



# Contemporary Anthropology: Archaeological Fieldwork and Methods

**Explore archival and textual material** relating to archaeological excavations, methods, and practices done in the late twentieth century to present day.

Archaeology is a multidisciplinary field of study that focuses on the investigation and interpretation of human history through the analysis of material remains and artifacts from the past. It provides insights into the lives, cultures, and societies of ancient and not-so-distant civilizations. Archaeologists use a combination of scientific methods, fieldwork, and historical research to piece together the stories of our ancestors and their interactions with the environment and each other. This collection is a valuable resource offering insights into archaeological practices and their role in unveiling the narrative of human history.

## Content Highlights

Featured in this collection is the The Cusichaca Trust Archive sourced from the Senate House Library, University of London. Led by archaeologist Ann Kendall, the Trust did numerous excavations in the South-Central Andes from 1980s-2010s. The archaeology, archaeobotany and ethnohistorical work focused on human occupation of the area from the late first millennium BC, through Inca expansion and into the Spanish Colonial period.

The Cusichaca Trust Archive includes a variety of media types including paper records, photographic materials, maps, plans, and digital media. Archival highlights include:

- Patacancha project materials (c.1987-1997), relates to the second major project undertaken by the Trust. This project focused on specialist research relating to agriculture, environmental development, canal and terrace restoration, including the rehabilitation of the 6 km-long Pumamarca canal, an original pre-Inca structure extended during the Inca period.
- Ayacucho and Apurimac project materials (c.1997-2013), relates to the last major project undertaken by the Trust. This was largely a rural development and agricultural project, aimed at reviving pre-Hispanic systems. Materials relate specifically to archaeology, rural development, project finances, and outreach.
- Ann Kendall's personal papers and correspondence.
- Papers relating to finances and administration work conducted by the Trust.

Archival curation is approached as comprehensively as possible, with inclusion of full boxes, full folders, and full series. This enables users to mimic a live archive research experience in a digital space. Content and metadata are presented in original finding aid order, with box, folder, and document organization maintained in digital form.



*Excavation Map and Plan from the Patacancha project 1990, The Cusichaca Trust Archive, Senate House Library, University of London.*



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## Use Cases

- **Material Culture:** Study of materials left behind by past societies, including tools, pottery, buildings, artwork, human and animal bones, and other items. The artifacts featured in this collection offer tangible evidence of how people lived, worked, and interacted in different time periods and geographic locations.



Inca pottery pieces from the Patachanca Valley, Senate House Library, University of London.

- **Cultural Context:** Understand the context in which artifacts are found. Diagrams and notes, such as those relating to terraces and trenches from the Ayacucho and Apurimac projects, help researchers understand the context in which artifacts were found. The layering of deposits over time (stratigraphy) and associations with other objects provide insights into the chronological and cultural significance of each discovery.

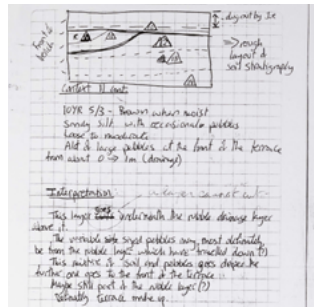


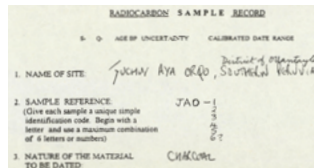
Diagram And Notes Relating To Terraces And Trenches from the Ayacucho and Apurimac project (n.d.), The Cusichaca Trust Archive, Senate House Library, University of London.

- **Excavation:** This collection extensively covers fieldwork techniques used in archaeological excavations. It showcases diverse tools like trowels, brushes, and screens employed to carefully unearth artifacts while preserving their context. Photographs from projects like the Patachanca Project offer clear visual representations of these excavation methods, highlighting the importance of maintaining context and accurate record-keeping during the process.



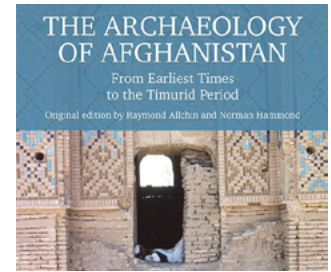
Photograph from the Patachanca Project (n.d.), The Cusichaca Trust Archive, Senate House Library, University of London.

- **Dating Methods:** Understand various dating techniques crucial for establishing a chronological framework. Radiocarbon Sample Records, such as those from the Cusichaca Trust Archive, showcase the application of radiocarbon dating.



Radiocarbon Sample Record 1995, The Cusichaca Trust Archive, Senate House Library, University of London.

- **Analysis and Interpretation:** Once artifacts are excavated, they undergo thorough analysis. This includes examining the materials used, production techniques, and the cultural or functional significance of each item. Through interpretation, reconstruct aspects of daily life, social structures, economic systems, and religious beliefs.



The Archaeology of Afghanistan: From Earliest Times to the Timurid Period by Edinburgh University Press 2019.

## Additional Use Cases

- **Ethics and Conservation:** Examine how archaeologists work to ensure the preservation of sites through collaboration with national and community stakeholders.
- **Public Outreach and Education:** Understand the value of sharing findings with the public through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and public lectures to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and understanding cultural heritage.
- **Types of Archaeology:** Study the various subfields of archaeology, such as classical archaeology (focused on ancient Greece and Rome), historical archaeology (examining recent historical periods), and underwater archaeology (studying submerged sites).
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Material serves researchers not only in archaeology, but also many other areas, including sociology, history, cultural studies, geology, and more.

## Topics Include

- 3D Imaging
- Bioarchaeology
- Maritime Archaeology
- Paleoeecology
- Lithic Technology
- Rock Art
- Colonialism
- Repatriation
- Cultural Heritage
- And more!

## Anthropology Resource Library

- Anthropology Online
- Anthropological Fieldwork Online
- Ethnographic Sound Archives Online
- Contemporary Anthropology: Archaeological Fieldwork and Methods
- Ethnographic Video Online Volumes I & II: Foundational Films
- Ethnographic Video Online Volume III: Indigenous Voices
- Ethnographic Video Online Volume IV: Festivals & Archives
- Ethnographic Video Online, Royal Anthropological Institute Teaching Edition



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