

Archaeology of Earthworks across Afro-Eurasian Prehistory and Protohistory

Arjun Rao

Department of History and Archaeology

Central University of Karnataka, India

arjunrao@cuk.ac.in

Vishi Upadhyay

Bihar Museum, Patna

India

vishi.arch@gmail.com

Abstract

Earthworks and Land use strategies were crucial initiatives of the prehistoric early sedentary communities, who resorted to establishing villages/settlements synchronizing with local landscapes and available resources. This eventually led to cultural landscaping developing social, economic, and political spaces. Earthen fortification/ enclosure of hamlets and settlements is one of the significant structural features involving technological advancements to function in defense of natural calamities or predators or human interventions. Such features became regionally emerging, including but not limited to the Neolithic circular earth work sites in south east Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand), palisaded circular ditches (rondels) in Hungary and Siberia, Harappan towns/ cities embanked on the Indus valley, and massive earthen forts in the areas of Chhattisgarh and beyond in South Asia etc. This session aims to bring together lesser-known archaeological data from Asia, Europe and Africa on the earthen features made on mud, gravels and ditches & moats, which can shed light on the land use strategies mapped over the hamlets/ settlements/ animal pens with earthen enclosures/fortifications/ embankments belonging to prehistoric and protohistoric periods. The session looks for the archaeological research projects (exploration and excavations) across that have worked on such topics with the use of geospatial tools as one of the core methods and can significantly address the earthen materials and *Chaîne- opératoire*, technology & engineering in the making of earthen enclosures/ embankments, and the internal configuration of the settlements and their settlement patterns, temporal gaps & research problems, methodological advancements in digital reconstruction models/ 3D works.

Keywords: Prehistory, Protohistory, Landscape Archaeology, Geo-spatial archaeology, settlement enclosures