

Senior Fellowship for Dr. Pastory Magayane Bushozi: "Evolving Human Minds, Behavior and Subsistence during the Middle to Upper Pleistocene in Tanzania"

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

Ausschreibung: Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities in Africa

Bewilligung: 01.08.2016

Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

The focus of this project is to understand patterns of subsistence, technology, and human adaptation, and to provide reliable age estimates of the Middle Stone Age (MSA) cultures in southern and northern Tanzania. These regions offer a unique cognitive development in human history. It is possible that northern and southern Tanzania provided a refuge for people to stay during the Middle to Later Pleistocene when most of tropical Africa was affected by a series of dry and arid episodes. Deep, stratified archaeological deposits at the rock-shelters of Mumba in northern Tanzania and Magubike in southern Tanzania show that people remained there for long periods. Despite the fact that these sites are located in varied environments i.e., dry grassland at Mumba and open woodland at Magubike, it is likely that the landscape that surrounds both sites never experienced the worst dry and arid conditions during the glacial and interglacial periods. This is because of the interactions of several ocean-atmospheric and terrestrial ecosystems, which influence macro-environment and vegetation dynamics in most of the tropical Africa. To demonstrate that northern and southern Tanzania remained loci of human occupation throughout the MSA to the present, we need multiple parameters of evidence such as precise occupation dates; macro-environmental data; dietary choices and acquisitions; selection of raw materials and procurement; tool making and use, and other social signalling that may provide answers to how these ancestors lived.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Brigitte Reinwald

Universität Hannover
Philosophische Fakultät
Historisches Seminar
Fachgebiet Geschichte Afrikas
Hannover

Dr. Pastory Magayane Bushozi

University of Dar es Salaam
Department of Archaeology and Heritage
College of Humanities
Sisal House
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania (Tanzania)

Open Access-Publikationen

Geochronological and technological development: the microscopic and metric evidence from Middle Stone Age (MSA) points at Mumba rock-shelter, northern Tanzania
. Middle and Late Stone Age symbolic revealing artifacts from Mumba rock-shelter, northern Tanzania
The Middle Stone Age (MSA) technological patterns, innovations and behavioral changes at Bed VIA of Mumba rock-shelter, northern Tanzania.