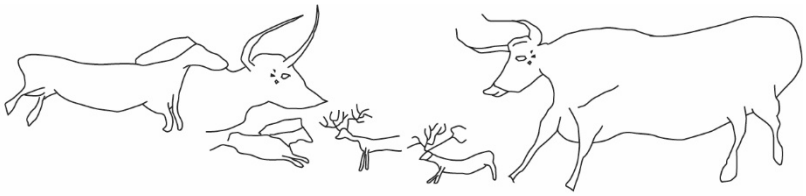
MUSÉE NATIONAL DE PRÉHISTOIRE

CNRS IRN 2022 - RAHMSA

Rock Art Heritage Management in Southern Africa (RAHMSA)

International Symposium
November 27 – December 3 2024



PRESENTING ROCK ART SITES

Musée national de la Préhistoire, France

Language: English

Coordinators and Organising committee

Catherine Cretin, National Museum of Prehistory, Ministry of Culture
Mélanie Duval, EDYTEM UMR 5204 - Université Savoie Mont Blanc
Nathalie Fourment, National Museum of Prehistory, Ministry of Culture
Stéphane Hœrlé, PACEA UMR 5199 – Bordeaux University

Scientific committee

Amanda Esterhuysen, Origins Centre, RSA
Oscar Fuentes, National Center of Prehistory, Ministry of Culture, France
Jean-Michel Geneste, Ministry of Culture (honorary fellow), France
Erica Ndalikokule, National Heritage Council, Namibia
Ancila Nhamo, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Phillip Segadika, National Museum, Botswana

Context

The "Presenting rock art sites" symposium is part of a collaborative programme called "Rock Art Heritage Management in Southern Africa" (RAHMSA). This programme is an International Research Network (IRN) funded by the CNRS and aims to strengthen partnerships between several southern African countries and France on issues related to the preservation and valorisation of rock art sites (See Appendix 2). RAHMSA is a companion project to COSMO-ART (The Cosmopolitan Approach as a New Paradigm for Rock Art Heritage Management in Southern Africa), an international research project funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR). See Appendix 3.

Aim of the symposium

The aim is to exchange on the different ways of presenting rock art sites, whether in museums, site museums, through exhibitions, or via paper and digital mediation. We will examine how to compensate for the inaccessibility of the site or how to think about the complementarity between site visits and museum or exhibition visits.

The participants will be invited to put into perspective their experiences and to reflect on the issues associated with mediation actions (which audiences? which discourses? which messages?). Discussions will also be a follow-up of a training workshop organised by RAHMSA, “Documenting rock art sites” (Namibia, Sept. 2023), as the documentation of rock art sites, how they are recorded and what is recorded, impacts directly the means of presenting them.

The questions that will be addressed concern:

- the visitor experience: the part of sensitivity, pleasure and sense of wonder, feeling of the authenticity,
- taking into account the diversity of the public (ages, disabilities, cultures: how to combine particular and universality?),
- the economic realities (investments, sustainability, local benefits, etc.),
- taking into account the protection and conservation of rock art and its place in the discourse,
- the modality of discourses-making process: a critical approach to mediation (technical, cultural and political issues).

The international symposium will consist of site and museum visits, lectures and group work, and public sessions. Working groups will be asked to reflect on the proposed themes, based on the participants' own experience and the visits and lectures provided during the workshop before a final collective restitution and discussion.

Living expenses (meals, accommodation, visit fees) is covered for the duration of the symposium. For the duration of the workshop, participants will be accommodated at the Cadouin youth hostel (https://www.hifrance.org/auberges-de-jeunesse/cadouin/). Shared accommodation will encourage collective work and exchanges. Several partnerships make it possible to cover the fees for all the invited speakers and for the learners coming from Southern and East Africa. In the end, the symposium, organised and partly funded by IRN RAMHSA, has benefit from co-funding from ANR COSMO-ART and for 20 other partners.

Invited speakers

Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Museums Association of Namibia, Namibia
Emeline Deneuve, Regional directorate of cultural affairs in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France
Mélanie Duval, EDYTEM, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, France
Amanda Esterhuysen, University of Cape Town, RSA
Oscar Fuentes, National Center of Prehistory, Ministry of Culture, France
Jean-Michel Geneste, Ministry of Culture (honorary fellow), France

Tammy Hodgskiss, Origins Centre, RSA
Meghan Judge, Origins Centre, RSA
Marc Martinez (or his/her representative), Centre des Monuments nationaux, France
Muriel Mauriac, CRMH Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France
Aron Mazel, University of Newcastle, UK
Ancila Nhamo, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Lourenço Pinto, Sol Plaatje University, RSA
Frédéric Plassard, grotte de Rouffignac, France
Phillip Segadika, National Museum, Botswana

Process of selection

A call for applications has been launched to select participants in January 2024. The symposium was open to graduate students and post-docs, museum staff and heritage practitioners working with rock art. 64 applications were received, coming from all Southern Africa, East Africa and Asia. Each application was examined twice, by members of the scientific committee and members of the organising committee. In the end, 23 applications have been selected. The workshop will bring together participants from the following countries: Botswana, eSwatini, France, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

November 27 – December 3 2024

Presenting rock art sites

Musée national de la Préhistoire, France

PROGRAMME

Tuesday November 26: Arrival

Arrival in France (one group coming from CDG airport, Paris / train to Brive / transfer to le Buisson; other groups coming from Bordeaux and Toulouse)

19:30 Dinner at the accommodation

Wednesday November 27: Welcome, presentation and visit

7:30 Breakfast

8:15 Departure to Les Eyzies

9:00 Arrival at the museum

9:15 Introduction, programme and introduction of the speakers, presentation of expectations and areas of reflection

9:15 / 9:45 - Mélanie DUVAL & Stéphane HOERLE - **Presentation of RAHMSA and organisation of the week**

9:45 / 10:15 - Nathalie FOURMENT & Catherine CRETIN - **Presentation of the Museum and aims of "Presenting Rock Art" workshop**

10:15 / 11:00 Jean-Michel GENESTE - **Pleistocene Eurasian rock art: history, chronological position and specific issues**

11:00 / 11:45 - Oscar FUENTES - **The policy of France in study, conservation and valorization of rock art sites**

12:00 Lunch

13:15 Departure to Rouffignac

14:00 Visit to Rouffignac cave

16:45 Return to the accommodation & presentation of the participants

18:45 Constitution of the working groups for the all week

19:30 Dinner

Thursday November 28: Visits

7:30 Breakfast

8:15 Departure to Les Eyzies

Visits: Font-de-Gaume cave, Combarelles cave, Fish rock shelter and Cap Blanc rock shelter

12:30 Lunch

Visits (cont.): Font-de-Gaume cave, Combarelles cave, Fish rock shelter and Cap-Blanc rock shelter

17:00 National Museum of Prehistory: presentation of the participants

19:30 Dinner

Friday November 29: OPEN SESSION (MNP auditorium)

8:00 Breakfast

8:45 Departure to Les Eyzies – National Museum

9:30 Debriefing visits from the previous two days – working groups

10:30 Presentations by the invited speakers

10:30 / 11:00 - Oscar FUENTES - **The 3D Ecosystem of Palaeolithic Rock Art heritage: Research, Conservation, and Mediation**

11:00 / 11:30 – Aron MAZEL - **A digital journey: sharing Northumberland (UK) rock art**

11:30 / 12:00 – Mélanie DUVAL - **What does it mean "authenticity" in a replica of rock art cave? This the case study of Chauvet Cave**

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Presentations by the invited speakers

14:00 / 14:30 – Marc MARTINEZ (represented by Céline TYSSANDIER) - **Sustainable management of prehistoric sites at the Centre des monuments nationaux**

14:30 / 15:00 - Emeline DENEUVE - **Cross-cutting issues about decorated caves: research, conservation, scientific promotion & cultural outreach – a quick look at some examples from Aquitaine**

15:00 / 15:30 – Muriel MAURIAC - **Conserving the Lascaux cave, a daily challenge**

15:30 BREAK

16:00 Presentations by the invited speakers

16:00 / 16:30 – Frédéric PLASSARD - **Rouffignac cave. Family-owned cave art site**

16:30 / 17:00 - Lourenço PINTO - **Myth-Making at Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre: Inventing the Past, Neglecting the Present?**

17:00 / 17:30 **-** Tammy HODGSKISS - **Encouraging active engagement with rock art at Origins Centre Museum**

17:30 Presentation of the participants (cont. and end)

18:30 Departure to the accommodation

19:30 Dinner

Saturday November 30: Open session (MNP auditorium)

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Departure to Les Eyzies

10:00 Visit of the MNP

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Presentations by the invited speakers

14:00 / 14:30 - Nathalie FOURMENT & Catherine CRETIN -**Challenges of presenting rock art in museums: general considerations and case of the National Museum of Prehistory**

14:30 / 15:00 – Meghan JUDGE - **The Re-presentation and Interpretation of Rock Art at Origins Centre Museum**

15:00 / 15:30 – Ndapewoshali ASHIPALA - **Rock art sites outside the sites themselves: Virtual and mobile museums and exhibitions - A case study of the museums association of Namibia**

15:30 BREAK

16:00 Presentations by the invited speakers

16:00 / 16:30 – Ancila NHAMO - **Presenting Rock Art the Locals: Innovations in Rock Art Presentation**

16:30 / 17:00 – Phillip SEGADIKA - **Challenges and Prospects in Presenting Rock Art at the Tsodilo Museum and Walking Trails**

17:00 / 17:30 – Amanda ESTERHUYSEN - **The place of Rock Art in the South African school system: building a national imaginary**

17:30 Departure from the museum
18:00 Cussac Exhibition
19:30 Dinner

Sunday December 1st: Visit to Pech-Merle

8:00 Breakfast
8:30 Departure to Cabrerets (Lot)
10:30 Arrival to Cabrerets / Pech-Merle
11:00 Visit of Pech-Merle cave (group 1) and museum (group 2)
12:30 Lunch (picnic with the administrator and guide)
14:00 Visit of Pech-Merle cave (group 2) and museum (group 1)
16:00 Return to accommodation Cadouin
19:30 Dinner

Monday December 2nd: Visits

7:30 Breakfast
8:15 Departure to Montignac
10:00 Visits to Lascaux II
12:00 Lunch
13:30 Visit to Lascaux IV
16:15 Visit of the monitoring centre of Lascaux Cave
18:00 Visit of Arc&Os, workshop of Alain Dalis
19:30 Dinner (cold buffet)

Tuesday December 3: NMP auditorium

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Work in groups
12:30 Lunch
14:00: Transversal exercise (mix of groups) of synthesis on the main themes of reflection and then collective restitution
16:30 Discussions, conclusions, distribution of the certificates of participation
17:30 Departure for accommodation
19:30 Dinner

Wednesday 4 December: Departure

For whom are going back to Paris
3:15 am departure to the Brive train station
5:30 train from Brive to Paris and transfer to CDG airport
For the others, breakfast at 8:00

A collaboration between

RAHMSA

cnrs

COSMO ART

anr

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

MUSÉE NATIONAL DE PRÉHISTOIRE

pacea UMR 5199

laboratoire edytem
environnements dynamiques territoires montagnes

TRACES
TRAVAUX ET RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES SUR LES CULTURES, LES ESPACES ET LES SOCIÉTÉS

Éco-anthropologie (EA)
UMR 7206

NRF National Research Foundation

IFAS Recherche

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU ZIMBABWÉ
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN AFRIQUE DU SUD, AU LÉSOTHO ET AU MALAWI
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

Erasmus+

GPR HUMAN PAST

Département de recherche Sciences archéologiques / université de BORDEAUX

OSUG
Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de Grenoble

Grand Programme de Recherche IPORA | Recherche interdisciplinaire orientée vers l'élaboration de politiques en Afrique / université de BORDEAUX

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PRÉFET DE LA RÉGION NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

GROTTE DE ROUFFIGNAC

Pech Merle

Appendix 1: Abbreviations

ANR: Agence Nationale de la Recherche (French national research funding agency)

CNRS: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

COSMO-ART: Cosmopolitan Approach as a New Paradigm for Rock Art Heritage Management in Southern Africa

IRN RAHMSA: International Research Network Rock Art Management in Southern Africa, funded by CNRS

MNP: Musée national de la Préhistoire

PACEA: De la Préhistoire à l'Actuel : Culture, Environnement et Anthropologie (UMR 5199)

RSA: Republic of South Africa

SADC: Southern African Development Community

Appendix 2: RAHMSA

RAHMSA (https://cosmo-art.org/rahmsa) seeks to combine the efforts of researchers from five countries (Botswana, France, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) who study the issues raised by rock art heritage management in Southern Africa. There, aspects of the nearly universally implemented values-based heritage management doctrine are challenged, like in other parts of the world where culture and population diversity produce intermingling and sometimes conflicting sets of values. Although recent initiatives seek to address diversity in rock art management, they stumble across the difficulty to grasp multi-faceted, contextual, conflicting and constantly changing values and the absence of a strong holistic and integrated methodological framework to achieve it. RAHMSA proposes to address this methodological lack by joining the expertise and comparing the points of views and practices of researchers and heritage practitioners from diverse backgrounds to identify cross-cultural and interacting interest points, according to a cosmopolitan approach.

For this RAHMSA benefits from and expands on an existing ANR project: COSMO-ART. This programme proposes indeed the cosmopolitan approach as a tool to resolve the mentioned challenges facing rock art heritage management and thus better fulfil requirements of sustainability by reconciling various perceptions of rock art heritage and development policies. While COSMO-ART is targeted on research actions in South Africa and Namibia, RAHMSA aims to improve the regional structuring of research on the preservation, presentation and tourism development of rock art sites in Southern Africa, and to encourage the practical application of results from COSMO-ART by including two other southern Africa countries, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

RAHMSA members are:

Botswana National Museum, Botswana
Éco-anthropologie UMR 7206, France
EDYTEM UMR 5204, France
HNHP UMR 7194, France
Musée national de Préhistoire, France
PACEA UMR 5199, France
TRACES UMR 5608, France
University of Namibia, Namibia
University of Sol Plaatje, South Africa
University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Appendix 3: COSMO-ART

The Cosmopolitan Approach as a New Paradigm for Rock Art Heritage Management in Southern Africa (COSMO-ART) is a project funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) and coordinated by Mélanie Duval (EDYTEM).

COSMO-ART (http://www.cosmo-art.org) proposes a new methodology based on a Cosmopolitan Approach that actively seeks out cross-cultural common interest points in the use and perception of rock art sites that are recognised as relevant to a broad range of users (local populations, scientists, institutional stakeholders). The goal is to reconcile perceptions and development policies to better fulfil requirements of sustainability.

The starting point is the realisation that the accepted categories of heritage values (aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual) whilst supposedly universal, arise from a dominantly Western perception. We therefore chose a cosmopolitan approach to move us beyond the traditional binaries of 'us' and 'them', 'white' and 'black', 'managers' and 'communities'. It enables management plans to be designed around a consensus on objectives conceived of and from the perspective of southern Africans.

The proposed approach combines systemic, diachronic and interdisciplinary methodologies and has been elaborated by consortium members in the Maloti-Drakensberg World Heritage Site (South Africa-Lesotho). There are 3 different but interdependent themes:
1/ Present uses and values attributed to rock art sites;
2/ Tourist activities and public presentation;
3/ Vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies.

The proposed approach will be applied to rock art sites developed for tourism but with different research histories and socio-economic contexts.
•The Kimberley area (Northern Cape, South Africa): Driekopseiland, Nooitgedacht, Wildebeest Kuil, Wonderwerk Cave;
•The ≠Gaingu Conservancy (Erongo, Namibia): Etemba, Omandumba Farm, Spitzkoppe.

This comparative approach will make it possible to test the robustness of the method and whether it is transferable to other study areas, and can be applied to different kinds of heritage.
COSMO-ART brings together 33 researchers and students from 16 scientific institutions in 4 countries. They combine archaeology, history, museology, human and social geography, environmental and cultural anthropology, geomorphology, and materials science.

Australia
Centre for Rock Art Research + Management, University of Western Australia, Perth

France
EDYTEM UMR 5204, Chambéry
IFAS UMIFRE 25 USR 3336, Johannesburg
MNHN UMR 7206, Paris
PACEA UMR 5199, Bordeaux
TRACES UMR 5608, Toulouse

Namibia
National Heritage Council, Windhoek
National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek
University of Namibia, Windhoek

South Africa
African Rock Art Digital Archive, Johannesburg
McGregor Museum, Kimberley
Origins Centre, Johannesburg
Rock Art Research Institute, Johannesburg
SANParks, Pretoria
Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley
University of Pretoria