

**Gr. CONF-941, "Workshop Grant - Ethics in Caribbean Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future"
(Renamed "The Future of Ethics in Caribbean Archaeology")
Workshop Grant, \$20,000, approved on September 3, 2023**

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Premise and Attendees

Ethics in archaeology is a constantly evolving field and one that has gained increasing attention in recent years. The Caribbean region has also been experiencing this movement, albeit at a lesser intensity when compared to other regions of the world. However, social, political, economic, and environmental pressures at work in this region make an ethical re-evaluation of archaeology in the Caribbean even more urgent than in other regions. This workshop therefore aimed to advance the development of ethical archaeology in the region through achieving four concrete goals (see below). It was a follow-up to the successful workshop entitled 'Ethics in Caribbean Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future' that took place at the Lorentz Center, The Netherlands, in November 2023. At that workshop, the attendees identified these four initial goals to help advance ethical work in the archaeology of the Caribbean.



To achieve these goals, the organisers brought together a group of Caribbean researchers and experts who can help to develop the discipline in an ethical direction. It took place at the University of Copenhagen, where the history of the Caribbean has been gaining increasing attention. It is also conveniently located close to a metro station and to an international airport, and the campus has all the facilities we needed to host a four-day event.

The 30 workshop attendees, participating both in person and online, included independent scholars, university researchers, government employees, and postgraduate students from Curaçao, Barbados, Germany, Grenada, Haiti, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, St. Eustatius, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA, and Venezuela. Keynote speeches on archaeological ethics in other contexts were given by Rachel Watkins (American University) and Priscilla Ulguim (Free University Brussels). To maximise inclusivity, our online attendees were present for three hours each afternoon. This accounted for the time difference with the Americas and ensured that the attendees did not get fatigued. Our attendees abided by a code of conduct that encouraged inclusivity, respect, openness, and the creation of a safe and horizontal space.

Programme and Outcomes

1. Peer Review of a Position Paper

On the first day of the workshop, the attendees got to know each other in a series of speed dates. We then addressed the peer review of a position paper that sets out some of the main ethical issues in the discipline and what kinds of solutions can be identified on structural and personal levels. This position paper describes the trajectory and outcomes of the Lorentz Center workshop in 2023 and will be published open access. Workshop attendees had insightful comments that will help the paper develop in a more engaging and integrated way. They also helped improve the paper's figures. Those who make significant contributions to the paper will be added as co-authors according to the Vancouver guidelines. At the end of the day, we gathered for a welcome reception at the Saxo Institute (University of Copenhagen), where we were joined by Gunvor Simonsen (PI of the ERC-funded Caribbean history project IN THE SAME SEA www.inthesamesea.ku.dk, which is based at the Saxo Institute).

2. Building a Network

To start the second day, participants engaged in a Qi Gong session for energy and vitality. We then discussed increasing collaboration and co-operation between archaeologists working in different parts of the Caribbean, by building a website that will disseminate information on ethical archaeological work and facilitate interpersonal contacts on the topic. We also discussed what the parameters, rules, and goals of our community will be. For example, we want to be inclusive of archaeologists at all career stages, but we also want to ensure that Caribbean and early career researcher's voices are prioritised. We want to maintain a flat hierarchy where all voices are heard. Zandra Fagnäs (University of Copenhagen), Eduardo Herrera Malatesta (Århus University) and Joseph Sony Jean (Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde) presented on their past experiences setting up networks. We took inspiration from the development of the early career researcher network for paleoproteomics specialists, PAASTA (<https://paasta-community.github.io/about/>), and we learned from the experiences of the editors of the new volume *Local Voices, Global Debates* (Brill, 2024). At the end of the day, we heard a fascinating keynote speech from Rachel Watkins (American University) about community engagement in bioanthropology.



Qi Gong session

3. Educational Programme

To start the third day of the workshop, the attendees participated in a Wim Hof breathwork session. We then discussed building local capacity, which is vital for the ethical progression of Caribbean archaeology. To address this, we put together a certificate course in archaeology that is specifically aimed at Caribbean students. We decided upon a 6 course certificate incorporating four compulsory introductory courses, an elective course, and a field school. Introductory courses will also be open for paying attendees who require basic archaeological knowledge, such as government employees and

developers. Their financial contributions will help towards supporting the attendance of Caribbean students in the full course and in obtaining their certificates. We intend that these certificates can be useful for students seeking postgraduate positions in archaeology. We are now investigating potential host institutions that can award the certificate, both universities and commercial online platforms. At the end of the day, we gathered for an informal dinner at a local restaurant.

4. *Reaching the Young*

On the final day of the workshop, the attendees again participated in a Qi Gong session. We then agreed that to reach teenage audiences, a social media presence will be necessary to provide information about Caribbean archaeology in a fun and accessible way. Originally we had intended to develop a videogame, but this was found to be too time consuming, complicated, and expensive. We then considered producing a graphic novel, a board game, a children's book, or a series of informative YouTube videos. In the end, it was clear that the teenage audience engages most strongly with reels such as those found on TikTok or Instagram. Reels are also easy and free to make, and can be shared widely on many different platforms. We therefore decided that this was the way to go in building awareness and interest amongst younger generations in the Caribbean. At the end of the day we heard a wonderful keynote speech by Priscilla Ulguim (Free University Brussels) on ethical archaeogaming.

Next Steps

By the end of the workshop, we had assigned co-ordinators for each of the identified future tasks and the network also now has a name: *Coalition for Caribbean Archaeological Heritage*.¹ We will have a follow-up meeting on Zoom in May 2024, to update each other on the progress of our concrete tasks. We will then present at the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA) Congress on Nevis in August 2024, to further expand the network. Further into the future, we will hold another in person event in Barbados in October 2025, organised by Kevin Farmer (Barbados Museum). The composition of the participant group will differ from meeting to meeting, as we have set ourselves the goal to concretely work towards realizing particular outcomes with relevant experts, and we also would like to make the meetings as inclusive as possible.

Funding and Impact

Having acquired support from all three funding bodies that the organisers approached, this event was generously funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Carlsberg Foundation, and the Center for Modern European Studies (University of Copenhagen). This success in funding acquisition enabled not only catering and website acquisition, but also essential financial assistance for the attendance of 11 colleagues, mostly from heritage institutions in the Caribbean region. The event was also supported by Marie Skłodowska Curie Action through Eduardo Herrera Malatesta (Århus University), and by the European Research Council through Gunvor Simonsen's project IN THE SAME SEA (University of Copenhagen).

This workshop represents a significant achievement for Caribbean archaeology. The attendees are excited to see the coalition develop further and contribute to the ethical development of Caribbean archaeology. Watch this space for more news on this ground-breaking archaeological network!

¹ Coalición por el Patrimonio Arqueológico del Caribe / Coalition pour le patrimoine archéologique de la Caraïbe.