



Settlement Archaeology Symposium Series VI

Continuity & Change: New Approaches to Legacy Data in Archaeology

28/29th of April, 2016

Department of Settlement Archaeology, Middle East Technical University

Call for Papers

Deadline for Submission: Monday 1st of February 2016

Dear all,

A call for papers for the Settlement Archaeology Symposium Series VI: *Continuity & Change: New Approaches to Legacy Data in Archaeology* is now open. We invite young scholars in the process of writing their thesis using legacy data' theory and methods or those who have recently finished in order to share their experience with other young scholars and encourage prospective studies. We are planning to invite a keynote speaker who has experience dealing with legacy data.

The symposium is primarily focusing on archaeological research however, young scholars from other related disciplines such as history, art history, architectural history, restoration, regional planning or geology, are also very welcome to take part in presenting their research.

All participants are expected to give 15 minutes presentation about their research. Participants may present either in English or Turkish. Abstract of a maximum of 200 words should be submitted to Dr. Didier Bouakaze-Khan at didier@metu.edu.tr

In the field of archaeology there are datasets from older excavations, surveys, archives of images, maps, plans and the like. These are called legacy data and in its simplest definition, legacy data is information stored in an old or obsolete format. These datasets are frequently used by modern scholars either on their own right or in combination with new data. Legacy data combined with recent archaeological information for digital analysis give us a greater understanding of the past. Therefore, it has become apparent that digitization, spatial mapping and re-analysis of these data can greatly facilitate investigations of social behaviour and changing environmental conditions. This concern is not limited to archaeological studies but has become an issue for many disciplines.

As archaeologists we are also heavily concerned with *continuity* and *change* in our pursuit of understanding the past. Even though the terms *continuity* and *change* may seem to have opposing meanings, it is possible to use both as compatible aspects for a methodology which includes the use of legacy datasets. This approach encompasses both the *continuity* of the data and the *change* in questioning them, therefore revisiting past excavation reports, collections and historical sources with new questions.

The overall theme of the proposed symposium wishes to explore the concepts of continuity and change under the banner of legacy data. It is hoped that this symposium will encourage young researchers to re-consider the origins of data in their studies, but also to challenge their approaches with regards to continuity and change, in order to make it current and relevant. Participants would be expected to demonstrate how they handle legacy data or to show how they can apply current theories and methodologies to past datasets.

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