

# Archaeological Stratigraphy Conference 2023

26 -28 October 2023 - Graz, Austria



## First Circular & Call for Abstracts

The 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the Harris Matrix, which changed the paradigm of archaeological stratigraphy. To mark that occasion, we would like to have an international conference on that scientific discipline. The [Archaeological Stratigraphy Conference 2023](#) will be held by the kind invitation by the Governor of the Province of Styria, Christopher Drexler, between Thursday, 26 October, and Saturday, 28 October 2023, in the Auditorium of the University of Graz, Austria.

In the name of the organising committee

**Dr. Edward C. Harris MBE FSA, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Neubauer FSA, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Scherrer**

### Scope of the conference

Since the birth of the Harris Matrix and its associated concepts—seminal ideas for archaeology—fifty years ago, archaeological stratigraphy has evolved into a distinct scientific method upon which the collection of fundamental data in the subject is dependent. Since 1973, there have been other important developments in archaeological stratigraphy. Among those methods stands the introduction of digital documentation, with Geographic Information Systems forming a major platform for recording on archaeological projects, from excavation to large-scale landscape studies. Other recent developments include methods for combining stratigraphic sequences (Harris Matrices) with interval-based time models. As in geology, it cannot be overemphasized that Archaeological Stratigraphy is now one of the fundamental axioms of the science and adherence to its principles is imperative.

The Archaeological Stratigraphy Conference 2023 will endeavour to present current practical and theoretical approaches in archaeological stratigraphy, with some discussions of the evolution of the science before 1973. The conference will focus on the impact of the Harris Matrix, the development of stratigraphic theory and practice, ethical considerations, digital documentation of stratigraphic excavations, and the latest software developments for making Harris Matrices and the 4D documentation of archaeological excavations.



## Conference fee

The conference fee includes:

- Conference package with printed programme summary
- Admission to all scientific sessions
- Trial version of the HarrisMatrixComposer+ application
- Admission to the conference dinner
- Admission to the official reception by the Governor of Styria
- Traditional Styrian “Brettljausn” and wine tasting on Saturday afternoon
- Coffee breaks

Conference fee:	<b>EUR 390</b>
Early bird conference fee:	<b>EUR 290</b> (deadline: 30 June 2023)
Accompanying person:	<b>EUR 190</b> (no scientific sessions / HMC+ trial version)

Conference registration and booking of accommodation is handled via the registration website:

<https://columbusevents.eventsair.com/asc23/registration>

All relevant information concerning the conference can be found on the **conference website**:

<https://archpro.lbg.ac.at/archaeological-stratigraphy-conference2023>.

## Organisers

The Archaeological Stratigraphy Conference 2023 is supported by the National Museum of Bermuda, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, the University of Graz, the University of Vienna, the Universalmuseum Joanneum and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

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## Abstract submission

Abstracts for oral or multimedia presentations should be submitted in English and have a 250-word limit. The maximum number of authors is five, incl. the first author.

The duration is 15 minutes for oral presentations and 3 minutes for multimedia presentations. For more instructions for presenters please visit the ASC2023-website:

<https://archpro.lbg.ac.at/asc2023/presenting>

For abstract submission please fill in the online template providing the information as indicated in the specimen below: <https://archpro.lbg.ac.at/ASC2023/submission>

### ASC 2023 Abstract Submission

*Conference topics (select one or more):*

*Practices in Archaeological Stratigraphy*

*Related fields of application*

*Computerization of Archaeological Stratigraphy*

*National situations regarding archaeological Stratigraphy*

*Ethical and legal issues implied by Archaeological Stratigraphy*

*Preferred format of presentation:*

*Oral - multimedia*

*Authors & Affiliations (max. 5):*

*Harris, Edward C. (National Museum of Bermuda) - Neubauer, Wolfgang (LBI ArchPro)*

*Contact email: [harrismatrix@archpro.lbg.ac.at](mailto:harrismatrix@archpro.lbg.ac.at)*

*Title:*

*The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harris Matrix*

*Text (no references, max. 250 words):*

*The purpose of this conference is to bring together the international community to discuss the new ideas and digital methods which have evolved in the subject of archaeological stratigraphy since 1973. In that year the so-called Harris Matrix was invented, which ushered in a new era in archaeological thought. For the first time in archaeological stratigraphy, through the use of the Harris Matrix, it was possible for archaeologists to show the stratigraphic sequence of a site in diagrammatic form, no matter how complex an individual sequence might prove to be. The pre-1970s stratigraphic standard was the section, which thus gave the discipline a two-dimensional paradigm for its notion of stratigraphy. This view was shattered by the introduction of the Harris Matrix, by which method it became possible to show the entire stratigraphic sequence of an archaeological site in a single diagram. Such a diagram represents all four dimensions of the stratification of an archaeological site. This type of logical notion has therefore changed the paradigm of archaeological stratigraphy from a one- to a four-dimensional model. The conference will focus on this shift in the one-dimensional paradigm for archaeological stratigraphy and also reflects the advent of Geographical Information Systems, the digital documentation of stratigraphic excavations and the computerization of the compilation of a valid stratigraphic sequence from field observations and its spatial and temporal analysis. We welcome any contributions as oral or multimedia presentations for the upcoming conference in Graz, Austria.*