

The third conference of the Department of Archaeology, University of Al Neelien:

Sudan Archaeology in War: Current Research and Events, Future Challenges, and Our Collective Responsibility"

Background and Rationale

Since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023, academic and research activities in Sudan—particularly in the field of archaeology—have suffered profound disruptions. Archaeological sites, museums, and cultural institutions have been adversely affected, leading to the suspension of most fieldwork across the country. Despite these constraints, research related to Sudanese antiquities has continued through the persistent efforts of both Sudanese and international scholars and missions.

In response to these unprecedented challenges, the Department of Archaeology at the University of Al Neelien, in collaboration with national and international academic and research institutions, is organizing its third scientific conference. This event aims to provide a platform for critical reflection, knowledge exchange, and the formulation of collaborative strategies to safeguard Sudan's archaeological and cultural heritage

Conference Themes

1. The Situation of Archaeology in Sudan:

This session will provide an overview of the current condition of archaeological practice, heritage institutions, and cultural sites in Sudan. Topics will include:

- Assessment of damage and threats to archaeological sites and museums.
- The impact of conflict on mission-based concession areas.
- Documentation of encroachments due to both human and natural factors.

2. Current Research and Ongoing Initiatives

Despite the war, significant research continues both inside and outside Sudan. This session will highlight:

- Recent and forthcoming academic publications on Sudanese archaeology.
- Research projects and digital initiatives developed during the conflict.
- Challenges faced by scholars, including restricted access to materials and funding difficulties.

3. Future Challenges and Our Collective Responsibility:

This session is devoted to proactive dialogue on:

- Anticipated post-conflict challenges in heritage preservation and archaeological recovery.
- Lessons learned from current interventions and emergency responses.
- Opportunities for international collaboration in documentation, training, funding, and site protection.
- Long-term strategies for safeguarding Sudanese cultural heritage in times of crisis and recovery.

Format and Participation

The conference will be held in a **hybrid format**, with online access and limited in-person gatherings organized in regional hubs based on the locations of participating scholars and institutions.

Participants will include:

- The directors and field director of National and international archaeological missions working in Sudan.
- Representatives or head of the museums, academic institutions, and heritage organizations.
- The scientific researchers of National and international archaeological missions working in Sudan.

Proposed dates:

For abstract Sunday 31 August 2025.

The conference 13th-14th November. 2025. **Alternate dates are welcome with November**

Conference proceeding:

Conference proceedings will be published in either digital or print format, depending on the availability of financial support. A peer-reviewed volume of selected papers is also under consideration.

Organized in partnership with:

1. Department of archaeology, University of Al Neelien, (Sudan).
2. American Sudanese Archaeological Research Centre (AmSARC).
3. Additional institutions will be added.

For further information and communication:

Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen

Department of Archaeology, University of Al Neelien, Sudan

Institute of Archaeology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

hmohamed366@gmail.com

hamad.mohamed@arup.cas.cz