

Intimate Landscapes: Sand.

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Session on 'Archaeologies of Emotion and Emotional Archaeologies.' Organized by Jane Baxter, April Nowell, and Sian Halcrow. World Archaeological Congress – 08, Kyoto, Japan. August 28-September 2.

Abstract:

This paper is the second in a series that investigates the many ways in which we continue to be intimate with archaeological features in both contemporary moments as well as in reconstructed narratives of the past. As with the first paper in which mudbrick were the focus of attention, in this formulation, sand and its movement will be the focus in order to understand the deeply intimate formal and informal relations humans have had with this material over time. In particular, I will focus on sand and coastal formations alongside the east coast of the United Arab Emirates, and at specific Indus sites of MohenjoDaro and Harappa. In this region, deep emotional connections of every day practice, ritual, memory, and belonging are linked to the sand. This paper will combine geo-archaeological research with archaeological poetics in an effort to present a form true to the nature of the material under study.