

Session #520 Integrating all Dimensions: 3D-Applications from Excavation to Research to Dissemination

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3D-technologies are increasingly shaping the way archaeologists work and think. The fact that 3D recording techniques are becoming part of the standard toolkit in archaeological fieldwork opens up enormous opportunities for research and public outreach. As archaeological excavations are seen to be destructive, conventional documentation techniques have been shaped over decades if not centuries to mitigate as much information loss as possible. This includes the development of fitting tools and workflows as well as best practices in archaeological data collection, long-term archiving, research and dissemination.

As new tools, 3D-Technologies need to be implemented into these existing best practices and workflows. In order to take full advantage of the new possibilities, we consider an integrated approach from the beginning of a project to be essential. This enables the successful implementation of 3D-technologies in all stages: it is not only important during fieldwork, but also later during research or public outreach. There, for instance, challenges concerning interoperability or quality may arise and have to be coped with. Also, the irreversibility of archaeological excavations has to be met with the functioning of long-term archiving of mostly large and complex datasets.

Despite the increasing implementation of 3D-technologies in everyday archaeological practice, the overall experience of knowing what decisions to make and how they will affect the later possibilities and limitations is still developing. Nevertheless, there are ever more successful projects showing how 3D-techniques can be fully integrated into archaeological practice.

This session aims to bring these examples of integrated research projects to a broader archaeological audience. As these potent documentation techniques have found their way into everyday practice, a broad dissemination and discussion of their possibilities and arising challenges is urgently needed.

Important information: Deadline for paper proposals February 11th.
Submissions and registration at <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2021>.

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