

Dr Alistair F. Dickey (University of Liverpool)

Woven cloth before the advent of centralised Pharaonic power. What evidence???

The hyper-arid environment of the Nile Valley has preserved woven textiles dating as far back as the 5th millennium BCE, organic material that has often long disappeared in other geographical locations. The preservation of this material provides archaeologists with the opportunity to understand the technological processes involved in their production, from fibre to finished artefact, placing craft mechanisms in the wider narrative of the prehistoric Nile Valley landscape. This presentation will focus on prehistoric and proto-historic material examined from several key sites in the Nile Valley. We will examine the evidence available to us, their archaeological context, the limitations and indeed possibilities of the material, the analytical methods employed in their analysis, and what we can learn from this material to enhance our understanding of early textile processes.

Alistair F Dickey studied archaeology and ancient history at The University of Wales Lampeter (UK), before obtaining a Masters in Egyptology at The University of Liverpool (UK). After a 10-yr hiatus in NGO work in Lebanon and Ireland, he completed his PhD in Egyptology at Liverpool (2022), working in collaboration with Bolton Museum (UK). His main interest concerns pre-historic archaeological textiles from the Nile Valley, as well as Bronze Age textiles associated with the Nubian cultures of the Nile Valley. This involves the application of cutting-edge materials science methodologies to the study of archaeological textiles in both field and lab contexts, examining materiality, fibre choices, thread technologies, cloth use, and the ancient textile *chaîne opératoire*. Alistair is currently involved in textile research collaborations as an Independent Researcher with the Fashioning Sudan project at the University of Copenhagen, the Nauny and Meritamun Project at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NY, and the Hierakonpolis Expedition in Egypt, examining Prehistoric and Bronze Age textiles from the Nile Valley. He is co-editor of *Exploring Ancient Textiles: Pushing the Boundaries of Established Methodologies* (Oxbow, 2022), is currently co-editing *Weaving and Wearing Identity: Personal Adornment in Past Societies* (Springer), and has several publications forthcoming (<https://liverpool.academia.edu/AlistairDickey>). Alistair has over 20 years of archaeological field excavation experience, which began as a field technician with a commercial archaeology company in Ireland, leading to supervisor roles within several missions in Egypt (Abydos, Tell el-Daba, KV-10, KV-63, Tell el-Borg), as well as Cyprus, Lebanon, Italy, and Kazakhstan. He currently works full-time in Heritage Archaeology as a Project Leader/Consultant with ArcheoConsultant (both remotely and in-country), a professional Polish archaeology company working in Jeddah, KSA.