



All Souls College
University of Oxford

Evans-Pritchard Lectures 2018

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Saharan Rock Art: An Archaeology of Relational Ontologies in North African Prehistory



Archaeological data testify to the flourishing cultural development of Late Prehistoric communities during the last favourable interval in North Africa, before the large-scale desertification process that affected the Sahara around 3500 BC. This interval was also the moment for major transformations in the long-term history of Africa, with the adoption of pastoralism that made North African populations shift from a hunter-gatherer to a semi-nomadic pastoralist way of life. Based on the fieldwork I have conducted in the Eastern Sahara, this series of lectures aims to explore post-Pleistocene adaptations through the lens of transformations of the social world. How did the last hunters and the first pastoralists perceive and conceive the world and their relation to the world? What changes in their worldviews accompanied the development of the earliest African pastoralism?



Wednesday, 2 May (Week 2) Changing Views of a Changing World: A Relation to Territories, Resources and Landscape in the Context of Holocene Environmental Changes

Tuesday, 8 May (Week 3) Images of an Imagined World: The Complex Mythologies of the Last Hunter-Gatherers

Tuesday, 15 May (Week 4) The Animal as *Anima*: The Role of Cattle in the Worldviews of Early African Pastoralist Societies

Tuesday, 22 May (Week 5) Subsistence as Giving Some Substance: The Organization of Tasks and Social Relations amongst the Last Hunters and First Pastoralists

Thursday, 24 May (Week 5) Towards a Palaeosociological Approach: Relational Ontologies and the Constitution of 'Being in Society' in North African late Prehistory

All lectures take place at 5.00 pm in the Old Library, All Souls College

Open to the public – all welcome