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CALL

ANTÍPODA

REVISTA DE ANTROPOLOGÍA Y ARQUEOLOGÍA

Trajectories, Methods, and Debates in Latin American Archaeometry

Guest editors:

Violeta A. Killian Galván (Conicet – Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Lorena G. Grana (Conicet – Universidad Nacional de Jujuy, Argentina)
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Antípoda. Revista de Antropología y Arqueología welcomes submissions from the academic community of original research articles, visual articles, and reviews for this dossier. Contributions may be submitted between **April 15 and May 15, 2026**. Research articles and visual articles must be submitted through the journal's online platform: https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/antipoda/about/submissions. Reviews should be sent by email to: antipoda@uniandes.edu.co. Manuscripts are accepted in Spanish, English, and Portuguese. Detailed information on the editorial process and author guidelines is available at: https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/antipoda/editorial-policy. Authors who do not yet have an account with the journal must register in advance at: https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/antipoda/user/register.

Techniques drawn from physics, chemistry, geology, and biology have long been used to characterize materials of archaeological origin. While such approaches became a central research agenda in the United States and Europe from the mid-twentieth century onward, their presence in scholarly debates in the Global South was later and more intermittent. It is only over the past three decades that archaeometric approaches have gained prominence in Latin America, as they have come to occupy a more visible place within archaeological research programs and in heritage and conservation studies.

This shift can be explained by several factors. One has been the growing influence of the rhetoric and methodologies of the exact and natural sciences within the social sciences in the region, where interdisciplinary perspectives have progressively taken on greater weight in research and in interpretations of past processes. Another has been the promotion of science policies oriented toward interdisciplinarity, accompanied by public investment in science and technology, the consolidation of bilateral cooperation agreements between countries, and the emergence of a critical mass capable of fostering interdisciplinary training across the region.

These developments have taken concrete form through the organization of regular scientific meetings, such as the Latin American Congress on Archaeometry, Art, and Cultural Heritage Conservation (CLASMAC), as well as more local and regional initiatives, including the National

Congress on Archaeometry held in Argentina every three years and the Escola Brasileira de Arqueometria e Ciências Aplicadas ao Patrimônio in Brazil, organized biennially. Parallel to this, the field has expanded through the proliferation of specialized research centers and institutes, alongside academic training opportunities such as the Master's Program in Archaeometry at Universidad Nacional de San Marcos and the Graduate Program in Archaeometry at the School of Exact and Natural Sciences at Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

Early archaeometric work within archaeological debates focused primarily on identifying raw materials and locating sources of procurement—particularly lithic and ceramic materials. These efforts often relied on the expertise of geologists or chemists who provided external and occasional support to archaeological research. Over time, this practice shifted toward a more integrated model of collaboration, prompting critical reflection on the role of the analyst and underscoring that interdisciplinarity could not be reduced to simple consultation but required the sustained involvement of archaeologists throughout the entire analytical process.

Within this framework, the paradigm of merely sending samples for analysis gave way to active cooperation, in which study design, analytical choices, and interpretation are jointly developed by archaeologists and specialists from other disciplines. This methodological shift—further strengthened by access to more advanced and versatile technologies—enabled richer contextual interpretations and expanded the range of potential applications, opening new avenues for archaeometric engagement with questions about the past.

This dossier brings together reflections on the impact of archaeometric analytical techniques on the understanding of historical processes in Latin America. In this context, *Antípoda. Revista de Antropología y Arqueología* welcomes original contributions on archaeometric research conducted in the region that critically address the challenges of integrating quantitative values generated through dating, material characterization, and analyses of internal structure with complex interpretive models of human organizational dynamics.

Contributions may include theoretical discussions, synthetic studies in specific fields, presentations of innovative analytical approaches, as well as local or regional case studies. Authors are also encouraged to situate their research within broader contexts and to take into account the constraints faced by Latin American science in accessing technological advances, which remain unevenly distributed at the global level.

Finally, this dossier is intended to foster dialogue among research teams working on related themes and objectives, highlighting the potential for locally grounded action while opening opportunities for future international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Keywords: archaeology; heritage conservation; applied statistics; interdisciplinarity; materiality; transdisciplinarity.

Thematic Axes

1- **Archaeometric contributions to interpretive models in Latin American archaeology**
This axis focuses on contributions that address the interpretation and re-signification of the archaeological record, as well as spatial and temporal resolutions used to understand past biosocial processes. Examples include the reinterpretation of technology, production, exchange, and symbolic practices through archaeometric analyses of materials and biomaterials; the definition of chronologies and occupational sequences of cultural processes; and the reconstruction of diet, mobility, and paleoenvironmental conditions, among others.

2- **Methodological advances in archaeometry**
This axis brings together contributions related to methods and techniques applied in archaeological research from an archaeometric perspective. It includes, among other approaches, studies based on survey and remote sensing, spatial analysis and the use of geographic information systems, as well as the observation and characterization of archaeological materiality.

3- **Inter- and transdisciplinary advances in undergraduate and graduate training**
This axis centers on the main challenges involved in humanistic training for the integration of academic content from engineering and the exact and natural sciences. Contributions are expected on pedagogical experiences that have strengthened exchange across disciplinary fields, as well as on the creation of laboratories, research teams, and training programs conceived from archaeometric or cultural heritage perspectives.