



UrbNet Highlights 2023



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Vision

Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet) explores the archaeology and history of urban societies and their networks from the ancient Mediterranean to medieval Northern Europe.

We are an interdisciplinary research initiative, which integrates contextual cultural studies rooted in the humanities with the natural sciences.

Approaching urbanism as network dynamics, we aim to develop a high-definition archaeology to determine how urban networks catalysed societal and environmental expansions and crises in the past.

Statistics

Conferences and workshops	17
Invited talks	84
PhD courses	2
Press and media appearances	19
Publications	115

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

The studies of circular economies at UrbNet revealed (invisible) processes and agents in the Roman and the early medieval period through the study of archaeological materials and historical sources. The high-impact research that has come out of this work package has demonstrated frontrunner status in this field.



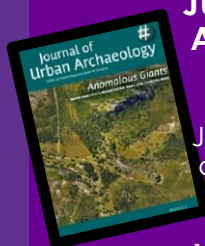
Caesar's Forum Glass Study

The interdisciplinary analysis of first-century glass excavated from the sewage system of the Forum of Caesar reshaped the current view on Roman glass recycling, demonstrating for the first time that glass was worked and recycled in Rome, in a period of economic prosperity.



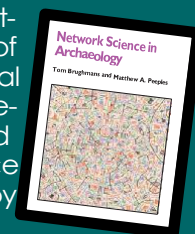
JUA among Top Archaeological Journals

With four years in publication, JUA can now register in academic ranking tables. In 2023, the non-profit ranking platform Exaly listed the journal as the 19th most widely cited out of 427 Archaeology journals. This means the journal is among the top 5% in the discipline of archaeology. This is a testimony to the high quality of the content, and to UrbNet's wider impact at the edge of current conceptual development.



Network Science in Archaeology

Network Science in Archaeology is the first textbook that teaches the theory and practice of applying network methods to archaeological research. It is illustrated throughout with archaeological case studies from across world archaeology, and published in the reference series 'Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology' by Cambridge University Press.



Northern Emporium Completed

In 2023 the Northern Emporium project launched the second and final volume of its massive final publications. Six years after commencing excavations in the heart of the early medieval emporium in Ribe, another of UrbNet's flagship projects has thus completed its analytical work and delivered a rich trove of research to urban archaeology.



Survey Campaign at Khirbet al-Khalde, Jordan

As a collaborative project between UrbNet, University of Alberta (CA) and University of Milan (IT), a two-week survey campaign was conducted at the fort Khirbet al-Khalde in southern Jordan.



ERC Starting Grant

The project 'The Model City' granted to Iza Romanowska focuses on long-term urban development and resilience. It is inspired by the work that Iza carried out in collaboration with a research group at UrbNet within the framework of the project Circular Economy and Urban Sustainability in Antiquity.



New Light on Northern Emporia

On 26–27 October, the symposium 'New Light on Emporia and Networks' was held, marking the conclusion of the Northern Emporium project at UrbNet. The event spurred further exploration of the wealth of data and materials gathered through the efforts of the project.

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