



ISAFRICA

Stone Age workshop

Immersive Stones:

Interactive learning of African lithic technology

1st-7th April 2024

MAX PLANCK
GESELLSCHAFT



anr®

Aix-Marseille
université



LAMPEA
UMR 7263





The workshop will feature a daily agenda including several presentations lead by diverse key speakers. The central focus will be on hands-on experiments, specifically emphasizing knapping and tool utilization in alignment with the daily presentation themes. Ample time will be allocated to lively discussions surrounding the presented archaeological collections. The primary goal is to promote daily interactions among participants, facilitate the exchange of ideas, foster the integration of diverse perspectives, and afford student participants a thorough, diachronic understanding of the Stone Age in southern Africa.



SUMMARY OF SUBJECT/TOPIC

The ISAfrica workshop - “Immersive Stones: interactive learning of African lithic technology” -

aims to pair a diverse pool of African graduate students with a group of southern African Stone Age specialists from various disciplines, for an inclusive research and teaching workshop focused on active learning of African lithic technologies. The goal is to create an interactive, collaborative space for southern African students and seasoned researchers, exploring a broad spectrum of aspects of the southern African Stone Age, from the Early Stone Age right through to the later LSA.

Over the course of one week, students and specialists ('participants') will congregate at the Florisbad Quaternary Research Station in the Free State province (South Africa). Participants will actively engage with key Stone Age collections from southern Africa, explore key technologies through active experiments on different southern African raw-materials, and will engage with cutting-edge research concerning lithic studies in southern Africa.

The aim is to foster a mutually enhancing balance between scientists and students so as to emphasize active engagement of participants from diverse backgrounds, stimulate inclusive discussions, and optimize knowledge development and retention in all participants. The workshop will introduce key theoretical concepts, offer opportunities to experiment with different dimensions of knapping of southern African raw-materials (stone artefact manufacture), and will interactively discuss artefacts from key south African archaeological sites including Montagu Cave, Elandsfontein, Florisbad, Cornelia, Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Rose Cottage Cave, Sibhudu Cave, Klasies River Mouth and others.





VENUE & CONDITIONS OF STAY

1. Applicants need to commit to be present for the full duration of the workshop.
2. Applicants need to be registered or pre-registered in a Masters or PhD program focused on African lithic technologies.
3. Accommodation, subsistence and travel expenses will be covered by the organizers for the duration of the workshop. Participants are responsible for covering any additional personal costs (Visas, vaccines, etc.).
4. Participants will stay at the Florisbad Quaternary Research Station/Soutpan area, in self-catering accommodation, Free State Province, South Africa.
5. The workshop will run from 8.30am to 7pm each day.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicants should send a CV, a letter of motivation and a letter of support (e.g. from a supervisor) **by 18 February 2024** to **will.archer@nasmus.co.za** and **guillaume.porraz@cnrs.fr**.

Preference will be given to applicants from Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa, and to under-represented designated groups in the field of southern African Stone Age archaeology.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

DAY 1 (April 1st)

Presentation of the ISAfrica aims and objectives, lithic technology and the role of experiments in African Stone Age studies.

DAY 2 (April 2nd)

Rock mechanical properties, fracture patterns and tool use.

DAY 3 (April 3rd)

The Early Stone Age of southern Africa (overview and case studies)

DAY 4 (April 4th)

The Middle Stone Age of southern Africa (Part I: overview and case studies).

DAY 5 (April 5th)

The Middle Stone Age of southern Africa (Part II: overview and case studies).

DAY 6 (April 6th)

The Later Stone Age of southern Africa (overview and case studies).

DAY 7 (April 7th)

Feedback meeting – unscheduled discussion and experiments.



FUNDING AGENCIES

The Max Planck Society
The National Museum, Bloemfontein (South Africa)
The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
The Agence National de la Recherche (ANR-21-CE27-0030-01).