**University of Leicester Future 100 PhD Scholarship**

**Project Reference: SAAH-Samson**

**Section 1 – *Supervisor Information***

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| **First Supervisor**  | Dr Alice Samson |
| **School/Department** | School of Archaeology and Ancient History |
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| **Proposed Second Supervisor** | Sarah Inskip  |
| **Additional 3rd Supervisor** | Arnoud Boom |
| **Additional Supervisor** | Jago Cooper |

**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | **Drug cultures and wellbeing: Investigating drug use in the precolonial Caribbean**  |
| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | Analyses radically different drug cultures to our own |
| 2. | Challenges the divide between humanities and sciences research by combining archeometric and critical approaches |
| 3. | Builds on cutting edge applications in archaeology (metabolomics)  |
| **Project Overview**  |
| This PhD project aims to understand the nature and context of drug use in past societies in which the use of intoxicating or mind-altering substances is part of long-standing cultural traditions. This contrasts with cultures such as our own in which many intoxicants are criminalised and drug-use a social problem.Drug use was widespread and endemic across much of the Indigenous Americas, including the precolonial Caribbean. A variety of plant-based substances were consumed in rule-bound contexts for political and religious purposes to maintain relations with the wider cosmos. Historical sources exist with detailed descriptions of rituals involving hallucinogens, as well as iconography referring to these rituals. Archaeological objects such as sniffing bowls, tubes, and burners are common across the archipelago (Ostapkowicz 2020; Pagán-Jiménez 2014). Substances consumed in the Caribbean are presumed to be tobacco and *Anadenanthera peregrina* (a psychedelic referred to as *cohoba* in historic sources and *yopo* in Indigenous South America today), but these have not been attested archaeologically. Archeometric analyses combined with information on wider archaeological context can elucidate the dynamics of radically different drug cultures. The aim of this project it to examine original contexts of use, including the materiality of practices and range of intoxicants consumed. The student will focus on how Indigenous populations prepared, consumed, and valued particular substances. This moves beyond the current archaeological focus on nicotine and tobacco (e.g. Carmody et al. 2018; Echeverría et al. 2014), and the results will contribute to a bigger history of drug cultures in the Americas. The project will provide a non-European counterpoint to the Tobacco, Health and History project at Leicester. It will also bring cultural heritage research and Indigenous revitalization in closer dialogue, for example around the revival of *cohoba* rituals in Puerto Rico and the ontological tensions this raises. Revealing more about the role of intoxicants in people’s lives and cosmologies can enhance our understanding of why people use drugs in different groups and contexts. This can inform insights into modern drug use and how and why it can become problematic. Refs: Carmody, S., J. Davis, S. Tadi, J. S. Sharp, R. K. Hunt, and J. Russ. 2018. 'Evidence of tobacco from a Late Archaic smoking tube recovered from the Flint River site in southeastern North America', *Journal of archaeological science*, reports, 21: 904-10. Echeverría, Javier, María Teresa Planella, and Hermann M. Niemeyer. 2014. 'Nicotine in residues of smoking pipes and other artifacts of the smoking complex from an Early Ceramic period archaeological site in central Chile', Journal of Archaeological Science, 44: 55-60.Ostapkowicz, Joanna. 2020. 'Conduits to the supernatural: Bifurcated snuff tubes in the pre-Columbian Caribbean', *Journal of Caribbean Archaeology*, 20: 45-67.Pagán-Jiménez, Jaime, and Lisabeth Carlson. 2014. 'Recent Archaeobotanical Findings of the Hallucinogenic Snuff Cojoba (Anadenanthera Peregrin A (L.) Speg.) in Precolonial Puerto Rico', *Latin American Antiquity*, 25: 101–16. |
| **Methodology**  |
| The suitable candidate will have a background in archaeological science or relevant equivalent experience. You will combine ethnohistoric sources, material culture analysis, and data derived from the scientific analysis of samples to identify compounds relating to drug use on artefacts and to address the broader issue of how such substances are socially managed and controlled in the Indigenous Caribbean. Research questions include: What different types of intoxicants can we find?; How does this compare to ethnohistorical sources?; Are particular intoxicants associated with particular types of objects and contexts?The geographical focus is Dominican Republic/Haiti and Puerto Rico where relevant collections are available in the Caribbean and the UK. The student will 1) synthesise data from early European sources on Indigenous rituals and drug use, 2) identify drug paraphernalia and how it was used (i.e. smoking/snuffing/drinking) and take samples of residue scrapings, and 3) analyse samples to identify the compounds used via analytical chemistry and metabolomics. A multianalytical platform combining targeted and generalised approaches is suitable for archaeological materials.   |
| **References** | Collins, James A., Andrew S. Carr, Enno Schefuß, Arnoud **Boom**, and Judith Sealy. 2017. 'Investigation of organic matter and biomarkers from Diepkloof Rock Shelter, South Africa: Insights into Middle Stone Age site usage and palaeoclimate', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 85: 51-65.**Cooper**, Jago, Alice V. M. **Samson**, Miguel Antonio Nieves, Michael J. Lace, Josué Caamaño-Dones, Patricia N. Kambesis, Caroline Cartwright, and Laura del Olmo Frese. 2016. 'The Mona Chronicle: The archaeology of early religious encounter in the New World', *ANTIQUITY*, 90: 1054-71.**Inskip**, Sarah A., G. Michael Taylor, Sonia R. Zakrzewski, Simon A. Mays, Alistair W. G. Pike, Gareth Llewellyn, Christopher M. Williams, Oona Y. C. Lee, Houdini H. T. Wu, David E. Minnikin, Gurdyal S. Besra, and Graham R. Stewart. 2015. 'Osteological, biomolecular and geochemical examination of an early Anglo-Saxon case of lepromatous leprosy', *PloS one*, 10: e0124282-e82.**Inskip**, Sarah A., L. Zachary, Maria Serrano Ruber, and Menno L. P. Hoogland. accepted. 'The impact of pipe smoking on Dutch dental health. An archaeological perspective', *Post Medieval Archaeology*.McCoy, Victoria E., Arnoud **Boom**, Mónica M. Solórzano Kraemer, and Sarah E. Gabbott. 2017. 'The chemistry of American and African amber, copal, and resin from the genus Hymenaea', *Organic geochemistry*, 113: 43-54.**Samson**, Alice V. M., Lucy J. Wrapson, Caroline R. Cartwright, Diana Sahy, Rebecca J. Stacey, and Jago **Cooper**. 2017. 'Artists before Columbus: A multi-method characterization of the materials and practices of Caribbean cave art', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 88: 24-36. |