

Disciplina: ARQ5125 – Práticas Funerárias no Contexto Andino de Pachacamac: Bioarqueologia, Rituais, e Mudanças Climáticas em um Sítio de Longa Ocupação

25 a 29 de abril, das 9:00 às 13:00, no MAE; sala a confirmar, 2 créditos.

PROGRAM

GOALS:

This course aims to examine the archaeological site of Pachacamac in Peru in the light of bioarchaeology, with an emphasis on the recovery of human remains and their analyses, which will help us reconstruct the history of the populations who lived there. We will cover technical aspects inherent to funerary contexts and their implications to the understanding of the more general picture of mortuary practices in other Peruvian sites, against a backdrop of climatic oscillations, shortage and ritual sacrifices they may have entailed.

BACKGROUND:

The study of human remains recovered in archaeological contexts may reveal to us details of the diet, pathologies, occupation, populational composition and migration movements of these groups. Drawing on the visiting researcher's practical experience on Pachacamac, we shall consider the broader context of funerary practices, addressing other aspects such as burial types, grave goods, and specific rituals. In that sense, with an occupation during more than 1.500 years, Pachacamac offers a particularly rich case study, which allows us to enlarge the scope of the analysis to comprise aspects like differences in social status, gender roles, biological sex-related differentiations, the impact of illnesses on social structures and variability in artefacts and practices according to the different groups that lived in the area, besides being able to detect biological answers to great catastrophes such as natural disasters, famine, floods, etc.

CONTENTS (EMENTA):

We will examine relevant themes for the study of populational biology, including the physical characteristics determined by genetic make-up, like size and shape of bones and teeth, and also the interactions of these populations with their environment, their world view and the practices the latter gave rise to, translated into rituals of life and death found in the archaeological record. We can cite as examples of rituals of body modification present in Pachacamac, cradleboarding and intentional cranial deformation as a mark of status or possibly as an ethnic indicator.

The lectures will cover aspects that affected the composition and behaviour of populations, local and visiting, a significant contingent in the case of this site, given its position as a religious pilgrimage centre. To wit:

- I. A history of the occupation of Pachacamac and resulting stratigraphy, extremely complex and varied. In the early 20th century, Max Uhle established for them a pioneering chronology that applied (and still does) to the entire Andean region.
- II. The relationship between the different polities that settled in the region and the indigenous inhabitants, the interactions between the different polities in adjacent areas in the same period, and the changes brought about in the exploitation of the territory, the religious and funerary practices and in the urban conception.
- III. The possible demographic impact of a series of phenomena connected to El Niño and its consequences.
- IV. The importance of religious beliefs in the late 1st millennium AD, whereby the populations believed in a literally divine presence at the site, embodied as a large totem-pole-like deity that was recovered from the Painted Temple in the early 20th century.
- V. What was life like for the 9/10 of the population who were not part of the priests' class, and who therefore were not given a voice in traditional historical accounts? How did women fare, compared to men? When did boys and girls assume adult roles? Were the elderly respected or not? How about the

physically disadvantaged? How about infant mortality, causes of death and illnesses? How do we know there were pilgrims?

All of these issues and more are perfectly answered by bioarchaeological analyses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Manuals:

The Human Bone Manual. Tim White and Pieter Folkens 2005. Academic Press (concise version)

or

Human Osteology. Tim D. White, Michael T. Black and Pieter Folkens 2011+ (unabridged version)

Journals:

The American Journal of Physical Anthropology

The International Journal of Osteoarchaeology

The Journal of Archaeological Science

Bioarchaeology International

Journal of Andean Studies

References:

Larsen, Clark Spencer. 2015. **Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton** (*Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology Book 69*). Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0521838696

Roberts, Charlotte and Keith Manchester. 2010 [3rd Ed.]. **The Archaeology of Disease**. History Press. ISBN: 978-0752457505

Scheuer, Louise, Sue Black and Maureen Schaefer. 2008. **Juvenile Osteology**¹. Academic Press. ISBN: 978-0123746351

¹ Available as a large HB, PB, and also as an abridged spiral-bound field version.

Waldron, Tony. 2020. **Palaeopathology** (*Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology*). Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1108730884.

Eeckhout, P. and Owens, L.S. 2015. **Funerary Patterns and Models in the Ancient Andes: The Return of the Living Dead**. University Press, Cambridge.

Moseley, M. 2001. **The Incas and their ancestors: the archaeology of Peru**. Thames and Hudson.

Silverman, H. 2004. **Andean Archaeology**. Wiley-Blackwell.

<https://andyroscoe.com/peru/bibliography.html>

ASSESSMENT:

You will be required to write an essay on any topic or combination of topics raised in the course, where you will demonstrate your comprehension of the contents covered, as well as the reading material. This will comprise 100% of the assessment. Deadline and other details will be established at the start of the course.

TEACHING METHODS AND PRACTICE:

The course will be taught via PowerPoint presentations and handouts, and class discussions. Basic references are provided here, although further reading is recommended.

Dr Lawrence S. Owens

London

20th September, 2021