

CALL FOR SESSIONS

10 June to 7 September, 2017



CHAGS XII
2018

Twelfth International Conference on
Hunting and Gathering Societies

School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang

23-27 July, 2018

<http://chags.usm.my>

chags2018@gmail.com



Twelfth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS XII)

“Situations, Times, and Places in
Hunter-Gatherer Research”

Convenor: Lye Tuck-Po
School of Social Sciences
Universiti Sains Malaysia

Organisation: International Society for
Hunter Gatherer Research (ISHGR)

Hosted by: School of Social Sciences,
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang

Non-members are welcome

For inquiries, please write to: chags2018@gmail.com

Call for Session Proposals

Submission by online form only:

<https://goo.gl/forms/gheDs1WqHeFOCACF2>

Closing date:

7 September 2017 (11:59 PM Kuala Lumpur time)

CHAGS conferences generate intellectual exchange, advance knowledge of the lives and times of hunter-gatherers in the past, present, and future, and have made significant contributions to anthropological theory. CHAGS X (Liverpool, 2013) and CHAGS XI (Vienna, 2015) attracted unprecedented numbers of first-timers and students interested in hunter-gatherer societies and the dynamics and conditions of their lives, and offered the promise of new disciplinary crossways, concerns, and approaches. The objective of CHAGS XII is to push this momentum forward and to expand the social spaces of knowledge sharing and production. We aim to cultivate not just diversity in concept-building but good practices of working with and relating to hunter-gatherers.

As with previous conferences, the scope of CHAGS XII is broadly global and its perspective is towards the long-term. We welcome proposals for sessions that seek ways to go beyond geographical and disciplinary specialisms, and that promote new pathways of knowledge production. We invite participants to reflect on “situations, times, and places” whether integratively (as a springboard for general theoretical reflections on their interconnections) or separately (as discrete themes and topics), and to examine the intersections of time and place with fieldwork and theorising across the many concerns of hunter-gatherer research. This last will include the time-space compressions of the digital age, which are changing everyday experiences everywhere.

Themes, topics, and questions

Here are some guiding questions to help with session planning. This is not an exhaustive list, and participants are free to go beyond these concerns.

What are some recent developments in knowledge of the past—recent findings and methodological advancements from (e.g.) paleoanthropology, genetics, archaeology, evolutionary anthropology, human biology, historical linguistics, historical ecology, and early (modern) history—and their implications for hunter-gatherer studies?

Don't forget to join our mailing lists (by email or WhatsApp) to get updates after the Call for Sessions is closed!

Defining hunter-gatherers: what are the different theoretical narratives over time, their convergences and divergences? What topics need to be brought back to the centre of discussion, and how can hunter-gatherer theories benefit from new developments elsewhere, for example in gender and environmental studies?

Ethnographic research of practices is confronted by multiple institutional, cultural, and economic barriers. Yet ethnography is still desired by many hunter-gatherers and often deployed in legal challenges. How do we reinvigorate ethnographic research (based on long-term participant observation and linguistic competence)? How do we improve methods of data management and sharing?

Contemporary political, economic, and environmental conditions are rapidly changing through, among others, changes to landscapes and their affordances, the emergence of new state and nonstate actors, shifting alliances, networks, and resource flows, and changing patterns of protest and litigation. What are specific patterns of change in different hunter-gatherer locations? How are such changes affecting (positively and/or negatively) the social spaces of hunter-gatherers and the idealisation, enactment, and distancing of hunter-gatherer practices?

Practices are often transmitted through processes of embodiment and mimicry within defined sociocultural-environmental settings, which give rise to specific ways of knowing and relating. What are the recurrent (historical) patterns distinctive to ethnographic places (as opposed to individual cultural practices)? Hunter-gatherer practices persist even when those settings no longer exist. Research mimics this phenomenon with (for example) hunting studies being separated from hunter-gatherer studies. How can these separate streams of study be joined up, and what are the prospects for mutual learning across different communities of practice?

CHAGS XII is the first CHAGS to be held in Southeast Asia, and will afford the opportunity to review and advance regional research as a basis for building general theory. Keeping in mind the potential attendance of hunter-gatherers (local and

global) at the conference, we invite sessions that address their interests and concerns, such as cross-cultural and historical similarities and differences among hunter-gatherer societies, relations with animals, perceptual modalities, how things are done, pathways and mobilities, and conflicts with dominant neighbours and states. We invite participants to propose other topics. Cross-continental comparisons are welcome.

Call for plenaries

Plenaries are meant to address the whole conference. We seek proposals for three plenaries of 90 minutes each, which can take the form of standard panels or roundtables (see below for information on session formats).

- Plenary 1: overarching “big” issues, to be defined by proposers
- Plenary 2: the concerns of hunter-gatherers. Ideally, Plenary 2 should be led by hunter-gatherers
- Closing Plenary: to identify the achievements and gaps of the conference followed by free-form discussion. We would like the closing plenary to be dominated by younger scholars with past experience of CHAGS.

Proposers for all plenaries should identify speakers and their areas of concern. To enhance your chances of acceptance, most plenary speakers should be (nearly) confirmed by 7 September. Plenaries not accepted as such may be integrated into the regular schedule of panels.

Call for participatory videos

There will be a session for showing and discussing participatory videos, to enable hunter-gatherers who cannot attend CHAGS to communicate directly to the conference in their own way. Researchers going to the field are encouraged to offer this option to communities and edit resulting videos for showing at CHAGS

(maximum length 15 minutes). If you intend to show videos, please write to Lye Tuck-Po at chags2018@gmail.com.

Session formats

We are accepting proposals for three session types: (1) research presentations, (2) interactive activities, and (3) special events like book launches, discussion groups, and exhibits. There is also a fourth category, for “Other” (please fill in the details).

Each session slot is 90 minutes long, followed by coffee break or lunch. Paper presentations are between 5 and 15 minutes long.

Presentation of research We will continue to value standard reading or presentation of papers in a PANEL format, but encourage session organisers to try different ways of avoiding “death by Powerpoint.” We encourage more interactive, innovative, and exchange-oriented ways of communicating research results. Examples include but are not limited to free-form DIALOGUES, ROUNDTABLES¹, DEBATES², SHOW-AND-TELL³ sessions, and SHORT TALKS⁴. For all formats, but especially for dialogues and short talks, we encourage circulating papers in advance. Organisers may arrange for one or two discussants to draw the threads of a session together.

Interactive activities Some activities will be side-events, and some will be integrated into the main programme. Formats can include but are not limited to WORKSHOPS, DEMONSTRATION SESSIONS, STORY-TELLING, WALKING SEMINARS, PERFORMANCES (like “fieldwork slam”), and FILM SHOWS (showing one or two short videos followed by general discussion). The

1. DIALOGUES and ROUNDTABLES combine structured and unstructured discussions and afford the opportunity to have extended conversations around a tightly focused topic.
2. DEBATES are formally organised, but artificially constructed, to clarify the extreme ends of an issue, hopefully with weapons left at the door. Proposers of such sessions should explain how resolution is to be achieved.
3. SHOW-AND-TELL sessions enable researchers to share data (visual and audio data, artefacts, specimens, etc.) that haven't been “cooked” or need a “second pair of eyes,” to get constructive feedback from the audience. We discourage transporting nonliving organic materials to the conference.
4. SHORT TALKS last 5 minutes or less, interspersed by 10–15 minutes' discussion (please browse the internet for examples of short talk formats that have emerged in recent years).

rationale for the activity—how it benefits hunter-gatherer research—should be clearly explained in the proposal.

Special events and “Others” Organisers should explain the form of the activity, its CHAGS rationale, and other details as instructed in the proposal form.

Submitting session proposals

To submit a session proposal, please use our online submission form. It can be reached via <https://chags.usm.my/index.php/confprogramme/call-for-sessions> or directly at <https://goo.gl/forms/ghcDs1WqHeFOCACF2>. Proposals will not be accepted by email.

Fill in a separate form for each session you propose. All forms must be submitted by the lead organiser of that session.

Restrictions on proposals

A proposer of one session may be listed as a discussant or co-organiser for another session. To ensure the broadest possible participation at CHAGS, you may propose at maximum two sessions in two categories as lead organiser. For example, a Plenary and an interactive activity, but not a Plenary and a Panel. If you have ideas for more than one session in each category (e.g., two panels), you need a co-organiser to take the lead on the second session.

We discourage “by invitation only” sessions. All sessions should be open to participants other than those invited by their organisers except under highly special circumstances. Please discuss with Lye Tuck-Po if you have a particular need for a closed session (“closed” to further participants, but open as to audience).

CHAGS XII is a conference of the International Society for Hunter Gatherer Research (ishgr.org) and is locally hosted by the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (soc.usm.my). For further information, please consult our website <https://chags.usm.my>, which contains some ethnographic research material. Questions about session organisation can be addressed to: chags2018@gmail.com. To keep in touch with conference developments by phone, please join the CHAGS12 WhatsApp group with a message to +60 12 290 4620.