

CSLS – Archaeology

<http://www.bunceisland3d.org/clues.html>

Work undertaken, under the leadership of Joe Opala

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/calendar/articles/2013-14/20140128>

[Paul Basu](#) and [Nick Gestrich](#) are undertaking a pilot cultural mapping project in Sierra Leone as part of Paul's British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship on '[Archives, Histories, Landscapes: Surveying Sierra Leone's Cultural Memoryscape](#)'.

Paul and Nick are currently in the field and are combining anthropological and archaeological methods to collect oral histories and map the cultural and historical environment at a number of settlement sites throughout the West African country, including Falaba (Sulima Chiefdom), Yagala (Wara Wara Yagala Chiefdom), Rotata (Libeisyagahun Chiefdom), Largo (Jiama Bongor Chiefdom), Yanihun (Wunde Chiefdom), Gbandi (Gbo Chiefdom), Rotifunk (Bumpe Chiefdom) and Gbangbama (Fakunya Chiefdom).

This cultural mapping project builds upon archival and ethnographic research on Sierra Leone's 'cultural memoryscape' undertaken by Paul over several years.

Virtually no archaeological research has been undertaken in Sierra Leone and many historical sites are threatened with destruction through mining and logging. The pilot survey seeks to highlight the value of Sierra Leone's cultural heritage and its potential for the development of sustainable cultural tourism, for example.

[Paul Basu](#) has recently been appointed as an official advisor to [Sierra Leone's Monuments and Relics Commission](#) and the Government of Sierra Leone is beginning to recognize the need to professionalize the culture and heritage sector in order to better safeguard and manage these resources for the future.

Among the sites Paul and Nick are researching are examples of settlement defenses, known as 'tatana' in the north and 'gwehsia' in the Mende-speaking south. While many oral traditions survive regarding these 'war towns' and the warriors who occupied them, very little work has been done to examine the trace of these features in the landscape, which consist of often substantial earthworks and rows of large cotton trees that have grown from palisades. Before leaving Sierra Leone, Paul will be presenting the results of the pilot survey to the Sierra Leonean government, making recommendations regarding developing community heritage management plans, and outlining a methodology for a more extensive cultural mapping project.

[Paul Basu](#), Reader in Material Culture and Museum Studies, recently curated the '[Sowe! Mask: Spirit of Sierra Leone](#)' exhibition at [the British Museum](#) and launched the www.sierraleoneheritage.org website, an output of his 3-year AHRC-funded '[Reanimating Cultural Heritage](#)' project. [Nick Gestrich](#) is an Honorary Research Associate at the Institute, having recently completed a PhD on the archaeology of social organisation in first-millennium AD Mali.

<http://www.africa.upenn.edu/sherbro/sierraleone.html>

The University of Pennsylvania Museum (UPM) has engaged in archaeological and ethnographic research and collecting in Africa since the late 19th century. The UPM's African Collection, which dates back to the late 19th Century, consists of more than 10,000 artefacts from all regions of the continent. Some of these artefacts are on permanent exhibition to the public. The rest are available to approved scholars by appointment.



Men arranging the warp for [weaving](#). "Setting up the loom...The young man standing near the weaver is holding the spool of yarn for the weft...The Mendi loom produces a very long, narrow web, which is cut into suitable lengths and stitched together to form a cloth of the desired width."

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10437-016-9222-2>

This article discusses how archaeological sites in Sierra Leone, and by extension much of West Africa, can be identified through vegetation patterns (vegetation signatures) detectable in very high-resolution (VHR) multispectral satellite imagery. Settlement sites typically have a differing pattern of vegetation from the surrounding landscape, including concentrations of very large trees with sociocultural and historical significance: cotton (*Ceiba pentandra*) and baobab (*Adansonia digitata*). These features are conspicuous elements of the landscape both from the ground and in aerial imagery. Two complementary methods of using VHR multispectral satellite imagery are discussed in this paper: visual interpretation and semi-automated subpixel classification. These techniques are aiding ongoing archaeological survey of the Sierra Leone River Estuary. The impact of recently renewed industrial activity at a site of probable archaeological significance is also assessed through visually interpreted VHR satellite imagery.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/calendar/articles/20120108>

The [Reanimating Cultural Heritage project](#) has been concerned with the 'digital curation' of Sierra Leonean collections dispersed in different museums, and with exploring the capacity of cultural heritage to contribute to civil society strengthening in the developing world.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/tags/africa>

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/directory/reanimatingculturalheritage_basu

Digital Repatriation, Knowledge Networks and Civil Society Strengthening in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone

The ability of material culture to open horizons of knowledge and imagination beyond that transmitted through text is fundamental to contemporary museum practice. Interactive digital technologies, especially, provide new opportunities for reanimating ethnographic collections in exhibition and outreach contexts, in the field of museum and source community relations, and as a means of generating and connecting diverse knowledge networks around objects.

Such technological developments necessitate a radical rethinking of what ethnographic museums and their collections are and do in the digital age. This multidisciplinary project is concerned with innovating 'digital curatorship' in relation to Sierra Leonean collections dispersed in the global museumscape. Extending research in anthropology, museum studies, and informatics and beyond, the project considers how objects that have become isolated from the oral and performative contexts that originally animated them can be reanimated in digital space alongside associated images, video clips, sounds, texts and other media, and thereby given new life.

<https://www.visitsierraleone.org/background-information/history/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone

Introduction

Sierra Leone, officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone**, is a country in [West Africa](#). It is bordered by [Guinea](#) on the north, [Liberia](#) in the south-east, and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) in the south-west. Sierra Leone has a [tropical climate](#), with a diverse environment ranging from [savannah](#) to [rainforests](#). Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km² (27,699 sq. mi) and a population of 7,075,641 (based on 2015 national census). Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the [Northern Province](#), [Eastern Province](#), [Southern Province](#) and the [Western Area](#), which are subdivided into [fourteen districts](#). [Freetown](#) is the capital, largest city and its economic and political centre. [Bo](#) is the second largest city. The other major cities are [Kenema](#), [Makeni](#), and [Koidu Town](#).

About sixteen [ethnic groups](#) inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the [Temne](#) and the [Mende people](#). The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the [official language](#) spoken at schools and government administration, the [Krio language](#) is the most widely spoken language across Sierra Leone and is spoken by 97% of the country's population. The Krio language unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

Sierra Leone is a predominantly [Muslim](#) country, though with an influential [Christian](#) minority. Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country.

Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially [diamonds](#), for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of [titanium](#) and [bauxite](#), a major producer of [gold](#), and has one of the world's largest deposits of [rutile](#). Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in [poverty](#).

http://www.academia.edu/10979524/Archaeological_Fieldwork_at_Bunce_Island_A_Slave_Trading_Entrep%C3%B4t_Sierra_Leone

http://www.digital-documents.co.uk/archi/maps/Sierra%20Leone_archaeological_sites.html

<http://www.collegeart.org/pdf/artbulletin/Art%20Bulletin%20Vol%2065%20No%202%20Lamp.pdf>

<http://www.collegeart.org/pdf/artbulletin/Art%20Bulletin%20Vol%2065%20No%202%20Lamp.pdf>

<http://bunceisland3d.org/>

<http://www.africaintmissionservices.org/files/114343773.pdf>

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Archaeological_objects_of_Sierra_Leone



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Kamabai_Rock_Shelter,_Sierra_Leone



<https://www.visitsierraleone.org/background-information/history/Sierra-Leone-Early-History.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kono_people

<http://maa.cam.ac.uk/category/collections-2/anthropological-collections/>

<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/faculty>

<http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Sierra-Leone.html>

http://www.cam.ac.uk/system/files/shaw_memorial_events_programme.2014.pdf

<http://syr.academia.edu/ChristopherDeCorse>



<http://www.divernet.com/archaeology/p302408-mystery-of-the-vanishing-dutchman.html>

An unidentified 300-year-old shipwreck off the coast of Sierra Leone intrigued an international team of divers enough to investigate

<https://experts.syr.edu/en/publications/material-aspects-of-limba-yalunka-and-kuranko-ethnicity-archaeolo>

<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/mhn/Africa.html>

An extensive bibliography

<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/people/mariane-c-ferme>

<http://www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-other-artifacts/unknown-origins-mysterious-nomoli-figures-002513>



<http://aboutiwhere.salvationarmynaples.net/mypdf/sierra-leone-country-study-guide.pdf>

<https://www.rochester.edu/college/aths/analysis-and-conservation/speakers.html>

<http://www.ai-journal.com/articles/10.5334/ai.1802/>

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/node/751>

<http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery-detail.asp?name=sierraleone>

Sierra Leone estuary became a focal point for trade and interaction between Africans and Europeans because of its exceptional harbour, starting in the mid-15th century. European ships were unable to land along much of the West African coast due to lack of safe anchorage. By contrast, the Sierra Leone estuary offers ideal anchorage for trading ships. Around 1672, the English established and fortified themselves at Bunce Island. By the mid-eighteenth century, Sierra Leone had become a major trading participant with Europe and the Americas. The image was acquired December 28, 2009, covers an area of 32x45km, and is located at 8.5 degrees north, 13 degrees west.

http://www.xograph.com/assets/_files/documents/mar_11/XOGRAPH__1299249129_XOGRAPH__1295629018_Forensic_A.pdf

http://www.glaadh.ac.uk/documents/j_picton_course_ba.htm

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/art/phdstudents/theses/>

http://safa.rice.edu/Misc__Content/Index_to_West_African_Archaeological_Newsletter/