Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation

Ancestral Stones: Reimagining the significance of stone from the Paleolithic to the Present

September 12-15, 2022
Tel Aviv University

The workshop will focus on integrating other ways of knowing and understanding the material world with human pasts, particularly regarding human-stone interactions, including stone technologies and their social/cosmologic/other significance; stone quarrying, engagements with specific stones; stones in special contexts in archaeology; stone and symbolism; gender issues and whatever else that might be relevant. We envision a workshop in which scholars will exchange ideas and bring new insights to the relationships between humans and stone creating inclusive histories to human past behavior and human cultural evolution.

Organizers: Ran Barkai & Kathryn Weedman Arthur

Confirmed Participants & (provisional) titles

Clive Freeman and Peter Markovic | Coordinator Aboriginal Interpretation Programs Sydney Living Museums
Stories of Yuni stones; a southeast coastal Aboriginal Australian story collection (three mini-sessions and demonstrations)

Kathryn Weedman Arthur | University of South Florida
Ontologies and Assemblages: Knappable Bodies and Their Offspring

Meir Finkel and Ran Barkai | Tel Aviv University, Israel
Interpreting Paleolithic Flint Extraction and reduction Sites in the Upper Galilee, Israel: Human-stone interactions in light of relevant insights from indigenous groups

Lambros Malafouris | University of Oxford
The unspeakable becomes spoken: On the dialogue between maker and material

Dov Ganchrow | Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem
To Computational Archaeology and Back: The round-trip journey of stone artifacts between a physical and a digital existence, is leveraged for the creation of new design works

Bar Efrati | Tel Aviv University, Israel
Standing On the Shoulders of Giants: Understanding Palaeolithic Human-Tool Encounters and interactions using Readymade Concepts and Techniques

François B. Lanoë and Maria Nieves Zedeno | University of Arizona
The petroformed landscape of the Blackfoot

Catherine Allen | George Washington University
Don't Fall Asleep by a Boulder: Time, Communication, and Consciousness in relation to Andean Stone

Miguel Astor-Aguilera | Arizona State University
Maya Lithic Ontologies: Cosmological Embodiment and Materiality

Steve Brown | University of Canberra Australia
Talking with Stones: Indigenous stone artefacts, material memory, and rights-based futures

Lia Genovese | Thammasat and Silpakorn Universities Bangkok, Thailand
The rock-solid powers of ancestral stone

Erica Hill | University of Alaska Southeast
Stone Acting Like People in the North American Arctic: Imuksuit as Polysemic Features

Rachel Horwitz | Washington State University
Symbolic Trash: Lithic Debitage, Ritual, and Political Power among the Preclassic and Classic Period Maya

Paul Sillitoe | Durham University, UK
Known & Unknown Stone: A Papuan Petrological Heritage

Edward Swenson | University of Toronto
Fluid Rocks: The (de)Territorializing Power of Sacred Stones

David Wayne Robinson | University of Central Lancashire UK
Awakening Dreams: ancestral capacities in human and stone assemblages

Ella Assaf | Tel Aviv University
When human-animal relations are set in stone: the case of stone balls and horses

Leore Grossman and Keren Nebenhaus | The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Curiosities from a 12,000-year-old ritual context