

Junior Fellowship für Dr. Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi: Past, Present, and Future: An Ethno-archaeological Study of Animal Resource Exploitation and Utilization in Eastern Zimbabwe

Initiative: Wissen für morgen – Kooperative Forschungsvorhaben im subsaharischen Afrika (beendet)

Ausschreibung: Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities in Africa

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Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

Projekt-Website: www.vwfoundation-humanities.uni-hannover.de

This project seeks to carry out an in-depth ethno-archaeological study and documentation of the animal resources exploitation, utilization processes and practices amongst three contemporary communities in Eastern Zimbabwe. The overall aim is to obtain a clearer understanding of prehistoric farming communities' behavioral patterns in relation to animal resource exploitation within economic, socio-cultural and political realms including herd management strategies. Information on socio-cultural aspects of animal resource exploitation by prehistoric communities cannot be easily deciphered from archaeo-zoological studies. Therefore, ethnographic studies are particularly useful in providing information on various aspects of animal exploitation and utilization such as, for example, herd management strategies. Integrating archaeological data, ethnographic inquiries, including observations and historical information, is key to unraveling the behavior of communities. In addition, this research has a particular interest in exploring gender as a cross-cutting theme in animal resource acquisition, utilization and disposal. While many communities have been known to be patriarchal, it is becoming increasingly clear that women have been influential in decision making processes. Therefore, it will be crucial to investigate gender issues related to livestock ownership, decision making in the acquisition, management and disposal of animal resources. The gender aspect does not only refer to the men-women relationships, but, as a cross-cutting theme, it also seeks to understand this aspect within the exploited and utilized animal species.

Projektbeteiligte

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Imperceptible realities: An ethnoarchaeological perspective on acquisition, ownership and management of cattle by women in south eastern Zimbabwe.