



IX TAAS – Ibarra, Ecuador, June 4-8, 2018

IX Reunión de Teoría Arqueológica de América del Sur (TAAS)
IX Meeting of South American Archaeological Theory

FIRST CIRCULAR – May 1, 2017

BACKGROUND AND FOUNDATIONS

For the last two decades (1998), the Meeting of South American Archaeological Theory (also known as TAAS) has continuously proposed spaces for dialogue and exchange between institutions, collective groups, local communities, academias; spaces that unfortunately each time are less visible in our continent. In this way, the choice of holding the TAAS in Ibarra (Ecuador) continues to promote its original spirit by questioning the hegemonic paradigms framing archaeology and the study of the past, in terms of research and social practice, hence contributing alternative ways to rethink the discipline from the South.

The IX Meeting of the TAAS (June 4-8, 2018) in Ibarra will be the first time it is held in Ecuador. Initially it took place in Vitória (Brasil) in 1998 and subsequent meetings were held in Olavarría (Argentina) in 2000, Bogotá (Colombia) in 2002, Catamarca (Argentina) in 2007, Caracas (Venezuela) in 2010, Goiânia (Brasil) in 2012, San Felipe (Chile) in 2014 and La Paz (Bolivia) in 2016.

Based on a joint reflection of the situation and projection of archaeological theory and practice and its implications in the South, the TAAS was originally formed in 1996. Since then it has congregated academics and students from diverse Latin American universities along with indigenous local communities and international institutions, including the World Archaeological Congress (WAC).

From a reflexive perspective, archaeology allows the observation of the development of human societies and thus can be used as a tool for critically questioning political violence generated by the normativity of practices around gender, sexuality, territory, ethnicity and class. With the knowledge acquired by TAAS, we expect to contribute elements to transform social dynamics and build alternatives applicable to a critical Latin American social theory.

Following this approach, we propose two main themes of the TAAS-Ibarra, emphasising on local communities and sexual and gender diversities. These are also central themes to a growing interest of strong consolidating alliances and coalitions between different communities, entities, institutions and social agents of the northern Ecuadorian highlands. For this reason, the congress will take place in two physical spaces: the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador-Ibarra and the Centro Cultural El Cuartel in Ibarra.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This is an open invitation to present panel proposals for the ninth meeting of the TAAS that will take place in Ibarra, Ecuador, on June 2018. As in previous versions, the panels constitute an important space for reflection and creativity in terms of archaeological

theory, practice and methodology in the Latin American continent.

Papers will be presented with a definitive timeframe followed by a slot for public participation. All panels will take place during the five-day event and their duration will depend on the number of papers accepted and the criteria established for the final schedule.

Following with the tradition of the TAAS and the main themes established for the ninth meeting, the proposed themes are the following:

1. Gender and Sexualities
2. Interdisciplinary dialogues in the interpretation of the past
3. Collaborative archaeology and communities
4. Cultural patrimony and public policies
5. Dialogues between archaeology and patrimony
6. Archaeological Theory from the South
7. Postcoloniality, descoloniality and alternative episteme in archaeological practice and theory
8. New methodologies in archaeological research
9. Ethic and community dialogues in the development of archaeological practice
10. Archaeology, territories and extractivism
11. Resilience, natural disasters and communities
12. Antropocene and cultural ecology
13. Transgendered Subjectivities and the Past
14. Cultural territories, memories and landscapes
15. Education and public archaeology in South America
16. Archaeological practice in relation to public state policies and private companies
17. Museums, material culture and collection practices
18. Historical archaeology and African diasporas
19. Climate change and its projections from archaeology
20. The Queer Past: Exclusions, Repressions and Identities

As in previous TAAS, the panel proposals must meet the following requirements and be sent to the e-mail address: organizaciontaas2018@gmail.com or infotaas2018@gmail.com

- Present title of the panel and abstract of no more than 300 words, followed by five key words.
- Inscribe at least two (and no more than four) organisers by providing their names, institutional affiliations or contact information and e-mail addresses. The participants can only coordinate one panel. We promote panels with organisers from different countries and/or disciplines.
- Attach titles and abstracts of four (minimum) and eight (maximum) papers including the contributions of the organisers. The abstracts will not exceed 200 words and include the name, institutional affiliation or contact information and e-mail address of each presenter. Panelists can present a work as main authors and up to two additional co-authors.
- Include the name of a person that can serve as a discussant for the panel.

ACTIVITIES BUILDING TOWARDS THE TAAS

Meetings

Prior to the forthcoming TAAS, there will be a series of five meetings. The first one will take place in the main location at the city of Ibarra in July 2017 and will be about the African Diaspora. The second and third meetings are being planned to take place in Lima and Buenos Aires in November 2017 and will discuss Ancestral Knowledges (Quito) and South-South Dialogues (Buenos Aires). Both of them supported by local communities and institutions. There will also be a fourth meeting that will take place at Fordham University in New York City in Spring 2018 that will focus on Sexuality and Gender Approaches in Archaeology. Finally, the fifth meeting will deal with Cultural Patrimony in Latin America and will take place in the city of Mexico in December 2017. This meeting is supported by the members of the ENAH (National School of Anthropology and History) and the INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History) of Mexico.

All of this aims to strengthen a previous process build-up with local communities and institutions in order to discuss some of the main themes that are part of central debates during the meeting.

Round-tables

Round-tables will be based on the same themes drawn from the results of the previous meetings and continue their discussions during the IX TAAS. Thus, round-tables offer a critical, reflective and active exchange between speakers and participants.

The round-tables will discuss the following themes:

1. Knowledge exchange
2. African diaspora
3. American sexualities: constructions and genealogies
4. Dialogues South- South
5. Cultural patrimony in Latin America: critiques, problems and actions

Dialogues

Dialogues will be provided solely by female researchers who will deliver a master conference on specific themes that contribute to archaeological theory, practice and methodology. All dialogues will access previous feedback by using an active virtual forum that will garner participant thinking through the proposed themes.

Conversations

In response to popular demands at previous meetings, three conversations will be held; one with representatives of indigenous communities, afrodescendants and montubias from the highlands, coast and Ecuadorian Amazonia. Another conversation will be about contract archaeology and a last one regarding Ancestral territories and archaeology.

Student participation

As a way of enabling student participation from the early phase of their academic formation, there will be an open space for the exhibition of academic posters on their work, workshop projects that have taken place within their universities, undergraduate thesis, etc. The posters will be presented during a total of three hours that will be allocated during lunch-time throughout the week of the event. The participation of researchers and teachers in these activities will be promoted in order for students to acquire feedback about their research contributions and questions regarding their archaeological practice. This meeting will also generate the exchange of students from anthropology and archaeology of diverse countries.

Other activities

With the aim to multiply spaces of dialogue and the manifestation of diverse experiences, parallel to the academic activities of the congress, there will be a photography exhibit, documentary projection and book fair, as well as music and artistic interventions.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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Dr. Hugo Benavides (Fordham University, USA)
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Supporting institutions

Main institutions:

- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE)
- Centro Cultural El Cuartel (Ibarra)
- CONAMUNE
- Fordham University
- Universidad Católica de Temuco