



**CALL FOR PAPERS**      **SESSION #485**

**“Transforming Infrastructures:  
Socio-environmental Dimensions of Site and Settlement Pattern Changes”**

The aim of the session is to reconsider features, function and transformations of domestic infrastructures and related processes observed at archaeological sites. In our understanding, infrastructures, like wells, dwellings, tracks, assembly halls, or ritual places, were interwoven with socio-environmental interaction patterns and networks. The session intends to pursue a diachronic perspective on Neolithic to pre-state site infrastructures.

The session draws attention to a more comprehensive understanding of the connectivity of social relations, culture, and economy, and natural environment revealed by infrastructures within, outside of and between sites. Changes in these dynamic constructs often were enduring and substantial, thus leading to various transformations, whose main characteristics shall be discussed in the contributing papers. We also welcome contributions addressing the practical application of environmental, social and cultural change theories on cases of infrastructure transformation processes observed in intra-site and inter-site variability, including moments of crisis and collapse.

Quite often, researchers discover settlement units of different complexity within the same archaeological site. Their main interest is to explore human infrastructures: remains of buildings, enclosures, production facilities, places of consumption, or the identification of economic, social and ritual activity areas. Studying these infrastructures is accompanied by extensive investigations of the geographical setting and natural resources in order to reconstruct past environmental conditions. In many cases, the traces of human activity recorded at these sites give evidence of different occupation phases and thus the opportunity to study infrastructural change in time and space. Often, the variability of the assessed parameters points to random processes of change. In other cases, there are interdependencies of environmental and infrastructural parameters and trends can be detected.

As a whole, the session pursues questions related to the significance of infrastructure transformations: Which social, environmental and economic consequences result from the infrastructure transformations (e.g. re-organisation of economic zones, establishment of traffic routes, and formation of new building types)? How do these consequences contribute to current research on Neolithic to pre-state societies (e.g. landscape formation, catalysts of economic production and distribution, impact on social and cultural outreach)? Which kind of social, economic or environmental theory is applicable or derivable from observed infrastructure transformations?

*Keywords: intra-site infrastructures, transformation, socio-environmental dynamics*

## ***Abstract submission until: 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018***

***Invited contributions are talks of 15 min. Abstract max. 300 words.***

For abstract submission, please log in via the meeting homepage:

***<https://eaa.klinkhamergroup.com/ea2018/>***

***<https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2018/>***

### **SESSION CONVENERS**

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