



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023

**CTD: 11HA - HUMAN PAST, ANCIENT CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS  
SUB-DOMAIN: 7. ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY:  
INTERPRETING THE PAST**

**PANEL TITLE:  
PRESENT-PAST' CONTINUUM: INTERPRETING ARCHAEOLOGY WITH AN  
ETHNOGRAPHIC LENS**

**CONVENOR: PROF. Q. MARAK**

## ABSTRACT

One of the main Middle Range ideas, Ethno-Archaeology, has its roots in the early 1900s; nevertheless, at that time, there were no precise procedures or ethical considerations, and it was permissible to freely adapt contemporary culture data to the archaeological past. The straight application of anthropological data has since been questioned by academics, who have cautioned against it. One of the earlier studies looked at hunter-gatherer camps as a possible way to interpret the prehistoric campsites in Olduvai Gorge. The development of various archaeological inference techniques that connect the past and present, however, has been a key focus of more recent work. Examples include establishing the kinds of analogies that are appropriate for a given circumstance and adopting Yellen's methodologies. Today, a rich repository exists in the field of reconstructions of culture of early people – such as, hunter-gatherers and early agriculturists (belonging to the Palaeolithic and Neolithic past) by drawing parallels from the ethnographic present. Commendable works following a similar methodology also exist in the context of lithic studies, ceramics, metallurgy, megalithic studies, etc. However, there are still some areas, especially connected to archaeology of indigenous people, which continue to remain unknown to academia. This panel invites papers based on empirical methods (on indigenous people, but not limited to) on diverse ways of interpreting archaeological cultures.

**Keywords:** Ethnoarchaeology, Hunter-Gatherer, Ceramics, Megaliths

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