



Around the Fire

Fire and its uses, from MSA to LSA in South Africa:
paleoenvironments, fuel management, heat treatments
and symbolic use of fire

International Workshop

Friday 13 September 2019

08:30 - 17:00

IFAS Conference Room
62 Juta Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg

Programme

8:30-9:00

Welcome reception (with coffee and tea)

9:00-9:15

Keynote address by Isabelle Théry-Parisot and Prof. Marion Bamford

Public talks

9:20-9:35

Prof. Lyn Wadley (ESI, Wits)

The origin and development of pyrotechnology in Africa

9:40-9:55

Sally Archibald (School of Animal Plant and Environmental Sciences, Wits)

Human-fire patterns across the Savanna Biome

10:00-10:15

Tammy Hodgskiss (Origins Centre / GAES, Wits)

Fire and ochre: Investigating the intentional heat treatment of ochre during the Middle Stone Age

10:20-10:40 - Coffee and tea break

10:40-10:55

Irene Esteban (ESI, Wits)

Remnants of fire: phytoliths and FT-IR as a tool for identifying prehistoric hearth structure and function

11:00-11:15

May Murungi (ESI, Wits)

A phytolith and mineralogical study of the ash layers of Bushman Rock Shelter

11:20-11:35

Elysandre Puech (ESI, Wits / CEPAM, Université Nice Côte d'Azur)

Anthracological analysis of the Later Stone Age at Bushman Rock Shelter: palaeoecological and palaeoeconomical approaches

11:40-13:30 - Lunch time

13:30-13:45

Chrissie Sievers (GAES, Wits)

Searching for alternative fuels...

13:50-14:05

Grant Hall (Stable Isotope Laboratory, University of Pretoria)

Stable carbon isotope analysis of ancient charcoal as a tool to reconstruct past environments

14:10-14:25

Joseph Chikumbirike (School of Humanities, Sol Plaatje University)

Elements of fire as a symbol and metaphor of communication and immortality among the people of Southern Africa

Panel discussion

