

The Informant

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The Department of Anthropology • University of California, Santa Barbara



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KUDOS:

To Matthew Curtis and co-authors for the publication of THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT ERITREA, The Red Sea Press, Trenton, N.J.

EVENTS:

Monday, 19 November, 5 pm

Farmers, Temples, and Highland Towns of Stone: The Archaeology of the Ancient Northern Horn of Africa

Matthew Curtis, Anthropology, UCSB
McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6020

Reception to follow

Matthew C. Curtis will present results of regional archaeological research carried out from 1997 to 2003 in the central highlands of Eritrea. This research has produced new insights concerning the origins and development of complex societies from the first millennium BC to the early second millennium AD, a period that saw the development of diverse agro-pastoral subsistence systems, monumental ceremonial centers, and extensive settlements in the northern Horn of Africa before, during, and after the rise and fall of the Kingdom of Aksum.

Matthew C. Curtis is a lecturer in the UCSB Department of Anthropology and an archaeologist with a specialization in Holocene African archaeology. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Florida and has carried out archaeological research in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya. He has co-edited the recently published book *The Archaeology of Ancient Eritrea* (2007).

The next meeting of the *GIS in Anthropology and Archaeology Working Group* will take place on in HSSB 2018 on **Tuesday, November 20, at 5:00 PM**. Two members will present their current GIS research projects:

Brent Leftwitch (PhD candidate)

Grinding It Out: Bedrock Mortars and Behavior in the Sierra Nevada.

Erik Marsh (PhD candidate)

Wari Consolidation of the Sondondo Valley (Bolivia): Visual magnitude as a factor in deciding where to build imperial installations.

After these presentations we'll discuss the theoretical, methodological and technical issues of these projects and other current applications. I encourage you that prepare your suggestions and questions for the next meeting. I also want to remind you that people from other departments outside of Anthropology are welcome, as we would

like to encourage interdisciplinary research. This invitation is extensive to those people that could not assist to the first meeting.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES (details are posted under “Academic Positions” in the Departmental Reading Room):

- **The University of Texas at San Antonio** is advertising two faculty positions. Both are for Mesoamerican archaeologists specializing in complex culture-environmental interactions. One is for a Professor level appointment and the other at the level of Assistant Professor.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS (details posted under “Fellowships/Grants” in Dept. Reading Room):

- **The American Anthropological Association** invites minority doctoral candidates in anthropology to apply for a dissertation writing fellowship of \$10,000. See flier. Application materials and complete instructions are available from the AAA homepage at: <http://www.aaanet.org>. Applications must be received by February 15th.
- Applications are invited for the **UCR Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship for Cultivating Diversity in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics**. Information may be found in the posted flyer or at <http://academicpersonnel.ucr.edu/awards/chancellorPostDocFellowship.php>

CONFERENCES AND CALL FOR PAPERS (details are posted under “Conference Papers and Symposia” in the Departmental Reading Room):

- **The Society for Cultural Anthropology** has put out a call for participation in the Bennial Spring Conference to be held on the Queen Mary, Long Beach, Ca on May 9-11, 2008. Deadline for paper, media and panel proposals is December 15, 2007. Pls. see fliers for more details.
- **TELL US YOUR STORIES! The American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation** is launching an innovative outreach project called "Voices from the Field"-- a collection of experiences and insights, sounds and images that explore the links between Nature and Culture.

Next spring, the American Museum of Natural History will host a symposium on "Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy" (April 2-5, 2008). The conference will examine the connections between culture, language, and biological diversity--each a manifestation of the richness of life on earth, and all under threat by some of the same forces. The organizers are the Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, IUCN-The World Conservation Union/Theme on Culture and Conservation, and Terralingua (an international nonprofit concerned with the future of the world's biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity).

The "Voices from the Field" project asks participants to pose a series of questions within communities around the world (from Inuvik to Tierra del Fuego to the Bronx). Respondents might be community elders, artisans, hunters, fishers, farmers, performers, educators, students--anyone willing to share their insights. Interviewers are encouraged to

capture voices and, if possible, faces and a sense of place, via audio and video recordings, or with still photos to accompany text.

An interactive "Voices" website will link individual vignettes to a world map highlighting the locations from which each originated. In addition, a selection of "Voices" submissions will be incorporated into a multi-media presentation to be shown at the April conference. (It is not necessary to attend the conference in order to participate in the "Voices" project.)

To learn more about "Voices from the Field" and other opportunities to participate in our April symposium, please visit <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/> and click on "Call for Participation."

Please note: Participants are responsible for funding their own involvement (materials, travel costs, etc.). No funding is available from the Symposium's organizers.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope to welcome you to the Museum in April 2008.

- **Re: Nanotechnology and Occupational Health & Safety Conference**

On Friday, November 16, and Saturday, November 17, the UCSB's NSF Center for Nanotechnology in Society is co-hosting an international conference on Nanotechnology and Occupational Health and Safety. The conference, which will focus on nanotoxicology issues in the lab and workplace, features some 40 panelists, drawn from universities, governmental agencies at all levels, labor, industry, and NGOs. Our Friday evening keynote speaker is Joan Denton, Director of the State of California Office of Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and member of the California Green Chemistry Leadership Council. We also have some 70 non-panel participants officially registered to attend, from more than a dozen states, India, and Great Britain.

This promises to be an exciting event, focusing on a topic that is currently under the radar in the United States: possible dangers posed by the research, development, and commercialization of nanotechnology, a rapidly-expanding field that is predicted to create a \$3 trillion industry over the next decade.

Please join us for any of the the Friday or Saturday panels, and for the keynote address Friday evening. The conference is more fully described online at <http://www.cns.ucsb.edu/nanoconference/>, where you will find a complete agenda, speaker bios and abstracts. I have attached a conference agenda to this email for your convenience. The Friday sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. in Corwin Pavilion; the Saturday sessions at 8:45 a.m. in the Multicultural Center Theater.

The conference is open to all who are interested, and is free of charge. Although full conference registration with meals is closed, the panel sessions are still open. For further information, please contact Valerie Walston at valerie@cns.ucsb.edu or x8850.