

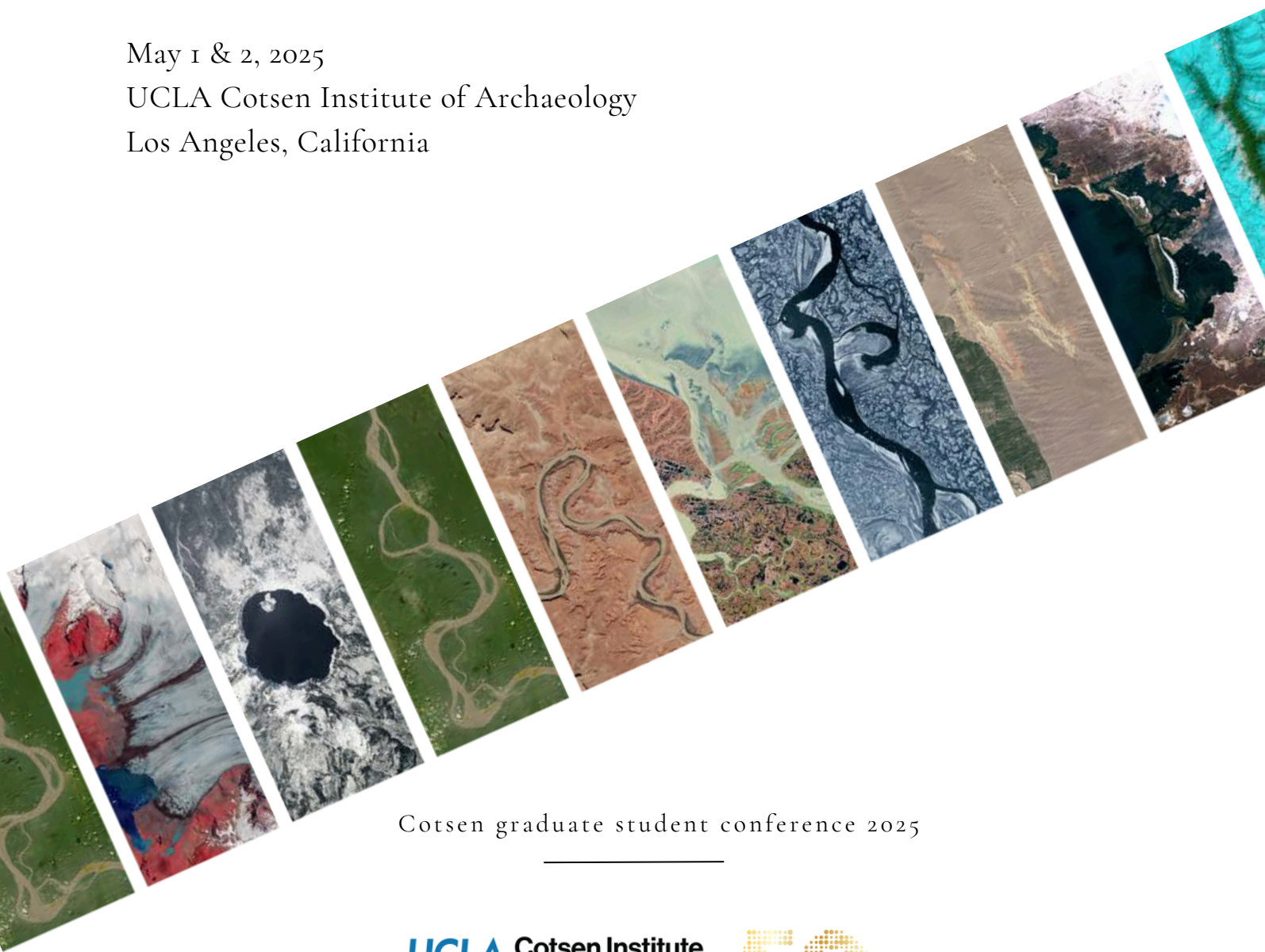


Plural Geographies: Exploring Alternative Ecologies and Navigating the Field

May 1 & 2, 2025

UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Los Angeles, California



Cotsen graduate student conference 2025

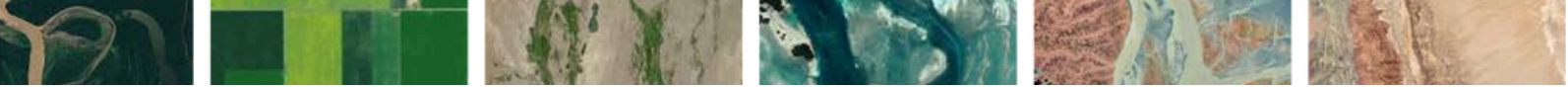
UCLA Cotsen Institute
of Archaeology



Plural Geographies: Exploring Alternative Ecologies and Navigating the Field

Program

May 1 & 2, 2025
UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology
Los Angeles, California



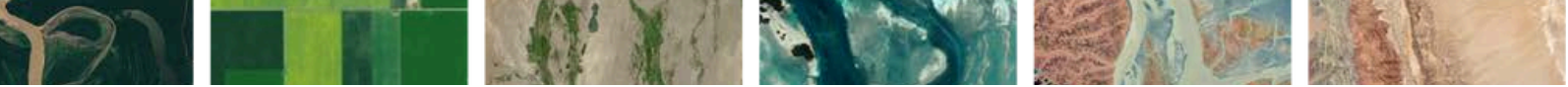
Plural Geographies: Exploring Alternative Ecologies and Navigating the Field

CONFERENCE BRIEF

The 2025 Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Graduate Student Conference centers on the theme of “Plural Geographies: exploring Alternative Ecologies and navigating through the Field.” With this year’s theme, the conference organizing committee encourages graduate students to reflect, explore, and challenge the field of archaeology and related fields, especially through spatial, place-based, land-based, ecological, or geographical means, construed broadly. This topic is meant to engage with broader themes, and we seek to provide a platform for alternative approaches to archaeological methods.

We root our discussions within the realms of geography, space, and place in order to interrogate the ways in which archaeology is necessarily intertwined with discussions of land, land use, ecology, political ecologies and more across multiple scales, from the material level of excavation and other forms of land-based research to its engagement and entanglement with the construction of nations and inscription of borders on a global scale. By incorporating the language of ecology, we expand the notion of space to include the networks of intertwined relationships through which places are made and communities are constructed. Finally, we refer to navigation through the field in order to expand our conversations beyond engagements with spatial dimensions that are visible within the archaeological record. To this end, we look forward to welcoming discussion on systemic, disciplinary, and personal approaches to negotiating bias, identity, and deep-rooted legacies of colonialism within the field.

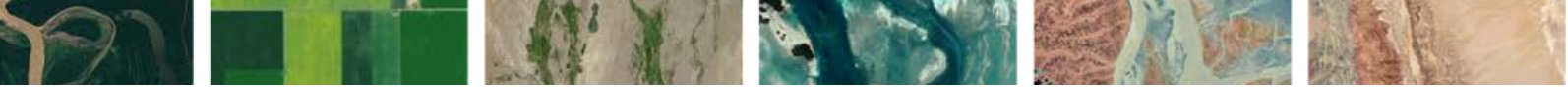




Plural Geographies: Exploring Alternative Ecologies and Navigating the Field

Plural Geographies features two keynote speakers who together represent diverse scholarly backgrounds and intellectual engagements with the conference theme: Dr. Anna Agbe-Davies, a historical archaeologist with a particular focus on African diasporic contexts, and Dr. Menna Agha, an architect and scholar of social justice within the field of architecture. They will be joined by 13 papers presentations, roundtable and breakout sessions, undergraduate poster session, and a film screening from graduate students and community across different fields working around the globe.





SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

April 30, 2025

Arrival in Los Angeles. 4:00 pm check-in at UCLA Luskin Hotel for some presenters and keynote.

425 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095

May 1, 2025

Day 1 Plural Geographies Graduate Conference

Room A222, Fowler Building, F308 Charles E Young Dr N, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dinner in Westwood with Presenters and Keynote

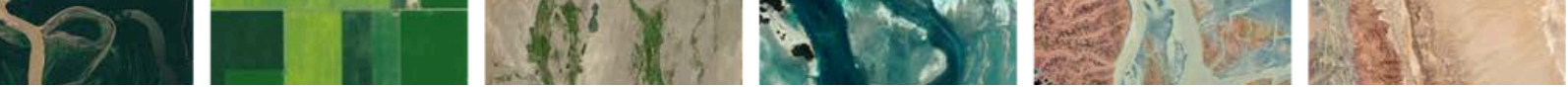
10853 Lindbrook Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90024

May 2, 2025

Day 2 Plural Geographies Graduate Conference

Room A222, Fowler Building, F308 Charles E Young Dr N, Los Angeles, CA 90024





May 1, 2025

Room A222, Fowler Building
UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Program Day 1

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Refreshments, light breakfast

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Land Acknowledgment

Welcome Message by the Dean of Social Sciences
Division

Organizer Statement

10:30 am - 11:45 am

Session 1
Placemaking, migrations, and moving people
around

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Local geopolitics and the limits of Inka Imperialism
in the Sacred Valley, Peru
Julia Earle, Central Michigan University

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Migration: Diaspora and Displacement in West
Mexico
Kellie Roddy, UCLA

11:00 am - 11:15 am

Cloudy Skies: Navigating Migration, Resiliency, and
the Ancient Caribbean Environment
Emily Kracht, UCSB

11:15 am - 11:25 am

Discussant Comments

11:25 am - 11:45 am

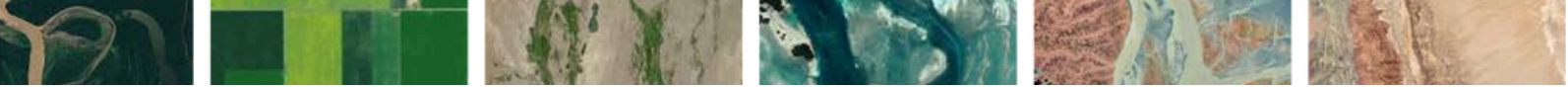
Questions and Discussion

Discussant: *Nicole Smith, UCLA*

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch





1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Session 2

Human-environment interactions and use of landscape

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Placemaking and Memory: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Development in Transylvanian Rural Landscapes

Elizabeth L. Arnold, UCLA; Colin P. Quinn, University of Buffalo; Horia Ciugudean, Muzeul National Al Unirii din Alba Iulia; Jess Beck, University College Dublin

1:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Analyzing Agricultural Histories in Southwestern Nigeria, West Africa: A Geospatial Approach
Victoria Olajide, University of Oregon

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm

The Rocks Remember: The Changing Landscape of Ivanpah Dry Lake, CA
Kara Jones, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

1:45 am - 2:00 pm

People, Plants, and Pests: Desiccated Macrobotanicals at Bartram's Botanical Garden
Alexandra Mitchem, Columbia University

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm

2:10 pm - 2:30 pm

Discussant Comments

Questions and Discussion

Discussant: Charles Rhodes, UCLA

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Keynotes

2:45 pm - 2:50 pm

Introduction of Keynote 1 and Message of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Director
Jason De Leon, UCLA

2:50 pm - 3:30 pm

Keynote Address 1 by Anna Agbe-Davies, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

3:30 pm - 3:35 pm

Introduction to Keynote 2

3:35 am - 4:15 pm

Keynote Address 2 (Online) by Menna Agha, Carleton University

4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Open discussion and questions

Discussant: Jason De Leon, UCLA

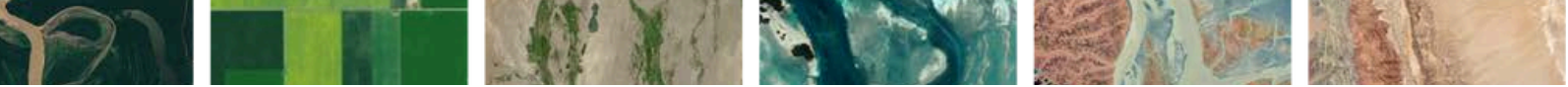
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Dinner at Frida (Westwood)

romin walk from Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

10853 Lindbrook Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90024.





May 2, 2025

Room A222, Fowler Building
UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Program Day 2

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Refreshments, light breakfast

10:00 am - 10:15 am

Land Acknowledgment

Welcome Back and Quick Recap of Day 1

10:15 am - 11:45 pm

Session 3
The impact of archaeology and heritage

10:15 am - 10:30 am

Growing Histories: Plants, Tourism, and Inka
Heritage in Chinchero, Peru
Gabriel Silva Collins, UCLA

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Reflecting on Architectural Fieldwork in Beitunia,
Palestine
Adam Lubitz, UCLA

11:00 am - 11:15 am

The impact of archaeology at El-Kurru
Anawar Mohamed, University of Michigan

11:15 am - 11:25 am

Discussant Comments

11:25 am - 11:45 am

Questions and Discussion

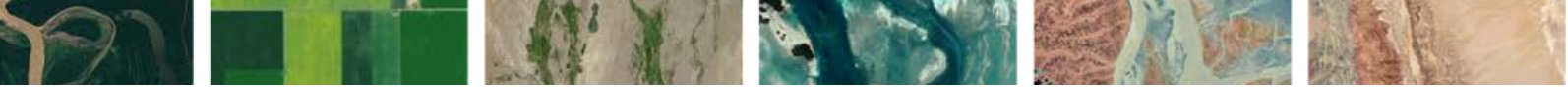
Discussant: Taylor Carr-Howard, UCLA

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch and Undergraduate Poster Session

Presenters TBD





1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Roundtable: Indigenous knowledge and landscape ecologies
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	Panelists: <i>Ling-Wen Hsu, National Taiwan University</i> <i>Liang-yu Chen, National Chengchi University</i> <i>Yapit Tali, National Chengchi University</i> <i>Yu Huang, National Chengchi University</i> <i>Yuchuan Cheng, National Chengchi University</i>
1:50 pm - 2:00 pm	Discussant Comments
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Questions and Discussion Discussant: TBD
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Session 4 Ethnoarchaeology, movable objects, and new methodologies
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Detecting Ancient Organic Craft Technology in Tropical Africa <i>Tianrui Xu, Washington University in St. Louis</i>
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	One Island, Four Pottery Villages: Ethnoarchaeological, Mineralogical, and Geochemical Analysis of Pottery in Bohol, Central Visayas, Philippines <i>Rhayan Melendres, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Exploring the Cultural Ecology of Lamanok: Adaptation and Shamanistic Practices <i>Athena Vitor, Holy Name University</i>
3:30 am - 3:40 pm	Discussant Comments
3:40 pm - 4:00 pm	Questions and Discussion Discussant: Katrina Kuxhausen, UCLA
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Breakout Session and Closing Discussion
5:00 pm - 6:20 pm	Film Screening Back to our land 找路的我們 <i>By Sayun Simung, Sqoyaw Community, Taiwan</i>
6:20 pm - onwards	Dinner and Party

