

ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE (IFAO)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE

CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE RECHERCHE ET D'ENSEIGNEMENT DES GÉOSCIENCES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
(CEREGE, CNRS, UMR 6635)

AND THE CENTRE FRANCO-ÉGYPTIEN D'ÉTUDE DES TEMPLES DE KARNAK (CFEETK, USR 3172, CNRS)

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GEO-ARCHAEOLOGY  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

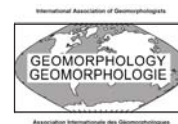
# LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY EGYPT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

CAIRO, 19<sup>TH</sup>-21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010



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INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON GEOARCHAEOLOGY



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Dr. Christophe THIERS, Director of USR 3172 CNRS, co-director of CFEETK

Dr. Cornelius VON PILGRIM, Director Swiss Institute, Cairo



## Presentation

At the interface between earth sciences and human sciences, Geoarchaeology could be defined as the study of the ancient landscapes. Combining geosciences and geographical methods can be of significant help to the study of prehistory, archaeology and history. This geoarchaeological approach is interdisciplinary as it constructs models of environmental and landscape dynamics into multiple spatial and scales, linking the human occupation and impact on an archaeological site. This method requires a two fold multi-scale analysis, from the regional into the intra-site spatial dimension as well as a regressive approach to the current landscapes to that of the past.

The study of an archaeological context begins with a taphonomic study. This type of methodology is closely linked to the analysis of geomorphological dynamics: fossilisation, transformation or destruction of the site. The geoarchaeological approach allows a better understanding of sediment formation. As the result of current technologies, sediments can now be an important source of archaeological information, particularly as a way of detecting human activity. Therefore, a palaeoenvironmental approach is necessary in order to characterise the setting and role of any human activity in the processes. It is clear that geoarchaeology can provide fundamental data that will facilitate an integrated study of geosystem dynamics during past millennia.

During the last couple of decades many archaeological studies have allowed us to better understand the population dynamic of ancient landscapes and various types of settlements used by human groups. A Geoarchaeological approach is increasingly used in research projects when dealing with the long term evolution of landscapes. Numerous scholars are now convinced that for questions such as the formation processes of rural sites, water management policies, palaeoenvironmental reconstructions, territorial occupation or population location; a more integrated approach between human and geosciences is required. At the same time such integrated studies are able to identify the most striking visual elements of human occupation in ancient settings and record those that deserve conservation and valorisation.

The international colloquium, to be held in Cairo, will be dedicated primarily to Egypt, however within the Mediterranean context. Egypt is characterised by the variety of its natural landscapes and exceptional archaeological potential. In terms of dynamics, its main uniqueness lies in the juxtaposition of an area with very strong alluvial process and fossilisation (the Nile Valley), a desert periphery and weak transport of superficial alluviums. Within the framework of relations between man and his environment, the primary objective of the colloquium is to throw light on the evolution of the River Nile, a major component of the Egyptian landscape and its impact on the peripheral spaces (coasts, flood plain, desert wadis and their tributaries). However, are hoping to throw a wider net over the larger Mediterranean environment by welcoming additional case studies that will better emphasise Egyptian conditions.

## Topics

The subjects developed during the colloquium concern all aspects of landscape archaeology. Sessions will be dedicated to the following topics:

- River landscapes
- Coastal landscapes
- The Nile and its delta
- Desert landscapes
- Urban landscapes
- Archaeology and climatic changes
- Archaeology and natural hazards
- Archaeology and geomatics
- Survey techniques
- Historical sources and landscapes



## Languages

French and English

## Presentations

Presentations may take two forms, oral and/or poster format. They should be made in French or in English and will have to correspond to the subjects proposed above.

Participants wishing to present a communication have to send their proposal before the **30<sup>th</sup> of March 2010**. Proposals should be a maximum of one page (500 words) and will have to conform to the recommendations available on the website of the colloquium. Authors should indicate their preference for oral or poster presentations.

Abstracts will be evaluated by an international scientific committee that will establish the final list of selected papers. Organisers reserve the right to place oral presentations into posters, or vice versa.

We invite you to send your abstract by email to the following address:

**[archeopaysage2010@ifao.egnet.net](mailto:archeopaysage2010@ifao.egnet.net)**

## Publication of the proceedings

All presentations, oral presentations or posters, will be reviewed by an international scientific committee for publication. The proceedings will be published by the IFAO.

The deadline for manuscripts is fixed for the **1<sup>st</sup> January 2011**. To reduce any delay in publication, the scientific committee would be grateful if the participants supply their articles during the colloquium. Guidelines for publication layout are available from the IFAO website (<http://www.ifao.egnet.net/publications/outils/recommandations>).

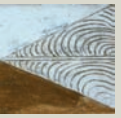
## Location of the colloquium

"Landscape Archaeology" will be held in Cairo. Subject to acceptance, the opening session will take place in the conference room of Egyptian Geographical Society, which kept its historic character. All sessions will be organised at the French Cultural Centre (CFCC), conveniently located in Central Cairo close to the IFAO.

## Schedule

During the first three days of the colloquium, speakers will present, in French or English, results of multidisciplinary studies concerning the Geoarchaeology of Egypt and the Mediterranean world. A session will be specifically devoted to the presentation of posters.

- Sunday 19th September (Egyptian Geographical Society)
  - Morning: welcome and registration, official opening, communication session
  - Lunch
  - Afternoon: communication session
  - Evening: reception in the IFAO garden
  
- Monday 20th September (CFCC)
  - Morning: communication session
  - Lunch
  - Afternoon: communication session; poster session



- Tuesday 21st September (CFCC)
  - Morning: communication session
  - Lunch in the IFAO garden
  - Afternoon: communication session; closing session
  - Evening: gala dinner (optional)

Fourth day (22nd September 2010) will be dedicated to a scientific excursion within the region of Cairo.

## Workshop

A workshop reserved for the French-speaking doctoral candidates will take place from 23rd until the 25th of September 2010 in Upper Egypt. Places are reserved for approximately twenty doctoral students. The workshop will take place at Karnak, Coptos, Dendera, Medamud and in the Valley of the Kings. It will give an opportunity for participants to see several geoarchaeological case studies as well as training in various techniques used in this field. This training will be supervised by archaeologists, egyptologists and geomorphologists.

Registration fees (100 € per pers.) include transportation costs from Cairo to Luxor, accommodation and meals.

## Registration for the Colloquium

Early registration is fixed at 150 € before the **31<sup>st</sup> of May 2010** and 200 € after the **1<sup>st</sup> of June 2010**. A special 100-€ rate is offered to doctoral candidates. The registration fees include:

- registration for the colloquium
- coffee breaks
- lunches (buffets)
- scientific excursion
- colloquium kit

Travel costs, accommodation and dinners are at the expense of the participants. A list of hotels and information concerning restaurants in Cairo will be available on the colloquium website.

Five scholarships (registration free) will be granted to doctoral students after evaluation of the scientific file of candidates. We invite doctoral students interested to send their abstract accompanied with curriculum vitae and recommendation letter from their research director.

## Dates

- 1st June 2009: first circular and launch of the website
- 15th December 2009: second circular
- 1st March 2010: abstract deadline
- 1st May 2010: draft programme
- 31st May 2010: early registration deadline
- 1st July 2010: final programme

## For more information

Website of the conference: <http://www.ifao.egnet.net/geoarcheologie2010>

Contact the organisers: [archeopaysage2010@ifao.egnet.net](mailto:archeopaysage2010@ifao.egnet.net)

