

WORLD OF IRON CONFERENCE

16-20 February 2009
London



London, July 2008

First circular – CALL FOR PAPERS

We kindly invite you to submit an abstract for the upcoming

WORLD OF IRON CONFERENCE 2009 (WIC)

Which will take place in London, United Kingdom from 16-20 February 2009.

More information will soon appear on <http://www.ironsmelting.net/WIC2009/>

Scope of the conference

The 'World of Iron' conference sets out to explore and celebrate the anthropological significance of the inception, adoption, expansion, and impact of prehistoric iron production outside Europe. Interlacing regional and themed sessions, it will relate archaeological and archaeometallurgical studies to wider anthropological issues such as technological style; technological variation, change and development; technical and social adaptation; and the evolving influences of iron on society and the physical environment.

This five day event is the first attempt to synthesise the latest research being conducted on iron and steel around the world, and to stimulate future research of the highest level. It creates a globally comparative perspective, integrating insights gained from established and emerging analytical techniques, Anthropology of Technology, and environmental history, highlighting nuances often obscured by Eurocentric perspectives. By bringing together established scholars and young researchers from four key regions, namely Africa, East Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, and Western and Central Asia, it stimulates an international exchange of ideas and experiences.

Sessions

The **Regional Sessions** bring together scholars and research from four key regions around the world and discuss the latest anthropological, archaeological and metallurgical research in the context of region-specific and wider anthropological themes and considerations:

- Africa
- East Asia
- Indian Subcontinent
- Western and Central Asia

The **Themed Sessions** incorporate the latest research being carried out in all regions, including Europe, on both theoretical, technological, and environmental topics, to ensure maximum coverage of all major anthropological considerations concerning the study of iron production:

- Invention, Innovation and Inspiration
- Theoretical Approaches to Technology
- Scientific Approaches to Technology
- Analytical and Environmental Considerations

Abstracts

Abstracts should have a length of maximum 500 words. They should contain a brief description of the paper's topic, how it relates to the core subjects of the conference, a description of the research goals, the techniques used and the results obtained so far, and its core interpretations.

Forms to submit your abstract and personal details will be available from <http://www.ironsmelting.net/WIC2009/> in the coming days. by October 1st, 2008.

Language of the Symposium

The official language of the Symposium will be English.

Registration Fees

Before December 1st 2008:

- Symposium Participants: £200, Students: £150 (proof of student status is required)

On December 1st 2008 or later:

- Symposium Participants: £250, Students: £200

Key Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **October 1st, 2008**

Notification of acceptance or rejection: **November 1st, 2008**

Deadline for registration and payment of reduced registration fee: **December 1st, 2008**

Organisers

Jane Humphris, Thilo Rehren, Xander Veldhuijzen, WIC2009@ironsmelting.net

We hope and aim to provide significant travel support grants (further information to follow)