

## **P16. Pre and Proto-historic Research, Heritage Management and Communication: Engaging our Distant Past into a Common Future**

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Prehistory and Protohistory account for 99% of our human past, even when considering the emergence of anatomically modern humans. During this immense period of time, climate, flora and fauna changed, but so has human behavior, with the introduction of new technologies, evolving human, animal and material relationships, culminating with new subsistence strategies such as agriculture and pastoralism. Although all these changes left material traces, they tend to be extremely vague and incomplete. Furthermore, during this entire period of time there were no written records that can tell us in more detail the stories of these past communities. Combining these aspects with the difficulties of conceiving a span of time so vast in relation to our own lifetime and recent events, makes prehistory and protohistory very challenging to understand. Nevertheless, and since they constitute 99% of our human past, these periods hold the key to many of our current behaviors, being therefore fair to say that if history is important, our prehistory is even more relevant!

As researchers and heritage managers, our challenge is to create synergies between this deep history and the wider public. How do we communicate prehistory effectively, captivate broader interests and create conditions for wider collaborations and emotional explorations of the past? In this panel we are looking for papers that can offer meaningful contributions to these questions. We seek to discuss (less) how the lack of knowledge about prehistory and protohistory can limit our interpretations and recreations of the past, and (more) how this same lack of knowledge can open a space for creativity where everyone could and should be included. The panel is aimed at researchers, cultural managers and mediators from different backgrounds, interested in public engagement, community co-production, outreach, science communication, and concerned with conveying prehistoric and protohistoric heritage in an inclusive way, focusing on building a common future.

**Keywords:** Pre- and Protohistoric Science; Heritage Management; Cultural Mediation; Co-creation; Creative Tourism.

**Thematic lines:** Heritage Practices; Heritage Management; Conservation, Restoration and Sustainability; Mediation and Management of Publics; Heritage Communication; Epistemological and Research Challenges in Heritage; Networks of Heritage Researchers and Research, Citizen Science; Cultural Tourism and Heritage.

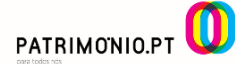
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**Short bios:** Sofia Figueiredo-Persson is a cultural manager and archaeologist, currently the CEO of Iconictheory, a company that specializes in the areas of culture and creativity, working with archaeology and heritage, cultural management and creative tourism. She is also an integrated researcher at CHAM, NOVA University. She has been working within the cultural and artistic sector for 25 years, developing research in the areas of pre- and protohistoric rock art. Sofia has extensive experience in Project Management, and she has been a Principal Investigator and international consultant for projects involving archaeology and cultural management. In 2019/2020 she assumed the Technical and Scientific Coordination of the Côa Museum and Côa Valley Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage rock art site (Portugal). She has been a lecturer and has acted as supervisor of master and doctoral students, and she is the author of an extensive list of publications in journals, books, and conference papers.

Joana Valdez-Tullett Joana is an archaeologist with a specialization in prehistory, rock art, digital and landscape archaeology. She has been working within the Historic Environment sector for 20 years, in academic settings, private and public organizations, in western Europe, namely Portugal, Spain, Britain and Ireland. Joana has collaborated in several national and international projects, with an extensive component of community engagement and public outreach such as Rock Art Scotland and South Africa. She has curated exhibitions, including Sightations, an event with 5 galleries and more than 60 artists, which combined drawings, photography, painting, sculpture, textiles, comics and ceramics alongside digital artworks. Joana has delivered and has been invited to present her research on several scientific events and others of interest to the general public. She is an internationally recognized researcher and a published author of numerous solo and collaborative articles, including her book ‘Design and Connectivity: the case of Atlantic Rock Art’.

Elin Figueiredo is an Associated Researcher at the University NOVA of Lisbon (FCT NOVA) in the Materials Research Centre (CENIMAT/i3N) where she conducts research on cultural heritage materials and degradation processes, with a special focus on archaeometallurgy. She has developed studies on ancient metallurgical processes, technological disruptions, provenance and circulation of raw materials and metals from Chalcolithic to Roman times, but also on long-term corrosion and metallurgy of historical periods. She has led research programs focusing on NW Iberia, namely in the study of bronze production, tin, and gold sources. In the last 4 years, she has coordinated the IberianTin project and presently coordinates the Gold.PT project, which will try to engage public awareness towards ancient technologies. During her career, she has published more than 60 papers in specialized journals, conference proceedings and book chapters, and contributed with more than 100 oral and poster presentations at conferences and meetings.

Andreia Silva graduated in History, variant Archaeology, in 2004, at the University of Minho. She has carried out more than 40 works within the scope of rescue archaeology, among which the excavation of the archaeological site of Boucinha, of Paleolithic age; an excavation in the immediacy of the Convent of Christ, World Heritage; and, archaeological works in the context

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of the hydroelectric exploitation of Baixo Sabor, where she was part of the rock art team. In 2020 she finished her Master's dissertation in archaeology "Anthropomorphic representations in mobile art from the Protohistory of the Sabor valley (eastern Trás-os-Montes)", and the thesis was distinguished with an honorable mention by the Association of Portuguese Archaeologists. She is currently doing her Ph.D. in History at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa – FCSH, with the subject "The rock art of northern Portugal as a resource for sustainable development".

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