

The Institute's primary Research Groups

The coordinators of each of the Institute's four primary Research Groups report on their group's activities during the 2001/2002 academic year.

The Environment and Culture Research Group

Coordinator: Simon Hillson

The Environment and Culture Research Group brings together the many staff and postgraduate research students whose research is concerned with past interactions between people and the environments they occupied. Many of its members also participate in the activities of the Centre for the Evolutionary Analysis of Cultural Behaviour at UCL.¹

Research projects

Several members of the group have maintained their involvement in the Çatalhöyük research project (coordinated by the University of Cambridge and Stanford University), investigating aspects of Neolithic life and environment in the Konya region, central Turkey. Arlene Rosen continued her phytolith studies, which complemented the archaeobotanical research on seed remains from the site. Eleni Asouti analyzed the charcoal remains, which have provided information on former woodland and past use of wood for fuel. James Conolly is concluding his study of obsidian technology and production, and Louise Martin has continued to investigate the animal remains found at the site (which she described in *AI 2000/2001*). This group joined other project researchers on site in the summer of 2001 for a study season dedicated to data integration, discussion and writing, in preparation for the major publications planned for 2002/2003. Also, as part of the project, Mark Lake and Peter Donovan have undertaken a four-month pilot study at the Institute, exploring the potential for ecological modelling of the nature and availability of food resources in the vicinity of the site.

As Jane Sidell reports in this issue of *AI* (pp. 12–15), she and colleagues have been working at a site on the Thames foreshore at Erith in southeast London, where there is an outcropping of a now-buried forest that grew there from Neolithic times to the Iron Age. She has been investigating sea-level change by sediment coring and diatom analysis, and Sophie Seel, Jon Hather and Martin Bridge have been studying the trees in detail. The site is remarkable because the woodland seems to have been dominated by yew, which seldom grows today on peaty soil in lowland river valleys – an association that appears to have no modern analogue in Britain.

As well as Arlene Rosen's work at Çatalhöyük, she is a member of an international

team investigating the beginnings of civilization in the Yiluo River basin, Henan Province, north China. She describes in this issue of *AI* (pp. 51–53) her research on the changing landscape, environments and agricultural potential throughout the Holocene. Dorian Fuller has undertaken further fieldwork in India and has begun archaeobotanical investigations in the Ganges valley, while maintaining his research in southern India (described in *AI 2000/2001*). Likewise, Elizabeth Graham has continued her fieldwork in Belize, about which she also wrote in last year's *AI*. Ken Thomas continues as a co-director of the Bannu Archaeological Project in northwest Pakistan (described in *AI 1999/2000*). Recent work has focused on excavations at the Early Historic Period site of Akra and also at a small Bronze Age site (Leewan), where a pottery kiln was discovered and samples of pottery collected for technological and provenance studies. His project with Marcello Mannino on shellfish exploitation in southern England (described in *AI 1998/99*) has been completed. Lastly, I have continued to work, in collaboration with the 22nd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, on the ancient cemeteries of the island of Astypalaia in the Dodecanese, Greece (see pp. 29–31). I have also recently started a joint project (with the Centro Mallqui at Ilo) studying desiccated mummies preserved in the very dry environment of the Osmore valley in southern Peru.

Seminars

This year the group sponsored two thematic series of seminars in association with the Centre for the Evolutionary Analysis of Cultural Behaviour,¹ both of which generated much interest. The first, during the autumn term, was entitled "The origins, spread and demography of early agricultural societies in South and Southeast Asia". Organized by Dorian Fuller, it complemented last year's series on the origins and spread of agriculture in Europe. Roger Blench (Overseas Development Institute, London) gave the first seminar and spoke about the role of rice cultivation in the ethno-linguistic geography of the region. Stephen Oppenheimer (Green College, Oxford) dealt with domesticated plants and animals in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, and Margareta Tengberg (University of Paris) described her research on the use of plant resources in Bal-

uchistan. Genetic evidence for the origins of Oceanic-speaking people was reviewed by Matt Hurles (McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge) and Matthew Spriggs (Australian National University, Canberra) evaluated the dating evidence for the Austronesian settlement of the islands of Southeast Asia. The series was rounded off by Gregory Possehl (University of Pennsylvania), who presented a model for the expansion of food producers into the Indian subcontinent.

"The first colonization and early settlement of the Americas" was the theme of the spring term seminars. It was organized by Stephen Shennan and James Steele (University of Southampton). James initiated the series with an introduction to the history of research on the topic and a review of current radiocarbon-dating evidence for the earliest arrival of people in southern South America. Next came Silvia Gonzalez (Liverpool John Moores University), who evaluated dating evidence for both the earliest humans and last mammoths in Mexico. Michael Shott (University of Northern Iowa) explored the extent to which colonization models for North America can be verified archaeologically. Andres Ruiz-Linares (Galton Laboratory, UCL) examined the evidence for pre-Columbian migrations provided by modern genetic variation in America, and Daniel Nettle (Open University) compared linguistic and genetic evidence. Lisa Manne (Natural History Museum, London) compared biological and cultural diversity in Central and South America, and Colin McEwan (British Museum) completed the series by discussing the theme from the vantage point of the extreme south, in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia.

Note

1. The Centre is a joint initiative between UCL and the University of Southampton, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Board. Its director is Stephen Shennan of the Institute of Archaeology, who, with Mark Collard of UCL's Department of Anthropology, outlined its aims and described two of its first projects on pp. 21–23 of *AI 2000/2001*. The article by Sue Colledge and James Conolly in this issue (pp. 44–46) describes another of the Centre's research projects.

The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group

Co-ordinator: Ruth Whitehouse

The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group brings together staff and postgraduate research students of the Institute whose primary interest is in anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of material culture, cutting across the regional and chronological boundaries that have traditionally divided archaeology. Its members share the common aim of studying the dynamics of material-culture systems in a comparative perspective.

Research projects

The Faces Across the North Sea project on Viking art (described in *AI 1998/99*) is sponsored jointly by the Complex Societies and the Social and Cultural Dynamics research groups, in collaboration with the University of Trondheim. It reached the end of its first phase, with the completion of a report to the Leverhulme Foundation, which had helped finance it, and a new phase of analytical work is now under way in the Institute (described more fully on p. 6).

The project, entitled Comparative and Scientific Approaches to Pigment Technology and Colour Symbolism, is also collaborative, in this case with both the Complex Societies and the Heritage Studies research groups. Started in 1998, it is now being developed further, with an initiative to examine comparatively what happens when different systems of colour perception come into contact, as they did, for example, during the European colonization of the Americas. Short-term funding is being provided to enable Diana Young, who recently completed a PhD in the UCL Department of Anthropology and who has worked on Australian aboriginal colour perception, to develop a research design based on this theme to put to potential funding agencies.

Several existing field projects conducted by members of the group have continued. They include Cyprian Broodbank's Kythera Island project and Bill Sillar's project at Raqchi in Peru (both featured in *AI 1999/2000*), Peter Drewett's and José Oliver's research in the Caribbean, on Barbados, Tortola and Puerto Rico (featured in *AI 1997/98*), Andrew Reid's project in Buganda (featured in *AI 2000/2001*), Kevin MacDonald's Cane River African Diaspora project in Louisiana, and my own long-term project on the Po plain in northern Italy, which is described on pp. 21–24 of this issue.

Seminars and workshops

In November 2001 the group sponsored a one-day workshop entitled "Agency uncovered: defining and demystifying agents in archaeology", organized by Andrew

Gardner. Its aim was to explore the increasingly widespread use of the concept of agency in archaeology, and to discuss some of the problems raised in a recent publication on the subject.¹ Many archaeologists have equated the study of agency with searching for individuals in the past, but defining "agency" raises many broader questions about power and the nature of human beings, which connect archaeologists to issues widely debated in the social sciences. These issues were well represented at the workshop, during which papers were given by members of the Institute of Archaeology and of other institutions (Andrew Gardner, Fiona Handley & Tim Schadla-Hall, Peter Jordan, Stephanie Koerner, Mark Lake, Justin Morris, John Robb and Bill Sillar), with John Barrett and Matthew Johnson acting as discussants. The main conclusion of the workshop was that agency could not be pinned down to a simple universal definition, and that archaeology was very well placed to explore the variation that has existed in relations between individuals and communities in different societies.

In February 2002 the group sponsored, together with the Complex Societies Research Group, the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and the Department of Oriental Antiquities of the British Museum, a two-day meeting on South Asian landscape archaeology. Twentyspeakers contributed to it, on a wide variety of topics relating to past and present landscapes in the sub-continent. They included all the visiting fellows who came to the Institute in 2001/2002 and this academic year: from Bangladesh M. Mozammel Hoque and S. S. Mostafizur Rahman, from India Rabi Mohanty and K. Rajan, from Pakistan Mastoor Fatima Bukhari and Nasim Khan, and from Sri Lanka Anura Manatunga, Jagath Weerasinghe and Gamini Wijesuriya; Institute staff Dorian Fuller, Vivek Nanda, Ken Thomas and Peter Ucko; and outside speakers Christopher Evans, Julia Hege-wald, Justin Morris, Mike Parker-Pearson, Mike Petraglia, Gregory Possehl, and Giles Tillotson. It was a highly successful meeting that brought together an exceptionally broad range of scholars from within and beyond South Asia, and it is hoped to publish the results.

Publications

One of the aims of the group is to publish collections of papers that reflect the current research interests of its members and also incorporate contributions from other scholars. Three such volumes are in preparation. The first, *Women in archaeology, women in antiquity* (edited by Sue Hamilton, Ruth Whitehouse and Karen Wright), was briefly described in my report last

year (see *AI 2000–2001*, p. 5). The other two arise from workshops organized by the group. *Agency uncovered: archaeological perspectives on social agency, power and being human* (edited by Andrew Gardner) will include papers given at the workshop described above, with additional invited papers (by Astrid Lindenlauf, Koji Mizoguchi, Stephen Shennan and Peter Whitridge). The third volume, *The archaeology of water: social and ritual dimensions* (edited by Fay Stevens), arises from the workshop on that theme, which was held at the Institute in April 2001 and from a session on the same theme at a Theoretical Archaeology Group conference held in Dublin in December 2000. This volume will explore archaeological approaches to water, in its many forms, as an element through which the social and ritual dimensions of human action and thought can engage, drawing on such conceptual frameworks as phenomenology, agency, and landscape theory.

Note

1. M-A. Dobres & J. Robb (eds), *Agency in archaeology* (London: Routledge, 2000).

The Complex Societies Research Group

Coordinator: Harriet Crawford

The interests of members of the Complex Societies Research Group focus on literate and pre-literate societies and encompass a vast range of time, from the emergence of complex societies in Southwest Asia in the Chalcolithic period at sites such as Tell Nebi Mend in Syria, to the changing political fortunes of the Central Asian trading city of Merv in the Sasanian and Islamic periods, to the late Middle Ages and early modern period in such northwest European cities as Novgorod and London. Its members deal with texts and other historical data, as well as archaeological evidence. This diversity is reflected in the range of research projects, conferences and seminars in which members of the group are currently involved.

Research projects

The Faces Across the North Sea project (described in *AI 1998/99* and conducted by James Graham-Campbell, Jeremy Tanner and Peter Ucko, with the addition this year of James Conolly) has been exploring the changing significance and meaning of the human face in the Viking culture, and in Romanesque churches on both sides of the North Sea. A complex database of 1412 items has now been constructed and it can already be shown that facial details increase over time, although in subtly different ways in Norway and England. Work is continuing on other aspects of the project to determine the popularity through time of both individual attributes and groups of attributes.

Research has continued at medieval Novgorod (see *AI 1998/99*, pp. 31–8), with another field season in 2001 that involved Jon Hather and Clive Orton from the Institute, our Russian hosts, and colleagues from Bournemouth University. The long-term field project at the village of Sedgeford in Norfolk, directed by Neil Faulkner and colleagues, has also continued (see pp. 16–20 in this issue), as has Martin Welch's research on cross-Channel connections between southern England and northern France in the Anglo-Saxon period (described in *AI 2000/2001*, pp. 28–30). Thilo Rehren has pursued his archaeometallurgical investigations in Egypt, Greece (also described in *AI 2000/2001*, pp. 31–34) and Uzbekistan, and Alan Johnston writes in this issue (pp. 25–28) about his work on sailors and sanctuaries of the ancient Greek world, as does John Tait, with Andrew Monson (pp. 40–43), about their research on the archaeological contexts of papyri found at the ancient Egyptian site of Tebtunis.

Conferences and seminars

In February 2002 the group sponsored a one-day conference entitled "From Late

Period to Late Antiquity: conquest and cultural change in Egypt". Organized by Sally-Ann Ashton (Petrie Museum) and Andrew Monson, a research student, it focused on the relationship between political changes associated with foreign (particularly Roman) administrations and cultural, social and economic changes in Egypt. In what was a most successful meeting, ten speakers (six from UCL) drew on a wide range of literary, documentary and archaeological evidence in their presentations.

A second one-day meeting, in memory of Vronwy Hankey, took place in May 2002. Entitled "From Knossos and Mycenae to Amarna: pots, pictures and places in the work of Vronwy Hankey", it was organized by Alan Johnston and devoted to papers on the ties between the Aegean and Egypt. It was sponsored by the Complex Societies Research Group in association with the British School at Athens, the Friends of the Petrie Museum, the Institute of Classical Studies and the Palestine Exploration Fund, and the speakers included colleagues from Bristol, Cambridge, Liverpool, London, New York, Oxford and Tucson, Arizona. There was also a two-day conference in May, organized by John Wilkes, to celebrate Margaret Roxan's contribution, over 30 years, to studies of Roman military diplomas, on which she became a world authority. He sets her work in the wider context of literacy and the Roman army in his article on pp. 32–35 of this issue.

Also in May, with the help of Thilo Rehren, a research student, Marcos Martínón-Torres, organized a workshop on the theme "Past societies and materials: archaeological information and written sources". Its aim was to explore the interplay between archaeological, literary and scientific evidence through case studies of matches and mismatches between scientific analysis and ancient textual accounts of technology. Participants included Institute staff and research students, and several outside speakers.

Papers on a wide range of topics were presented: lithic, ceramic and bronze technologies in ancient Egypt and Mycenaean Greece, descriptions by Classical authors (Vitruvius, Pliny) of pigment and glass manufacture, literary and archaeological evidence of early Germanic female warriors, Agricola's sixteenth-century description of brass production, medieval English bell founding, the environmental impact of medieval ironworking in northwest Wales, and the relationship between survey archives dating from 1750 to 1850 and urban archaeology in Sheffield, England.

Finally, as in past years, the group continued to co-sponsor and participate in seminar series on medieval studies (with

the British Museum), Mycenaean and Classical archaeology (with the Institute of Classical Studies), and ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian topics (with the London Centre for the Ancient Near East).

The Heritage Studies Research Group

Coordinator: Tim Schadla-Hall

The Heritage Studies Research Group is the primary group for those staff, postgraduate students and honorary research staff who are interested in the interpretation, presentation and conservation of what is often termed cultural heritage. It acts as an umbrella for a membership with a wide range of expertise and both theoretical and practical research interests, encompassing archaeological science, cultural landscapes, conservation, museum and heritage management, and archaeology and the media. The main aim of the group is to facilitate and foster interdisciplinary research through joint projects, workshops and seminars.

Research projects

Four members of the group have contributed articles to this issue of *AI*. They range in time from the Neolithic to the present, and all reflect current issues in public archaeology. Kathy Tubb gives a personal account (on pp. 47–50) of her long-term commitment to the conservation and reconstruction of the unique cache of 8700-year-old human statues discovered in 1983 at the Neolithic site of 'Ain Ghazal in Jordan, several of which, now restored, are on display at the Jordan Archaeological Museum in Amman, the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University in Jordan, and the British Museum.

Gaetano Palumbo, Elizabeth Fentress (a visiting professor at the Institute) and Hassan Limane (Director of Museums for the Moroccan Ministry of Culture) describe their joint project at the Roman and early Islamic city of Volubilis in northern Morocco (on pp. 36–39), where they are excavating part of the medieval Islamic settlement and working on the conservation of the site and its presentation to the public. Neal Ascherson (editor of the journal *Public Archaeology*, who is based at the Institute) reflects (on pp. 54–56) on his recent visit to the huge multi-period site of Chersonesus (on the Crimean peninsula), which was founded in the fifth century BC and fought over in the Crimean War and Second World War, and which is now the focus of many conflicting interests and claims. Nick Merriman (Curator of UCL Museums and Collections and a member of the Institute's academic staff) reviews (on pp. 57–59) the present state of university museums and collections, and shows that they face many organizational, financial and ethical problems. He also describes the latest developments at UCL, including the ambitious plan for a new building – the Panopticon (Fig. 3 on p. 59) – to house, among other collections, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

Other active projects include research

on the conservation and protection of historic monuments and archaeological remains undertaken by the UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage (a collaboration between the Institute, the Bartlett School of Architecture and the School of Library and Information Studies), to which Peter Ucko draws attention on p. 3 of this issue; Clifford Price's continuing research on salt damage in porous materials such as stone and ceramics; Liz Pye's work on wall paintings (featured in *AI 2000/2001*); Suzanne Keene's work on the management and digitization of museum collections; and Paulette McManus's project on museum visitors (a second, revised edition of Paulette's book, *Archaeological displays and the public*, was published in 2001).

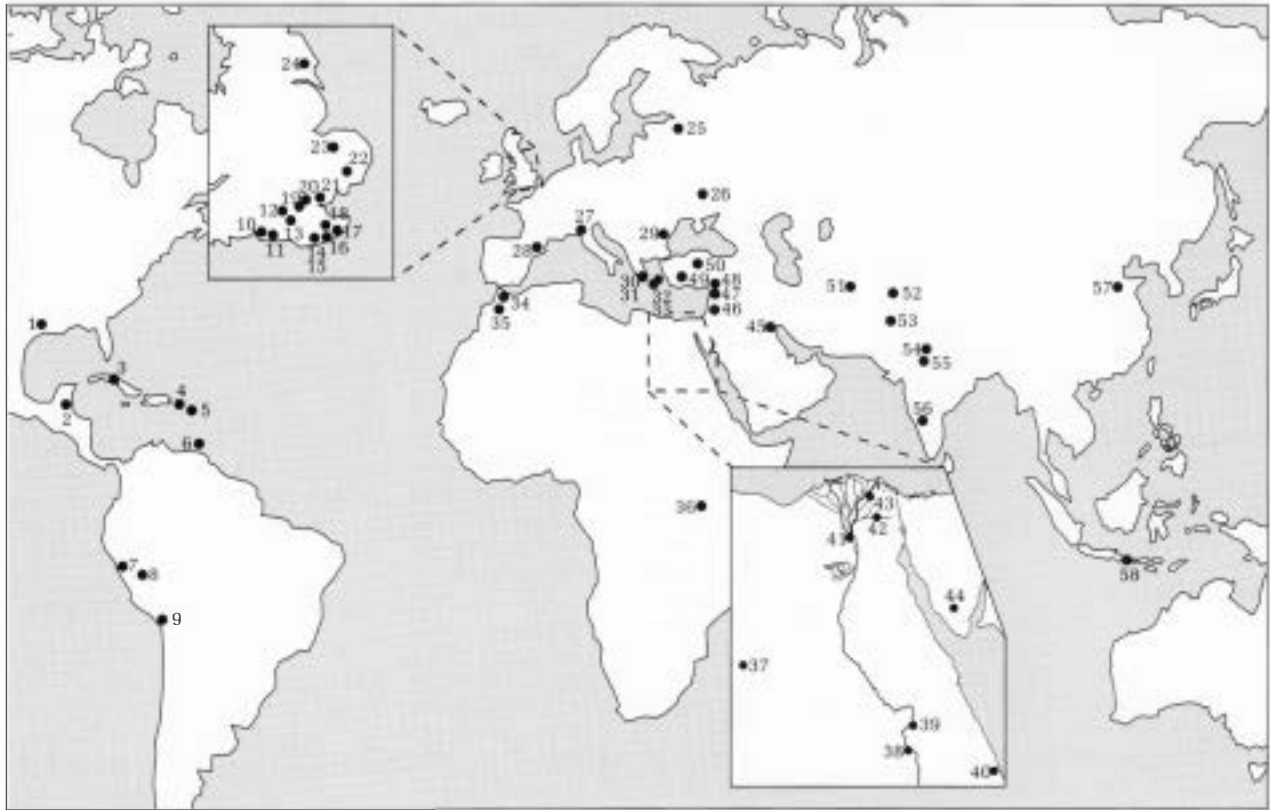
Seminars and lectures

Members of the group were keen participants in this year's Institute-wide seminars. The overall title chosen for them was "Thinking conservation". They were organized by Clifford Price and were so successful that they were extended into the summer term. As the title implies, the series was intended to be – and in the event was – intellectually challenging. It was very well attended by Institute staff, students and visitors, and the issues raised included such controversial subjects as the conservation of rock art, the role of replicas, how ancient sites should be presented to the public, whether "cultural heritage" represents a new form of Western imperialism, and whether the concept of "sustainable heritage" is sustainable.

Another series of seminars that involved members of the group was given by one of the Institute's honorary research fellows, Ole Grøn from the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage, while he was carrying out research at the Institute during the autumn term. He gave four seminars on ethnoarchaeology, based on his fieldwork with the Evenk people in Siberia. He discussed the problems and potential value of ethnographic data in the archaeological interpretation of hunter-gatherer societies and the study of Mesolithic settlements in northwest Europe, and also demonstrated some of the difficulties of conserving hunter-gatherer artefacts.

Lastly, a very special lecture deserves mention: Clifford Price's inaugural as Professor of Archaeological Conservation. He delivered it on 7 February 2002 under the title "What should I care about posterity? What has posterity ever done for me?", which turned out – unbeknown to most of the large audience I suspect – to be a quotation from Groucho Marx. It was a wide-ranging, partly philosophical and often amusing personal statement that fittingly

complemented the theme of the seminar series he organized this year, "Thinking conservation".



World distribution of current field projects

North and South America	England and Continental Europe	Africa	Asia
1. Cane River, Louisiana, USA MacDonald: historic (creole)	10. Boxgrove, Sussex Roberts: Middle Palaeolithic	22. Hoxne, Suffolk Parfitt: Palaeolithic	45. as-Sabiyah, Kuwait Carter, Crawford: Neolithic
2. Lamanai, Belize Graham: multiperiod	11. Angmering, Sussex Griffin: Roman	23. Sedgeford, Norfolk Faulkner: multiperiod	46. Wadi Zarka, Jordan Palumbo: multiperiod
3. Los Buchillonos, Cuba Graham: 12th to 17th century AD	12. Barcombe, Sussex Rudling: medieval	24. Pickering, Yorkshire Schadla-Hall: Mesolithic	47. Sidon, Lebanon Doumet, Griffiths: multiperiod
4. Caguana, Puerto Rico Oliver: Prehispanic	13. Mount Caburn, Sussex Drewett, Hamilton: multiperiod	25. Novgorod, Russia Hather, Orton: medieval	48. Nacharini, Lebanon Garrard: Palaeolithic-Neolithic
5. Tortola, Virgin Islands Drewett: Prehispanic	14. Winchelsea, Sussex D. Martin: medieval	26. Central Don region, Russia Parfitt: Palaeolithic	49. Çatalhöyük, Turkey L. Martin, Rosen: Neolithic
6. Barbados Drewett: Prehispanic	15. Cinque Ports coastal survey Kent, Sussex Clarke, Milne: Roman-medieval	27. Eastern Po plain, Italy Whitehouse: Bronze Age, Roman	50. Paphlagonia, Turkey Matthews: multiperiod
7. Batan Grande, Peru Merkel: Prehispanic (Sican)	16. Lydd, Kent Barber: medieval	28. Empordà, Spain McGlade: multiperiod	51. Merv, Turkmenistan Palumbo, Williams: multiperiod
8. Raqchi, Peru Sillar: multiperiod	17. Westenhanger Castle, Kent D. Martin: medieval	29. Noviodunum, Romania Lockyear, Popescu: Roman-Byzantine	52. Akhsiket, Uzbekistan Rehren: early Islamic
9. Ilo, Peru Hillson: multiperiod	18. Ashford, Kent Johnson: Iron Age	30. Kythera, Greece Broodbank, Conolly: multiperiod	53. Bannu, Pakistan Thomas: multiperiod
	19. Ewell, Surrey Orton: Roman	31. Lavrion, Greece Rehren: Classical	54. Garhwal, India Fuller: Early Historic
	20. Thames foreshore, London Milne, Sidell: prehistoric-present	32. Knossos, Greece Whitelaw: multiperiod	55. Belan River, India Fuller: Neolithic
	21. Tilbury, Essex Sidell: Mesolithic-Bronze Age	33. Astypalaia, Greece Hillson: Late Archaic-Classical	56. Karnataka, India Fuller: Neolithic
			57. Yiluo River, China Rosen: Neolithic-Bronze Age
			58. Bali, Indonesia Bacus: multiperiod

• The list includes only the projects involving survey or excavation (or both) run by members of the Institute or to which they make a major contribution (individual research student's field projects are excluded, as are study visits to museum and other collections), and only the main members of the Institute involved in each project are named; staff from other UCL departments and other UK and overseas universities and organizations also participate in many projects and in some cases co-direct them.

• All the overseas projects depend on collaboration with local archaeologists and with the relevant antiquities services, museums or universities, and several of them also involve collaboration with other UK universities, museums and other organizations, e.g. 10 (English Heritage, Natural History Museum), 21 (Durham), 22 (British Museum, Queen Mary London), 24 (Cambridge, Durham), 25 (Bournemouth), 26 (Open University), 29 (Southampton), 30 (Cambridge, Oxford, Sheffield), 34 (Natural History Museum, Oxford Brookes), 41 (Egypt Exploration Society), 47 (British Museum), 49 (Cambridge), 53 (British Museum).