‘how’ early farming was practised, its evolution in different settings and the communities it shaped. Far from a simple product of finite ‘domestication’ episodes confined to western Asia, early farming was a dynamic process that changed as it spread, absorbing new species and practices while letting others go. By the time farming reached Britain and Ireland, it was in many ways profoundly different to practices in south-east Europe; equally, farming continued to change in different regional settings through time. I argue that early farming in Europe offers lessons of creativity, biodiversity and community that are relevant to future food security.

Amy Bogaard says: I am an archaeologist interested in the nature of past farming, its ecology and implications. I came to this by a circuitous route. I studied Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College (USA), followed by Sheffield’s MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy. The MSc opened up the rich ‘conversation’ between the deep past and present of farming. Following several years as a research assistant, I completed a PhD at Sheffield in 2002, on Neolithic-Bronze Age farming in Central Europe. I was lecturer in archaeological science at Nottingham from 2003-7. Since then I’ve been at Oxford. Current research projects include EXPLO (ERC synergy with Thessaloniki and Bern) and GINI. Further information at: <https://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/people/bogaard>

The lecture is presented by the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in association with the Prehistoric Society

The annual Pitt Rivers Lecture was established in 2017 as part of the celebrations marking 50 years of archaeological and anthropological teaching and research at Bournemouth University and its predecessor institutions. It is organized by staff and students, and presented in association with the Prehistoric Society. The lecture celebrates the achievements of General Pitt Rivers (1827–1900), a distinguished Dorset-based archaeologist and anthropologist whose descendants still live in the area and have close connections with Bournemouth University.

Previous Pitt Rivers Lectures: 2017 Richard Bradley (University of Reading) “Pitt Rivers as pioneer” || 2018 Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland) “Long before Brexit...” || 2019 Ruth Tringham (University of California, Berkeley, USA) “Fire: Friend or fiend?” || 2020 Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum) “The origins of our species” || 2021 Sue Hamilton (UCL Institute of Archaeology) “Rapa Nui: Myths and realities of an iconic past” || 2022 Christopher Evans (University of Cambridge) “Archaeology as experiment”.