

Potential changes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Please note that information regarding teaching, learning and assessment in this module handbook endeavours to be as accurate as possible. However, in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the changeable nature of the situation and the possibility of updates in government guidance, there may need to be changes during the course of the year. UCL will keep current students updated of any changes to teaching, learning and assessment on the [Students' webpages](#). This includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which may help you with any queries that you may have.

ARCL0061 - Ancient Societies of Amazonia

2022-23, Term 1

Yrs. 2 & 3 BA/BSc module (15 credits)

Module Coordinator Dr. José R. Oliver

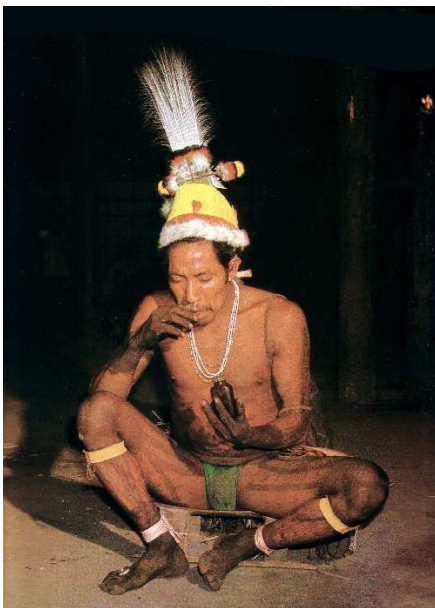
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Lecture Venue: Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, Room W3.06

Fridays 9-11 AM

Office at IoA Room 104

Consultation Hours: Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3 PM & by prior appointment



Barasana shaman, NW Amazon



Obidos lithic sculpture



Funerary urn, Lower Amazon

Please refer to the online IoA Student Handbook and IoA Study Skills Guide:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook>) and

(<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-study-skills-guide>) for instructions on coursework

submission, IoA referencing guidelines and marking criteria, as well as UCL policies on penalties for late submission, over-length work and academic misconduct.

1. Ancient Societies of Amazonia: module overview

Module description

This module provides a broad overview of some of the key archaeological topics that define the time-deep human history of the planet's largest rainforest biome: Amazonia. Many of the key issues revolve around five major questions: **(1)** Who were the ancestors of present-day indigenous peoples of Amazonia? **(2)** When and what kinds of societies developed in ancient Amazonia? **(3)** To what extent did these populations modify/shape the landscape and environment of this so-called pristine environment? **(4)** Did societies become (or not) sedentary? When, how, why, and to what extent? **(5)** What role did plant cultivation/agriculture play (if any) in supporting population growth? **(6)** What can we say about social complexity among ancient Amazonians?

The module Ancient Societies of Amazonia has been designed bearing in mind that most students will have only limited knowledge about the broader context of lowland South American archaeology and of Amazonia as a biome. Therefore, as much as teaching is centred on how archaeology and allied fields permit reconstructing ancient cultural diversity, the module also dips freely into the region's ethnography, linguistics, geography, and ecology in search of crucial insights for archaeology. This echoes the intellectual approach of most Amazonian archaeologists, who are accomplished regionalists and over time become knowledgeable about the very particular 'natural' features of this extraordinary biome (and how they themselves are crucial pieces of the region's larger archaeological puzzle). Contents covered in the module's teaching, in addition, provide a critical glimpse into a growing stream of research that adopts a reflexive and politically committed position as complex links develop between archaeological research and the broader political context of conservation, deforestation, and the future of contemporary Amazonian peoples.

Module Aims

- To introduce students to key arguments about the historical development of ancient societies of Amazonia, including their theoretical foundation in cultural evolutionary, environmental determinist, and historical ecological models
- To map the broader variability of Amazonian "archaeological systematics" (lithic and ceramic typologies, settlement types, environmental data) and teach students to evaluate interpretations of Amazonian history based on this evidence.
- To showcase and discuss the role of archaeology and allied disciplines (including palaeo-environmental studies) in understanding the history of human modification of the Amazonian rainforest and some of its broader conservation implications.
- To showcase and discuss the role of archaeology within the broader politics of Amazonia affecting the inhabitants of Amazonia, especially indigenous peoples and forest peasants.
- To showcase case studies and methodological approaches that can be expanded or emulated by students when undertaking their own research (e.g. BA dissertations).
- To familiarise students with Amazonian models that can be of comparative value regarding ancient societies of other humid tropical regions of the world.

Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with the key literature and source materials for each topic reviewed in the module. By the end of term, students who have engaged diligently with the module's lectures, seminars and readings should be able to recognize, understand and critically reflect on the principal questions and problems that archaeologists have wrestled with in Amazonian archaeology. Via essay

writing, students should be able to critically evaluate how effectively archaeologists have addressed and dealt with the issues at hand. Students should also be able to evaluate and discuss whether the explanations provided by archaeologists fit the data (or not) and recognize the character and nature of the evidence. The knowledge gained through study of this module's topics should prepare students to be useful it to broader questions of human-environment relationships, past and present.

Communications

- Moodle is the main hub for this course. Important information will be posted by staff in the Announcements section of the Moodle page, and you will automatically receive an email notification for these.
- Please post any general queries relating to module content, assessments, and administration in **Moodle's Forum**. Alternatively, you can also post comments/questions relating to module content in Teams Module Forum: "**ARCL0061 Ancient Societies of Amazona 2022-23**". Click here for link to Teams: [TEAMS AMAZONIA](#)
- All PowerPoint presentations for this module can be accessed/reviewed in **Teams** (click on "File" tab). You have already been added to Teams for access. Lectures will be recorded and later posted in Teams (click on FILE tab).
- For personal queries, please contact by email j.oliver@ucl.ac.uk

Weekly Module Plan and Preparation for Class

ARCL0061 is taught through lectures and assisted by PowerPoint presentations. Students will be required to undertake readings before class meeting. These are labelled "**Essential Readings**". additional readings are labelled as "Further Readings" recommended but not required), to provide additional reference materials, useful for essay writing. Further Readings are listed (by Week) in Section 6 in this handbook.

Workload

This is a 15-credit module, which equates to 150 hours of learning time including session preparation, background reading, and researching and writing your assignments.

20 hours	<i>Staff-led teaching sessions (lectures, discussion). I.e., 2-hour lectures/week</i>
40 hours	<i>Self-guided preparation (reading, listening, note-taking and online reviews previous of lectures [PPTs]), about 3.5 hours a week</i>
45 hours	<i>Researching, reading for, and writing, essay 1</i>
45 hours	<i>Researching, reading for, and writing, essay 2</i>

2. Week-by-week summary

The week-by-week summary (table below) is organized into 11 weeks. Each week there is a main topic (and several sub-topic) to be covered in two hours (10 min. break on the hour). The essay due date is provided in the right column. Note that Week 6 is *Reading Week* and no lectures are scheduled.

Date	Week #	Topic	ESSAY DUE*
07/OCT	1	Introducing Amazonian Archaeology and its Landscape Twists	
14/OCT	2	Amazonia in the Early and Middle Holocene a. Early Holocene “Foragers”, b. Early Ceramists and Shell “mounds”	
21/OCT	3	Amazonia’s Late Holocene: Farmers or Wild at Heart? a. Domestication and Cultivation, b. Anthrosols, Cultural forests c. Raised fields and agriculture	
28/OCT	4	Archaeology of the Amazon and its Tributaries (Part 1) a. Marajó Island b. The Guianas C. Santarém	
04/NOV	5	Archaeology of the Amazon and its Tributaries (Part 2) a. The Middle, b. Northwest and c. Upper Amazon	
7-11/NOV	6	READING WEEK	
18/NOV	7	Networked Landscapes of Amazonia a. SW Amazon: Acre & Llanos de Mojos; b. S. Amazon: Xingu	ESSAY DUE 18/11/2022
25/NOV	8	Art and Cosmology in Amazonian Archaeology a. Rock Art; b. Figuring out in Amazonian Pottery	
02/DEC	9	Archaeology at the Edges of Amazonia a. The Orinoco; b. Andean foothills & selva	
09/DEC		Archaeology of Colonial/Postcolonial Amazonia-Anthropocene Colonial Amazonia & Cotemporary Heritage Archaeology	
16 DEC		Course Overview:	ESSAY DUE 10/01/2023

Manuel Arroyo-Kalin is likely to be a guest lecturer in any of these lectures.

3. ASSESSEMENTS

Each assignment will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline. If you are unclear about the nature of an assignment, you should discuss this with the module co-ordinator in advance (via office hours or class Moodle forum). You will receive feedback on your written coursework via Moodle and, should you wish, can also discuss your marks and feedback with the co-ordinator.

For more details see the ‘Assessment’ section on Moodle. The [IoA marking criteria](#) can be found in the IoA Student Handbook (Section 12: Information on assessment). The [IoA Study Skills Guide](#) provides useful guidance on writing different types of assignment.

Please note that **late submission, exceeding the maximum word count and academic misconduct (plagiarism) will be penalized** and can significantly reduce the mark awarded for the assignment and/or overall module result. On requirements, please do consult:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook/12-information-assessment> with sections 12.8: submission deadlines, 12.10: word count, 12.12–

Each essay counts for 50% of your module mark. Please carefully follow the instructions for uploading the essay (a PDF file) provided in the “Assessments” tab in Moodle. The uploaded essay should be labelled (filename) as CANDIDATE #####_ARCL.0060_Essay # (e.g., **QRZB2_ARCL0069_Essay 1** or **QRZB2_ARCL0069_Essay 2.**). The essay file should look like this:



QRZB2_ARCL0069_Essay-1_ [plus brief title, if you wish]

Essay #1 (1500 words; 50%) due on 18 November 2022

Choose from one of the following questions:

1. How does archaeological and ethnographic evidence permit reconstructing past Amazonian people’s use of plants and the ‘domestication’ of the Amazonian landscape?
2. With reference to existing archaeological evidence, critically discuss the peopling and initial human occupation of Amazonia (from the terminal Pleistocene to the middle Holocene).
3. Provide a critical review of Meggers’ “Standard Model” of Amazonian cultural-historical development of Amazonia.
4. To what extent is Lathrap’s ‘Neolithic Revolution’ model for the onset of sedentism and the beginnings of agriculture supported in Amazonia?
5. Critically discuss whether and to what extent can pre-colonial socio-political complexity in Amazonia be inferred from enduring landscape modifications of anthropic origin?

2. Essay #2 (1500 words; 50%) due on 10 January 2023

Choose from one of the following questions:

1. How do burial practices provide insights into past social memory, the making of places, and social complexity in pre-colonial Amazonia?
2. Are Peoples = Pots? Critically discuss the history of ideas linking ceramic traditions and the geographic distribution of indigenous languages for pre-colonial Amazonia.
3. Summarize and discuss existing archaeological interpretations of Amazonian rock art and of “figuring” in Amazonian pottery, with critical attention to archaeological style.
4. Compare and contrast archaeological inferences about past social/cultural complexity that emerge from the archaeology of seasonal wetlands (e.g., Mojos, Guianas, or Marajó Island) and rainforest areas (e.g., Central Amazon, Santarém, Northwest Amazon, or Upper Amazon).
5. Using archaeological evidence, discuss the extent to which Andean and Amazonian civilizations influenced each other in pre-colonial times.
6. How does the archaeology of the colonial period contribute to ethnohistorical research and vice versa in Amazonia?

• **Harvard Referencing**

Use Harvard Referencing Guide (link: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-study-skills-guide/referencing-effectively-and-ioa-guidelines>). A more user-friendly Harvard guide can be found in this link from the University of Sheffield:

<https://www.librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.html>

4. RESOURCES AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Preparation for class

You are expected to read the **Essential Readings**, assigned for each week. Completing these readings is crucial for your effective comprehension of the topic/s. **Further Readings** are given in [Section 6](#) (at end of handbook, p. 15) and are organized by week and further subdivided by topic/region. *Further Readings will be very useful to research and instrumental to address your chosen essay questions*. All readings that are available online (to download as PDFs) are identified at the end of the bibliographic reference with “[Online via Explore](#)”. Those few that are not online are identified as “Hardcopy only” and followed by the library call number. In most cases, the latter are made available as PDFs posted in a Moodle (blue) folder for the week in question. These references are identified with “[Not Available at UCL \[PDF copy in Moodle\]](#)”. There are some references identified as “[Open Access](#)” followed by the web link to download; most of these are not available via UCL Explore. As far as possible the references include the “[doi](#)” number which by “click+ctrl” will also link to a site for downloading it. Nonetheless, always check the “Essential Reading” and the “Further Reading” blue folders in Moodle. An example for Week 1:



Additional readings are also provided via the Online Reading List for you to get a sense of the wide range of current work on a given topic and for you to draw upon for your essay work. The online reading list is accessible through the Moodle page of the module. *Be aware that online Reading List may not yet be updated (re-organized) for this year’s module.*

Core Texts & Additional Resources

When reference texts can be downloaded as PDFs they are identified as “[Online via Explore](#)”, If not available they are identified as “Hardcopy Only” followed by the library catalogue number. In some instances, books/articles not available electronically at UCL-Explore are posted as PDFs in Moodle.

A) Core Textbooks/Chapters

Heckenberger, M J. (2011). Deep History, Cultural Identities, and Ethnogenesis in the Southern Amazon. In Hornborg, Alf & Jonathan D. Hill (eds). *Ethnicity in Ancient Amazonia. Reconstructing Past Identities from Archaeology, Linguistics and Ethnohistory*, pp. 57-74. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. [Online via Explore UCL](#)

Heckenberger, M. J. & E. G. Neves (2009). Amazonian Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 38, 251-266. [Online via Explore UCL](#)

Lathrap, D. W. (1970). The Upper Amazon. Southampton: Thames & Hudson. **Hardcopy Only:** [INST ARCH DG LAT \[PDF Copy in Moodle\]](#)

McEwan, C. Barreto & E. G. Neves, editors (2001). *Unknown Amazon. Culture in Nature in Ancient Brazil* (1st ed., pp. 232-251). London: The British Museum Press. **Hardcopy Only:** [INST ARCH DG Qto MCE](#)

Neves, E (2011). Archaeological Cultures and Past Identities in the Pre-colonial Central Amazon. In Hornborg, Alf & Jonathan D. Hill (eds) *Ethnicity in Ancient Amazonia. Reconstructing Past Identities from Archaeology, Linguistics and Ethnohistory*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. Pp. 31-56. [Online via Explore UCL](#)

- Roosevelt AC. (2013). The Amazon and the Anthropocene: 13,000 years of human influence in a tropical rainforest. *Anthropocene* 4, 69–87. [Online via Explore UCL](#).
- Rostain, S. (2013). Islands in the Rainforest. Landscape Management in Pre-Columbian Amazonia. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. [Online via Explore UCL](#).
- Rostain, S, editor (2014a). *Antes de Orellana. Actas del 3er Encuentro Internacional de Arqueología Amazónica*. Quito: IFEA/FLACSO/US Embassy. [Open Access by editor in Academia.edu](#):
https://www.academia.edu/23437962/Antes_de_Orellana_Actas_del_3er_Encuentro_Internacional_de_Arqueolog%C3%ADa_Amaz%C3%B3nica
- Rostain, S., editor (2014b). *Amazonía. Memorias de las Conferencias Magistrales del 3er Encuentro Internacional de Arqueología Amazónica*. Quito: IFEA/FLACSO/US Embassy. [Open Access by editor in Academia.edu](#):
https://www.academia.edu/8427927/Amazon%C3%ADa_Memorias_de_las_conferencias_magistrales_del_3er_Encuentro_Internacional_de_Arqueolog%C3%ADa_Amaz%C3%B3nica
- Schaan, Denise (2012). Sacred Geographies of Ancient Amazonia: Historical Ecology of Social Complexity. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. [Online via Explore](#).
- Silverman, H. & W. H. Isbell, editors (2008). *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. New York: Springer. [Several relevant chapters on Amazonia & tropical lowlands]. [Online via Explore](#)
- B) Many discussions in Amazonia involve ethnographic, linguistic and geographic baselines. Some key references are:**
- Meggers, Betty J. (1996 [1971]) *Amazonia : Man and Culture in a Counterfeit Paradise*. Washington ; London : Smithsonian Institution Press, Revised edition. [Hardcopy Only: GEOGRAPHY WG 44 MEG](#)
- Moran, E. F. (1993). *Through Amazonian Eyes: The Human Ecology of Amazonian Populations*. Iowa city: University of Iowa Press. [Online via Explore](#)
- This book remains one of the best for introducing key geographic and ecology and environmental features of Amazonia to readers unfamiliar with this complex biome.*
- O'Connor, L. & P. Muysken, editors (2014). *The Native Languages of South America. Origins, Development, Typology*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. [Online via Explore](#)
- This book presents a state-of-the-art knowledge of linguistics in South America, with chapters on key Amazonian language families (e.g., Arawak/Mapuran and Tupi-Guarani).*
- Steward, Julian H., general editor (1948-1951). *Handbook of South American Indians*. Bulletin No. 143. Vols. I – VII. Washington DC: Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution. Available online via this link: <https://repository.si.edu/handle/10088/15404> --
- The above is a classic, comprehensive baseline reference resource of the cultural anthropology of all South America, with chapters on ethnography, ethnohistory, historical linguistics and pioneering archaeology (up to late 1940s), consisting of 7 volumes of which Volume 3 covers Amazonia (most relevant are:*
- Robert H. Lowie (1948). The tropical forests: an introduction. In *Handbook of South American Indians: The Tropical Forest Tribes* (Julian H. Steward, ed.), Volume 3, pp. 1–56.
 - Steward J. 1948 Culture areas of the tropical rainforest. In *Handbook of South American Indians: The Tropical Forest Tribes* (ed J Steward), Volume 3, pp. 883–898. Washington DC: Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution.

- Steward J. 1948 South American Cultures: An interpretative summary. In *Handbook of South American Indians: The Tropical Forest Tribes* (ed J Steward), Volume 5, pp. 669–772.

C) *A useful Ethnohistoric map prepared by Kurt Nimuendajú to locate different indigenous groups in Amazonia can be downloaded from:*

Nimuendajú, C. (1987). *Mapa etno-histórico de Curt Nimuendajú*. Rio de Janeiro: IBGE.

http://biblio.wdfiles.com/local--files/nimuendaju-1981-mapa/nimuendaju_1981_mapa.jpg

D) Some introductory films / online videos (you might be able to find the videos online). With films and any news pieces from non-academics, always watch out for overinflated claims!

[ANCESTORS FROM THE FOREST: Brazilian archaeology](#) – Lecture by Eduardo Góes Neves on the notion of Neolithic Revolution in Amazonia: Talks about agricultural plant food procurement (gathering) and production, domesticated plants, cultivated plants, wild plants but whose habitat is modified to enhance production, and the role of terras pretas/terras mulatas. It is delivered in Portuguese with English subtitles. FRUTO SEMINAR SERIES, 2019.

[Earthworks of Amazonia](#) Lecture posted in 2015 by Clark Erickson (U. of Pennsylvania) on “Great Wonders: The Monumental Geoglyphs of Amazonia”. It covers human modified landscapes, the so-called, geoglyphs of western Amazonia (Acre State) and ring-ditch settlements and raised fields in Llanos de Mojos (Bolivia).

[Rock Art at Monte Alegre-Middle Amazon](#). Archaeologist Anna O. Roosevelt comments on the painted rock art of the Monte Alegre area (including the Paleoindian site Caverna do Pedra Pintada). This area is located northeast of Santarem, across the Amazon River. Film is dated 5/July/1996.

[VPRO The Lost City in the Amazon rainforest- O'Hanlon's Heroes](#) NB. The colonialist and white-centred opener of this recent video (produced by VPRO, a public broadcaster in the Netherlands) is likely to cause offence and the ARCL0061 coordinator/lecturers do not in any way condone the substance or the tone of it. The video is included in this list as one of a number of approximations (this one peppered with a colonialist outlook and presenting some ‘whacky’ thoughts about the “mysteries of the Amazonian past”) to how Amazonia's past is viewed in popular culture. Treatment of the archaeology starts around minute 40.

➤ If you can follow Portuguese (clik+ctrl on underlined title for link to URL):

[Amazonian Archaeologists Comment on their Research](#). This is a 45 minute documentar by Prof Francisco Guimarães, entitled “História Indígena: Arqueologia na Amazônia Brasileira”. Key Brazilian archaeologists comment on their work in different regions of the Amazon. Among these are Eduardo Neves (Madeira, central Amazon), G. Monghello (Teotonio site, Madeira), Denise Gomez (Santarem), Cristiana Barreto (Marajoara), the late Denise Schaan (Marajo Island), Edithe Pereira (Caverna do Pedra Pintada rock art), Helena Pinto Lima (Central Amazon), Claide Paula Moraes and Anne Rapp Py-Daniel (Tauary, Central Amazon), and Mike Heckenberger (on cultural complexity). There are views of sites (some with terra preta deposits) and ceramic artifacts.

[Amazonia 14 K Years Ago](#). Lecture “A Amazônia de 14 mil anos atrás” by Eduardo Góes Neves at TEDxVer-o-Peso. A very brief overview Amazonian archaeology. Aimed at general audience.

[Brazilian Forests Constructed by Brazilian Indians](#). Lecture by Eduardo Goes Neves at the Universidade de São Paulo (15/05/2019) entitled “Como as florestas brasileiras foram construídas pelos índios: exemplos do sudoeste da Amazônia” (duration: 1hr :47m.).

[Jauary - Fazenda Arqueologia na Amazônia](#) The film looks at the archaeological research conducted in Tauary region (includes polychrome burial urns) of Amazonia, led by archaeologist Claide de Paula Moraes of the Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará (Ufopa).

5. Detailed Syllabus

Week 1. **07 October** Amazonian Archaeology & the Landscape Twist

The module begins by providing relevant background information for the ARCL0061 module, including how the module approached contents delivery, expectations about student-directed work, and assessments. The Lecture proper, first provides a necessary background of the geology and biotic/abiotic features of the Amazonian biome, the very resources managed and exploited by its past and present inhabitants. It then offers a broad overview of pivotal arguments in the archaeology of tropical rainforests and examine the place of Amazonian archaeology within this broader picture. It explores some of the main questions in Amazonian archaeology, as set out by the history of research in the region. Two contrasting positions that emerged to account for known archaeological evidence up to the 1970s are tackled: the so-called ‘Standard Model’ propounded by Meggers and Evans (which finds its inspiration in Julian Steward’s synthetic essay in the final volume (V) of the *Handbook of South American Indians* [see the module’s recommended basic texts], and counter-proposals advanced by primarily by Lathrap, Carneiro and Denevan. To some extent these opposing views were superseded by new evidence emerging in the 1980s, of which perhaps most transformative were the insights resulting from research in Historical Ecology: that Amazonian environments were not ‘pristine’ but rather deeply imprinted by the legacy effects of past human activity.

- *As an aid to locate ethnohistoric & linguistic groups in Amazonia, download this map:* Nimuendajú, C. (1987). *Mapa etno-histórico de Curt Nimuendajú*. Rio de Janeiro: IBGE. [Open Access](#). [also PDF in Moodle]
<http://portal.iphan.gov.br/uploads/ckfinder/arquivos/Mapa%20Nimuendaju%20017%20vers%C3%A3o%20Jorge%2004092017.pdf>
Or
http://biblio.wdfiles.com/local--files/nimuendaju-1981-mapa/nimuendaju_1981_mapa.jpg

Essential Readings

- Arroyo-Kalin, M. & Riris, P (2021). Did pre-Columbian populations of the Amazonian biome reach carrying capacity during the Late Holocene? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, No.376: 1-7. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0715>. [Online via Explore](#).
- Arroyo-Kalin, M. (2016) Landscaping, Landscape Legacies, and Landesque Capital in Pre-Columbian Amazonia. In C. Isendahl and D. Stump, eds., pp. 1–24. *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Online via Explore](#)
- Denevan, W. M. (1992). The pristine myth: the landscape of the Americas in 1492. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 82(3), 369–385. Denevan, W. M. (1996). A Bluff Model of Riverine Settlement in Prehistoric Amazonia. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 86, no. 4: 654–81. [Online via Explore](#)
- Lathrap DW. (1970) *The Upper Amazon*. London: Thames & Hudson. [Read Chapter 4, on Languages & Migration]. [Hardcopy Only: INST ARCH DG LAT or GEOGRAPHY WA 42 LAT \[PDF Copy](#)

in Moodle's core textbooks & within Week 1 blue folder].

- Lathrap, D. W. (1973). Review of Betty J. Meggers' "Amazonia: Man in a Counterfeit Paradise." *American Anthropologist*, 75(4), 988. [Online via Explore](#).
- Stahl, P. W. (2002). Paradigms in Paradise: Revising Standard Amazonian Prehistory. *The Review of Archaeology*, 23(2), 39–51. [Online via Explore](#).

Week 2. 14 October Amazonia in the Early and Middle Holocene

The Lecture reviews the archaeology of Amazonian in the terminal Pleistocene, and early and middle Holocene. As late as the 1970s, the archaeological evidence for an ancient forager/hunter-gatherer presence was extremely scarce, variously attributed to Amazonia being an "unattractive" environment and/or to the near invisibility of sites in the forests. Indeed, the models advocated by Meggers and Lathrap, were put forward to account for the distribution and characteristics of early ceramic remains and left a glaring gap when it came to earlier occupations. Indeed, these models never explicitly denied the possibility that Amazonia had been peopled by in early or middle Holocene by foragers and/or hunter-gatherers (a possibility already implied in Julian Steward's account of the history of the region), yet actual archaeological evidence only started to accumulate from the mid-1980s: as it was produced, it offered many intriguing surprises. It became evident that Amazonia had been colonized surprisingly early, towards the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene (11,000 BP). It also became evident that domesticated plants were already in use by the 8th millennium BP, a matter which raised questions about local domestications and the crop biogeography of the Americas. Lastly it became clear that Amazonia could boast to the oldest findings of archaeological pottery in the Americas, and pottery – it might be argued – is often made by people with sedentary lifeways. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references on this topic.

Essential Readings:

- Meggers, Betty J., Eurico Th. Miller (2003). Hunter-gatherers in Amazonia during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. In *Under the Canopy: The Archeology of Tropical Rainforests*. Julio Mercader eds., pp. 291–316. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. [Hardcopy Only: INST ARCH BB 52 MER](#). [but PDF copy in Moodle]
- Pugliese, F. A., C. A. Zimpel Neto, and E. G. Neves (2018). 'What Do Amazonian Shellmounds Tell Us About the Long-Term Indigenous History of South America?'. In *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*, 1–25. New York: Springer International Publishing, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-51726-1_3030-1. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Riris, P., and M. Arroyo-Kalin (2019). Widespread Population Decline in South America Correlates with Mid-Holocene Climate Change. *Scientific Reports* 9(1): 6850. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-43086-w>. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Roosevelt, A. C., M. Lima da Costa, C. Lopes Machado, M. Michab, N. Mercier, H. Valladas, J. Feathers, et al. (1996) 'Paleoindian Cave Dwellers in the Amazon: The Peopling of the Americas'. *Science* 272, no. 5260: 373–84. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Roosevelt, A.C. et al. (1991) Eighth millennium pottery from a prehistoric shell midden in the Brazilian Amazon. *Science* 254, 1621-1624. [Online via UCL Explore](#).

Week 3. 21 October Amazonia's Late Holocene: Farmers or Wild at Heart?

Even before archaeobotanical evidence started to be collected, Donald W. Lathrap famously argued that the tropical lowlands had been – via the development of *house gardens* – the *locus* of a veritable Neolithic revolution. Fast forward to the current state of research and a renewed appreciation of different forms of plant food production (from low level to intensive) are being recognised in precolonial Amazonia. Positions advanced by different researchers, however, range from those who affirm that an agricultural revolution took place in pre-colonial Amazonia to those who question

whether agriculture ever evolved in the broad region. Thus, this lecture examines how the emergence of sedentism, and the role of plant cultivation continue to sit uncomfortably within accounts of Amazonian pre-colonial history. It also examines whether an archaeological nexus exists between Early/Middle Holocene adaptations and evidence for the use of plant foods in the late Holocene Amazonia. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references by region.

Essential Readings:

- Arroyo-Kalin, M. (2012). Slash-burn-and-churn: Landscape History and Crop Cultivation in pre- Columbian Amazonia. *Quaternary International*, 249(4), 18. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Denevan, W. M. (1996). A Bluff Model of Riverine Settlement in Prehistoric Amazonia. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 86, no. 4: 654–81. [Online via Explore](#)
- Lathrap, D. W. (1977) Our Father the Cayman, Our Mother the Gourd: Spinden Revisited or a Unitary Model for the Emergence of Agriculture in the New World. In *Origins of Agriculture*. Charles E. Reed, ed., pp. 713–751. The Hague: Mouton. Book is not available at UCL. [[but PDF copy in Moodle](#)]
- Iriarte J, Elliott S, Maezumi SY, Alves D, Gonda R, Robinson M, Gregorio de Souza J, Watling J, Handley J. (2020) The origins of Amazonian landscapes: Plant cultivation, domestication and the spread of food production in tropical South America. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 248, 106582. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Neves, Eduardo G. (2013). Was Agriculture a Key Productive Activity in Pre-Colonial Amazonia? The Stable Productive Basis for Social Equality in the Central Amazon. In: *Human Environment Interactions: Current and Future Direction*. Brondízio, E.S. and E.F. Moran, eds., pp.371-388). Dordrecht: Springer Science+Business Media. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Oliver, J. R. (2008). The Archaeology of Agriculture in Ancient Amazonia. In: *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & B. Isbell, eds., pp. 185–216. New York: Springer. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#).

Week 4. **28 October** The Archaeology of the Amazon River & Tributaries-Part 1: Marajó, Guianas & Santarém Regions

During this week we begin to examine - in very broad strokes - archaeological evidence recorded along the Amazon River and its main tributaries for the Late Holocene. Emphasis will be placed on subregions and discussing their broad relatedness as inferred from chronological, settlement and ceramic evidence. This lecture introduces archaeological research undertaken in the Marajó, Guianas, and Santarém regions. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references by region.

Essential Readings (Week 4)

- Roosevelt, A. C. (1999). The development of prehistoric complex societies: Amazonia, a tropical forest. In: *Complex Polities in the Ancient Tropical World*. E. Bacus & L. Lucero, Eds. pp. 13-33. Washington DC: Papers of the American Anthropological Association No.9. [Hardcopy Only ISNT ARCH BC 100 BAC \[PDF in Moodle\]](#)
- Rostain, S. (2008) The Archaeology of the Guianas: An Overview. In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds., pp. 279–301. New York: Springer. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Schaan, D. P. (2012). *Sacred Geographies of Ancient Amazonia*, Chapters 2-4. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. [see Core Text full book] [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Gomes, Denise Maria Cavalcante (2016). 'Politics and Ritual in Large Villages in Santarém, Lower Amazon, Brazil'. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 27, no. 2 (2016): 275–93. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959774316000627> [Online via UCL Explore](#).

**Week 5. 04 November The Archaeology of the Amazon River & Tributaries-
Part 2: The Middle Amazon, NW Amazon, and Upper Amazon**

We continue to examine archaeological evidence recorded along the Amazon River and its main tributaries for the Late Holocene. Emphasis is placed on three subregions and on the discussion of their broad relatedness as inferred from chronological, settlement and ceramic evidence. The Lecture will synthesize archaeological research undertaken in the **(a)** Middle Amazon, **(b)**. Northwest Amazon and **(c)** Upper Amazon regions. The readings list includes ethnohistorical interpretations that help ground archaeological interpretations... or reveal the gap between both sources of historical evidence. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references by region.

Essential Readings

- Heckenberger, M. J., Petersen, J. B., & Neves, E. G. (1999). Village size and permanence in Amazonia: two archaeological examples from Brazil. *Latin American Antiquity*, 10(4), 353- 376. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Herrera, L., I. Cavelier, C. Rodríguez, and S. Mora. (1992). The Technical Transformation of an Agricultural System in the Colombian Amazon. *World Archaeology* 24(1):98–113. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Lathrap, D. W. (1968) Aboriginal Occupation and Changes in River Channel on the Central Ucayali, Peru. *American Antiquity*, 33 (1): 62-79. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Lathrap, D. W. (1970). Review of Peter Paul Hilbert's "Archäologische Untersuchungen am mittleren Amazonas: Beiträge zur Vorgeschichte des südamerikanischen Tieflandes". *American Antiquity*, 35(4), 499-501. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Neves, E. G. (2008). Ecology, ceramic chronology and distribution, long-term history, and political change in the Amazonian floodplain. In: *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds., pp. 359–379. New York: Springer. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#)

Week 6. 7-11 November READING WEEK

**Week 7. 18 November Networked Landscapes of Amazonia: Acre, Llanos
de Mojos & Xingú**

In recent years a combination between rapid deforestation and advances in archaeological survey techniques have shown that many regions of the Amazon basin provide distinctive evidence for the existence of networked pre-Columbian settlements, which include ditch-ring earthworks, drained and raised fields, causeways and roads, weirs, ponds, and monumental platform mounds. What can we infer about the nature of social life in these networks? What questions does it pose to current understanding about the extent of human modification of the Amazonian landscape? Can we speak of urbanism in Amazonia? The lecture will focus archaeological research undertaken in Acre, the Llanos de Mojos and the upper Xingú regions. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references by region.

Essential Readings

- Heckenberger, M. J. (2008). Amazonian Mosaics: Identity, Interaction, and Integration in the Tropical Forest'. In *The Handbook of South American Archaeology*, Helaine Silverman and William H. Isbell eds., pp. 941–61. New York, NY: Springer New York, 2008. [Online via UCL Explore \[see Core Textbooks folder In Moodle\]](#).

- Lombardo U, Prümers H. (2010) Pre-Columbian human occupation patterns in the eastern plains of the Llanos de Moxos, Bolivian Amazonia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **37**, 1875–1885. doi:[10.1016/j.jas.2010.02.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2010.02.011) Online via UCL Explore.
- Schaan, D. P. (2011). *Sacred Geographies of Ancient Amazonia*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press. [Read Chapter 5 “Marks on the earth: territoriality and Memory”]. Online via UCL Explore [see Core Textbooks in Moodle].
- Souza, J. G. de, D. Schaan, M. Robinson, A. Damasceno Barbosa, L. E. O. C. Aragão, B. H. Marimon Jr., B. Schwantes Marimon, I. Brasil da Silva, S. Saeed Khan, F. R. Nakahara & J. Iriarte (2018). Pre-Columbian Earth-Builders Settled along the Entire Southern Rim of the Amazon. *Nature Communications* 9, no. 1: 1125. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-03510-7> Online via UCL Explore.

Week 8. 25 November Art and Cosmology in Amazonian Archaeology

Amazonian archaeology engages important historical continuities with contemporary indigenous populations. Beyond adaptations and technology, Amazonian ethnography sheds significant light on how Amazonian peoples perceive life and the cosmos [i.e. world view]. Amazonian archaeology, in turn, provides a rich corpus of figurative evidence – in rock art, in material culture—that provide insights and a window into the belief systems of pre-colonial human populations. The Lecture frames what we understand about ‘Art and Cosmology’ in Amazonian Archaeology, followed by an examination of two specific repertoires of material evidence that shed light on these belief systems: (A) Rock Art and (B) Ceramics, the latter with emphasis on the meanings and aesthetics of funerary vessels.

Rock art in Amazonia and the circum-Amazonian area has been ascribed various roles and significance by the archaeological discipline and its antecedents. Perhaps by virtue of its often-striking appearance and frequent co-occurrence in zones of intensive archaeological activity, links have long been sought between engraved art (petroglyphs), painted art (pictographs), and various components of the archaeological record (language families, ceramic traditions, ethnohistorical accounts). Interpretations of rock art in South America have been shaped by dominant scholarly trends such as phenomenology and GIS, but also through notable contributions on shamanistic and neuropsychological theories. This session charts an overview of these efforts through a critical review of some of the key sites and regions that host rock art in Amazonia. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references.

Essential Readings

- Barreto, Cristiana (2017) Figurine Traditions from the Amazon. In *The Oxford Handbook of Prehistoric Figurines*. Timothy Insoll, ed. Vol. 1, pp. 417–440. Oxford University Press. Online via UCL Explore. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199675616.013.020>
- Hugh-Jones, S. (2016). Writing on Stone; Writing on Paper: Myth, History and Memory in NW Amazonia. *History and Anthropology* 27: 154-82. Online via UCL Explore. <https://doi-org.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/10.1080/02757206.2016.1138291>
- Iriarte, José, Michael J. Ziegler, Alan K. Outram, Mark Robinson, Patrick Roberts, Francisco J. Aceituno, Gaspar Morcote-Ríos and T. Michael Keesey (2021). Ice Age megafauna rock art in the Colombian Amazon? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377: 20200496. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0496> .
- Santos-Granero, F. (1998). Writing History into Landscape: Space, Myth and Ritual in Contemporary Amazonia. *American Ethnologist* 25(2): 128–148. Online via UCL Explore.

- Scaramelli, F. & K. Tarble de Scaramelli (2018). Rock art in the construction of landscape, Parguaza River Basin, Venezuela. In: *Archaeologies of Rock Art South American Perspectives*. Andrés Troncoso, Felipe Armstrong y George Nash, eds, pp.85-105. London: Imprint Routledge. doi.org/10.4324/9781315232782. Not in UCL Libraries. [\[author's PDF copy in Moodle\]](#).

Week 9. 02 December Archaeology at the Edges of Amazonia

The lecture introduces some of the questions that arise when we zoom out and examine Amazonia not within the confines of the hydrographic basin but directly interacting with parallel developments in lowland South America. It will explore its relations with developments in the Orinoco River valley and examine to what extent an Andes-Amazonia divide obtains when regarded from the vantage point of archaeological evidence from Amazonia itself and its neighbouring regions. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references by region.

Essential Readings

- Clasby R. and J. Nesbitt (2021). Introduction: Changing Perspectives on the Archaeology of the Upper Amazon. In *The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon: Complexity and Interaction in the Andean Tropical Forest*. R. Clasby & J. Nesbitt, eds., pp. 1-22. University Press of Florida. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Lozada-Mendieta, N. & J. R. Oliver (Ms.2022). The Archaeology of The Mighty Orinoco in the 21st Century: A Synthesis. Forthcoming in: *Oxford Handbook of South American Archaeology*, E. Neves & M. Sepúlveda, eds. Oxford University Press. In preparation [\[authors' PDF copy in Moodle\]](#)
- Rostain S. (2012) Between Sierra and Selva: Landscape transformations in upper Ecuadorian Amazonia. *Quaternary International* 249, pp. 31–42 [10.1016/j.quaint.2011.08.031](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2011.08.031) [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Valdez, F. (2021). The Mayo-Chinchipe-Marañón Complex: The Unexpected Spirits of the Ceja. In *The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon: Complexity and Interaction in the Andean Tropical Forest*. R. Clasby, J.Nesbitt, eds., Chapter 4. University Press of Florida. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1xcxqz3.8> [Online via UCL Explore](#).

Week 10. 09 December Archaeology of Colonial/Postcolonial Amazonia-The Anthropocene

The Lecture asks to what extent Amazonian archaeology informs our understanding of history past the 16th century AD, i.e., from initial exploration to the “ethnographic” present. It will explore (examples) the increasingly vibrant field of colonial archaeology in Amazonia and, also the position of Amazonian archaeology vis-a-vis indigenous peoples and other dwellers of Amazonia against the accelerated degradation of the biome instigated by industry, national societies. Further Readings (go to Section 6) provide additional references.

Essential Readings

- Costa, D. M. (2018). Eco-Historical Archaeology in the Brazilian Amazon: Material, Natural and Cultural Western Transformations. In *Historical Archaeology and Environment*. M. A.Torres de Souza and D. M. Costa, pp. 65–86. Cham: Springer International Publishing, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-90857-1>. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Duin, Renzo. (2014). Engaged Archaeology: Participatory Mapping with the indigenous people of the Upper Maroni River Basin, Northern Amazonia'. *Amazônica, Revista de Antropologia*. 6(2):332–57. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18542/amazonica.v6i2.1872> [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Green, L. F. , D. R. Green, and E. G.Neves. (2003). Indigenous Knowledge and Archaeological Science: The Challenges of Public Archaeology in the Reserva Uaçá'. *Journal of Social*

Archaeology 3(3): 366–98. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14696053030033005>. Online via UCL Explore.

- Heckenberger, M. (2004) Archaeology as Indigenous Advocacy in Amazonia. *Practicing Anthropology* 26(3): 35–39. <https://doi.org/10.17730/praa.26.3.j3x06m427k558232>. Online via UCL Explore.

Week 11. 16 December Course Overview

In our final meeting, we will re-examine and tie together multiple strands of the archaeology of the Amazon, from initial peopling to the colonial period archaeology. During this session we will specifically re-examine what archaeology can illuminate about the ethnographic record and what the historical linguistics of the humid tropical lowlands on northern South America inform on Amazonian archaeology.

See “**Suggested Review Readings (Week 11)**” at end of Section 6.

6. FURTHER READINGS BY WEEK

WEEK 1 Further Readings

- Balée W. (1989) The culture of Amazonian forests. In: *Resource Management in Amazonia: Indigenous and Folk Strategies*, D. Posey, W. Balée, eds., pp. 1–21. Bronx, NY: New York Botanical Garden. [Hardcopy Only INST ARCH DGF 100 POS.](#) [[PDF in Moodle](#)]
- Carneiro, R. (1995). History of Ecological Interpretations in Amazonia: Does Roosevelt Have it Right? In: *Indigenous Peoples and the Future of Amazonia. An Ecological Anthropology of an Endangered World*, edited by Leslie E. Sponsel, pp. 45-69. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. [Hardcopy only: UCL Science Library: ANTHROPOLOGY WA 51 SPO.](#) [[PDF in Moodle](#)]
- Daly, D. C., & Mitchell, J. (2000). Lowland vegetation of tropical South America: an overview. In: D. L. Lentz (Ed.), *Imperfect Balance: Landscape Transformations in the Precolumbian Americas* (pp. 391–454). New York: Columbia University Press. [Online via Explore](#)
- Gross, D. R. (1975). Protein Capture and Cultural Development in the Amazon Basin. *American Anthropologist*, 77(3): 526-549. [Online via Explore](#)
- Meggers, B. J. (1954). Environmental Limitation on the Development of Culture. *American Anthropologist*, 56(5, Part 1): 801-824. [Online via Explore.](#)
- Moran, E. F. (1993). *Through Amazonian Eyes: The Human Ecology of Amazonian Populations*. Iowa city: University of Iowa Press. [Online via Explore.](#) [see Core Texts folder in Moodle]
- Posey, Darrel (1994). Environmental and Social Implications on Pre-Post-Contact Brazilian Indians. In *Amazonian Indians: From Prehistory to the Present. Anthropological Perspectives. A. C. Roosevelt, ed.*, pp. 79–94. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. [for ethnohistory of the region].
- Prance, G. (1985). The changing forests. In: *Key Environments-Amazonia*, G. T. Prance & T. E. Lovejoy, Eds., pp.146-165. Oxford: Pergamon Press. [Not Available at UCL \[PDF copy in Moodle\]](#).
- Puhakka, M., R. Kalliola, M. Rajasilta and J. Salo (1992). River Types, Site Evolution and Successional Vegetation Patterns in Peruvian Amazonia. *Journal of Biogeography*, 19(6): 651-665. [Online via Explore.](#)
- Stahl, P. W. (1996). Holocene Biodiversity: An Archaeological Perspective from the Americas. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 25(1), 105-126. [Online via UCL Explore.](#)
- Viveiros de Castro, E. (1996). Images of nature and society in Amazonian ethnology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 25(1), 179–200. [Online via UCL Explore.](#)

WEEK 2 Further Readings

A. PALEOECOLOGY (Week 2)

- Anhof, D., Ledru, M.-P., Behling, H., Cruz Jr, F. W. da, Cordeiro, R. C. C., van der Hammen, T., Karmann, I., et al. (2006). Paleo-environmental change in Amazonian and African rainforests during the LGM. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 239(3-4), 510–527. . [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Mayle, F. E., & Power, M. J. (2008). Impact of a drier Early-Mid-Holocene climate upon Amazonian forests. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological sciences*, 363 (1498), 1829–38. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2007.0019> . [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Prance, G T. (1996) 'Islands in Amazonia'. *Philosophical Transactions: Biological Sciences* 351, no. 1341: 823–33. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/56433> . [Online via UCL Explore.](#)

- Smith, R.J. & Mayle, F.E. (2018) Impact of mid-to late Holocene precipitation changes on vegetation across lowland tropical South America: a paleo-data synthesis. *Quaternary Research* 89, 134-155. <https://doi.org/10.1017/qua.2017.890> . Online via UCL Explore.

B. ARCHAEOLOGY (Week 2)

- Barse, W. P. (2003) Human occupation in the Orinoco. In *Under the Canopy: The Archaeology of Tropical Rainforests*. J. Mercader, ed., pp. 249–270. London: Rutgers University Press. [Hardcopy only INST ARCH BB 52 MER \[PDF copy in Moodle\]](#).
- Gnecco, C., & S. Mora (1997). Late Pleistocene-early Holocene tropical forest occupations at San Isidro and Peña Roja, Colombia. *Antiquity*, 71 (273), 683–690.
- Lombardo, U., K. Szabo, J. M. Capriles, J.-H. May, W. Amelung, R. Hutterer, E. Lehndorff, A. Plotzki, and H. Veit. (2013): ‘Early and Middle Holocene Hunter-Gatherer Occupations in Western Amazonia: The Hidden Shell Middens’. *PLoS ONE* 8, no. 8, e72746. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0072746>. Online via UCL Explore.
- Morcote-Ríos, G., F. J. Aceituno, J. Iriarte, M. Robinson, and J. L. Chaparro-Cárdenas. 2021 ‘Colonisation and Early Peopling of the Colombian Amazon during the Late Pleistocene and the Early Holocene: New Evidence from La Serranía La Lindosa’. *Quaternary International* 578: 5–19 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2020.04.026>. Online via UCL Explore
- Scaramelli, K. and F. Scaramelli (2017). Anchoring the landscape: human utilization of the Cerro Gavilán 2 rockshelter, Middle Orinoco, from the Early Holocene to the present. *Boletim Museo. Paraense Emílio Goeldi. Ciências Humanas*, 12(2): 429-452. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Williams, D. (1997). Early pottery in the Amazon: A Correction. *American Antiquity*, 62(6), 343–352. [Online via UCL Explore](#).

WEEK 3 Further Readings

- Arroyo-Kalin, M. (2010). The Amazonian Formative: Crop Domestication and Anthropogenic Soils. *Diversity*, 473–504. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Erickson, C. L. (2006). The Domesticated Landscapes of the Bolivian Amazon. In *Time and Complexity in Historical Ecology*, edited by W. Balée and C. L. Erickson, 235–278. New York: Columbia University Press. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Hilbert, L., E. G. Neves, F. Pugliese, B. S. Whitney, M. Shock, E. Veasey, C. A. Zimpel, and J. Iriarte. (2017). Evidence for Mid-Holocene Rice Domestication in the Americas. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-017-0322-4> .
- Levis, C, et al. (2018) How People Domesticated Amazonian Forests. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. 5, 171. doi:10.3389/fevo.2017.00171
- Kistler L., A. Montenegro, B.D. Smith, J.A. R.E. Gifford Green, L.A. Newsom, and B. Shapiro (2014). Transoceanic Drift and the Domestication of African Bottle Gourds in the Americas. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111, 2937–2941. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1318678111 [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Kistler L et al. (2018) Multiproxy Evidence Highlights a Complex Evolutionary Legacy of Maize in South America. *Science* 362, 1309–1313. <http://doi.org/10.1126/science.aav0207> [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Rostain, S. (2008). Agricultural earthworks on the French Guiana coast. In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds., pp. 217–233. New York: Springer [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Schmidt, M. J., A. Rapp Py-Daniel, C. de Paula Moraes, R. B. M. Valle, C. F. Caromano, W. G. Texeira, C. A. Barbosa, et al. (2014). Dark Earths and the Human Built Landscape in Amazonia: A

Widespread Pattern of Anthrosol Formation. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 42: 152–65.
[Online via UCL Explore](#)

WEEK 4 FURTHER READINGS

A. MARAJÓ ISLAND

- Barse, W. P. (1993). Review of Moundbuilders of the Amazon: Geophysical Archaeology on Marajo Island, Brazil by Anna Curtenius Roosevelt. *American Antiquity*, 58(2), 373–374. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Bevan BW, Roosevelt A.C. (2003) Geoarchaeological Exploration of Guajara, A Prehistoric Earth Mound in Brazil. *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal* 18, 287–331. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Meggers BJ. (2001) The mystery of the Marajoara: An ecological solution. *Amazoniana-Limnologia et Oecologia Regionalis Systemae Fluminis Amazonas* 16, 421–440. [Open Access Online: <https://archive.org/details/amazoniana-16-3-4-421-440>](#)
- Meggers, B. J. & J. Danon (1988) Identification of Hiatus in Sequence-Marajo Island. *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 287–331. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Rossetti, de F., A.M. Góes, Mann de Toledo P. (2009). Archaeological mounds in Marajó Island in northern Brazil: A geological perspective integrating remote sensing and sedimentology. *Geoarchaeology* 24, 22–41. (doi:[10.1002/gea.20250](https://doi.org/10.1002/gea.20250))
- Schaan, D. P. (2008) The Nonagricultural Chiefdoms of Marajó Island. In: *Handbook of South American Archaeology*, H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds. pp. 339-357. New York: Springer. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Schaan, D.P.; Kern, D.C.; Frazão, F. (2009). An assessment of the cultural practices behind the formation (or not) of anthropogenic black earth in Marajó Island archaeological sites. In *Amazonian Dark Earths: Wim Sombroek's Vision*. Woods, Teixeira, Lehmann, Steiner, Winkler Prins., and Rebellato, eds. pp. 127-141. Berlin: Springer. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Schaan, D. (2010) Long-Term Human Induced Impacts on Marajó Island Landscapes, Amazon Estuary. *Diversity*, 2, pp. 182-206. [Online via UCL Explore](#).

B. GUIANAS & AMAPÁ

- Guapindaia, Vera (2008) Prehistoric Funeral Practices in the Brazilian Amazon: The Maracá Urns In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds., pp. 1005-1026. [see Core Textbook] New York: Springer. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Saldanha, J. D. (ip. 2022). The Late Holocene Megalithic Structures at Easternmost Amazonia. *Megaliths of the World. Vol II – Megaliths in America*. L. Laporte, J-M. Large, C. Scarre, L. Nespoulous & T. Steimer-Hebre, eds., pp. 185-199. English edition: Archaeopress, UK, in press [due Autumn 2022]. [[PDF copy in Moodle](#)].
- van den Bel, M. (2010) A Koriabo site on the Lower Maroni River: results of the preventive archaeological excavation at Crique Sparouine, French Guiana. In *Arqueologia Amazônica* 1. E. Pereira, V. Guapindaia, eds., pp. 61-93 Belém: MPEG/ IPHAN/ Secult, [Open access <https://inrap.academia.edu/MartijnvandenBel>](#)
- van den Bel, M. (2012) Archaeological Investigations at the Saint-Louis on the Lower Maroni River: The Early Ceramic Series. *Archaeology and Anthropology. Journal of the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology* 17, 1–52. [Open access <https://inrap.academia.edu/MartijnvandenBel>](#)
- van den Bel, M. (2015) Archaeological Investigations between Cayenne Island and the Maroni River. A cultural sequence of western coastal French Guiana from 5000 BP to present. Leiden: Sidestone Press. [Open access <https://inrap.academia.edu/MartijnvandenBel>](#)

- Versteeg, A. H. (2008) Barrancoid and Arauquinoid Mound Builders in Coastal Suriname. In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & W. Isbell, eds., pp. 303-318. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#)
- Williams, D (1996) The origin, characterization, and chronology of the Mabaruma subseries of the Barrancoid tradition. *Archaeology and Anthropology: Journal of the Walter Roth Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology* 11. [Open access at: https://www.boisestate.edu/archaeology-archaeologyandanthropology/aa-issues/](https://www.boisestate.edu/archaeology-archaeologyandanthropology/aa-issues/)

C. SANTAREM-LOWER TAPAJOS (WEEK 4 CONT.)

- Gomes D (2016) Politics and Ritual in Large Villages in Santarém, Lower Amazon, Brazil. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, No.27: 275–293. doi:10.1017/S0959774316000627. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Harris M. (2018) The Making of Regional Systems: The Tapajós/Madeira and Trombetas-Nhamundá Regions in the Lower Brazilian Amazon, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. *Ethnohistory* 65(4): 621–645. (doi:10.1215/00141801-6991274) [a source for ethnohistory of the region] [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Meggers, B. J. (1960). Review of *The Archaeology of the Lower Tapajós Valley, Brazil* by Helen Constance Palmatary. *American Anthropologist* N.S., 62(6), 1104–1105. [Online via UCL](#).
- Stenborg, P., ed. (2016) *Beyond Waters: Archaeology and Environmental History of the Amazonian Inland*. Stockholm: University of Gothenburg [Suggested readings: Stenborg pp. 1-21; & Schaan, pp. 22-36]. [Open access at: https://gupea.ub.gu.se/bitstream/2077/42099/2/gupea_2077_42099_2.pdf](https://gupea.ub.gu.se/bitstream/2077/42099/2/gupea_2077_42099_2.pdf)
- Stenborg, P., Denise P. Schaan & Camila G. Figueiredo (2018). Contours of the Past: LiDAR Data Expands the Limits of Late Pre-Columbian Human Settlement in the Santarém Region, Lower Amazon. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 43 (1), 44-57, DOI:10.1080/00934690.2017.1417198 [Online via UCL Explore](#).
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Week 5 Further Readings

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- Neves, E. G., Vera L. C. Guapindaia, Helena Pinto Lima, Bernardo L. S. Costa, and Jaqueline Gomes (2014). 'A Tradição Pocó-Açutuba e Os Primeiros Sinais Visíveis de Modificações de Paisagens Na Calha Do Amazonas'. In *Amazonia. Memorias de Las Conferencias Magistrales Del 3er Encuentro Internacional de Arqueología Amazónica*, Stéphen Rostain ed., 137–57. Quito: Ministerio

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- Arroyo-Kalin, Manuel, and Rivas Panduro, Santiago. La Arqueología Del Río Napo: Noticias Recientes y Desafíos Futuros. *Revista Del Museo de La Plata* 4, no. 2 (2019): 331–52. [Open Access: https://doi.org/10.24215/25456377e080](#).
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- Morcote-Rios, Gaspar, Lauren Raz, Diego Giraldo-Cañas, Carlos E. Franky, and Tomás León Sicard. 'Terras Pretas de Índio of the Caquetá-Japurá River (Colombian Amazonia)'. *Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America* 1, no. 2 (2013): 30–39. [Open Access at: https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/tipiti/vol11/iss2/4/](https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/tipiti/vol11/iss2/4/)
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C. UPPER AMAZON (Week 5 cont.)

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- Pärssinen, M. H., J. S Salo, & M. E. Räsänen, (1996). River floodplain relocations and the abandonment of Aborigine settlements in the Upper Amazon Basin: A historical case study of San Miguel de Cunibos at the Middle Ucayali River. *Geoarchaeology*, 11(4), 345-359. [Online via UCL Explore \[must search via Journal name first\]](#).
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Week 6. READING WEEK

WEEK 7 Further Readings

A. SW BRAZIL (ACRE):

- Arnold, D. A., & Prettol, K. A. (1988). Aboriginal earthworks near the mouth of the Beni, Bolivia. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, Vol. 15(4):457-465. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
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C. UPPER XINGÚ-SOUTH BRAZIL (Week 7 cont.):

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- Heckenberger, M. J. (2003). The Enigma of the Great Cities: Body and State in Amazonia'. *Tipiti: Journal of Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America* 1: 17–48. [Open Access: https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=tipiti](https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=tipiti)
- Heckenberger, M. J., A. Kuikuro, U. T. Kuikuro, J. C. Russell, M. Schmidt, C. Fausto, and B. Franchetto. (2003) Amazonia 1492: Pristine Forest or Cultural Parkland? *Science* 301 (5640): 1710–1714. [Online via UCL Explore](#)
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WEEK 8 Further Readings

A. COSMOLOGY AMAZONIA (ANTHROPOLOGY)

- Chaumeil, J.-P. (2007). Bones, Flutes, and the Dead: Memory and Funerary treatment in Amazonia. In *Time and Memory in Indigenous Amazonia: Anthropological Perspectives*. C. Fausto & M. J. Heckenberger, eds., pp. 243-283. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Viveiros de Castro, E. (1998). Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism. *MAN, The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 4: 469-88. [Online via UCL Explore](#).

B. ROCK ART

- Guedes Carolina, Eric Robert, Caroline Bachelet New rock-art data from the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil (2019). A graphical analysis of rock-art shelters between the Vermelho and Gavião rivers. *Quaternary International* 510: 133-147. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2019.01.002> [Online via UCL Explore](#).
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- Riris, P. (2017). On confluence and contestation in the Orinoco interaction sphere: the engraved rock art of the Atures Rapids. *Antiquity*, 91, 1603-1619. <https://doi.org/10.15184/agy.2017.152> Online via UCL Explore.
- Riris, Philip, and José Oliver. (2019): 'Patterns of Style, Diversity, and Similarity in Middle Orinoco Rock Art Assemblages'. *Arts* 8, no. 2 :48. <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts8020048> Online via UCL Explore.
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- Valle, Raoni, Gori-Tumi Echevarría López, Poani Higinio Tenório Tuyuka, Jairo Saw Munduruku (2018) What is anthropogenic? On the cultural aetiology of geo-situated Visual imagery in indigenous Amazonia. *Rock Art Research* 35(2)123-144. Online via UCL Explore.
- Wright, R. M., O. González Nández, &v C.C.X. Leal, (2017). Multicentric mythscapes. Sanctuaries and pilgrimages in north-west Amazonian Arawakan traditions. In *Pilgrimage and Ambiguity Sharing the Sacred*. A. Hobart and T. Zarcone, eds., pp. 201-229. Herefordshire: Sean Kingston Publishing. Online via UCL Explore.

C. CERAMICS-FUNERARY ART

- Barreto, C. (2013). Beyond Pots and Pans: Ceramic Record and Context in Pre-Colonial Amazonia. Unpublished paper presented at the 78th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology 4 April 2013, Honolulu, HI. Not Available in UCL. [Copy in Moodle].
- Arroyo-Kalin, Manuel, and Rivas Panduro, Santiago (2019). La Arqueología Del Río Napo: Noticias Recientes y Desafíos Futuros. *Revista Del Museo de La Plata*, 4(2): 31–52. <https://doi.org/10.24215/25456377e080>. Online via UCL Explore.
[This is in Spanish, but have a look at the illustrations]
- Jastremskia, N. A. and A. Sánchez-Polo (2021). Human Skeletal Remains Recovered from a Napo Funerary Urn in the Ecuadorian Amazon: A Taphonomic and Mortuary Assessment. *Bioarchaeology International*, 5(3-4): 143-156. DOI: 10.5744/bi.2020.0025. Online via UCL Explore.

WEEK 9 Further Readings

A. ORINOCO VALLEY

- Barse, W. P. (2009) The Early Ronquín Paleosol and the Orinocoan Ceramic Sequence. *Bulletin of the Peabody Museum of Natural History*, 50: 85–98. Online via UCL Explore.
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- Gassón, R. A. (2002) Orinoquia: The Archaeology of the Orinoco River Basin. *Journal of World Prehistory*. 16(3):237–311 Online via UCL Explore.
- Riris, P. J. R. Oliver, and N. Lozada Mendieta (2018) Missing the Point: Re-Evaluating the Earliest Lithic Technology in the Middle Orinoco. *Royal Society Open Science* 5, no. 6: 180690. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.180690>. Online via UCL Explore.

B. ANDES-SELVA BORDER (Week 9 Cont.)

- Clasby, R. (2021). Continuity and Interaction along the Eastern Edge of the Andes during the Central Andean Early Intermediate Period. In *The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon: Complexity and Interaction in the Andean Tropical Forest*. R. Clasby & J. Nesbitt, eds., pp. 148-167. University Press of Florida. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Nesbitt, J., R. Johnson, B. Ibarra Asencios (2021). Connections between the Chavín Heartland and the Ceja de Selva in the Late Initial Period: New Perspectives from Canchas Urko (1100-800 BC). In *The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon: Complexity and Interaction in the Andean Tropical Forest*. R. Clasby & J. Nesbitt, eds., pp.106-128. University Press of Florida. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Taylor, A. C. (1999) The Western Margins of Amazonia from the Early Sixteenth to the Early Nineteenth Century. In *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of South America*, Vol 3, Part 2. F. Salomon, S. Schwartz, eds, pp. 188–256. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **[For ethnohistory of region]**. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Valdez, F. (2008). Inter-zonal Relationships in Ecuador. In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*. H. Silverman & B. Isbell, eds., pp. 865–888 [focus on pp. 878-885]. New York: Springer. [see Core Textbook] [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Valdez, F., Guffroy, J., de Saulieu, G., Hurtado, J., Yepes, A., & Saulieu, G. D. (2005). Découvert d'un site cérémoniel formatif sur le versant oriental des Andes. *Comptes Rendus Palevol*, 4, 369–374. doi:10.1016/j.crpv.2005.02.005 [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Wilkinson, D. (2018). The influence of Amazonia on state formation in the ancient Andes. *Antiquity*, 92(365), 1362-1376. doi:10.15184/aqy.2018.194 [Online via UCL Explore](#).

WEEK 10 Further Readings

- Bel, M. van den (2015). Archaeological Investigations between Cayenne Island and the Maroni River Leiden: Sidestone Press. [Chapters 10-12 focus on colonial archaeology, site Eva-2, French Guiana]. [Online via UCL Explore](#).
- Bezerra, M. (2012) Signifying Heritage In Amazon: A Public Archaeology Project At Vila De Joanes, Marajó Island, Brazil. *Chungará (Arica)* 44, no. 3: 533–42. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0717-73562012000300015>
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- González-Ruibal, A. and A. Hernando (2010). 'Genealogies of Destruction: An Archaeology of the Contemporary Past in the Amazon Forest' (2010). *Archaeologies* 6(1): 5–28. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11759-010-9120-1>. Online via UCL Explore.
- Heckenberger, Michael J. (2009). Mapping Indigenous Histories: Collaboration, Cultural Heritage, and Conservation in the Amazon. *Collaborative Anthropologies* 2(1): 9–32. Online via UCL Explore . <https://doi.org/10.1353/cla.0.0017>.
- Rocha, B.C. (2020). Rescuing' the ground from under their feet? Contract archaeology and human rights violations in the Brazilian Amazon. In: *Critical Perspectives on Cultural Memory and Heritage: Construction, Transformation and Destruction*. V. Apaydin, ed., London: UCL Press, p. 169-188. [Full book download: Read only Ch. 10] <https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/118162> Online via UCL Explore
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WEEK 11 Suggested Review Readings

- Arroyo-Kalin, M. & Riris, P (2021). Did pre-Columbian populations of the Amazonian biome reach carrying capacity during the Late Holocene? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, No.376, pp. 1-7. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0715>
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- Eriksen, L. and S. Danielsen (2014). The Arawakan Matrix. In: *The Native Languages of Amazonia*, edited by P. Muysken & L. O'Connor, pp. 152-176. Cambridge University Press.
- Eriksen, L. and V. Galucio (2014). The Tupian Expansion. In: *The Native Languages of Amazonia*, edited by P. Muysken & L. O'Connor, pp. 177-200. Cambridge University Press.
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- Meggers, Betty J. (1975) Application of the biological model of diversification to cultural distribution in tropical lowland South America. *Biotropica* 7, 141–161.
- Lathrap DW. (1970) *The Upper Amazon*. Southampton: Thames & Hudson. Chapter 4.
- Iriarte, José, J. Smith Richard, Souza, Jonas Gregorio de, Mayle Francis Edward, S. Whitney Bronwen, et al. (2017). Out of Amazonia: Late-Holocene Climate Change and the Tupí–Guaraní Trans-Continental Expansion. *The Holocene* 27(7): 967–75.

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- Noelli, Francisco Silva (2008). The Tupí Expansion. In *Handbook of South American Archaeology*, edited by H. Silverman & W. Isbell, pp. 659-670. New York: Springer.