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### **Chicken feed: tracking the introduction and incorporation of new plants and animals**

Reconstructing the spread of ancient exotica provides information about human migration and trade but it can also reveal insights concerning cultural ideologies. In recognition of this, an increasing number of studies are exploring the timing and circumstances of plant and animal translocations. Most of these have focussed on individual species, and this paper will discuss the results from a collaborative project that has been examining the origins and spread of the domestic chicken.

The Chicken Project employed methods from across the Arts-Humanities-Science spectrum which, together, have transformed our understanding of the chicken's bio-cultural history. Notably it would appear that, rather than being domesticated and translocated 'for food' there was a significant time-lag (~500 years) between their arrival as an exotic and their incorporation into day-to-day human consumption practices. Aside from reconfiguring narratives of human-chicken relationships, the project also generated a large quantity of isotope data that has the potential to chart the spread and incorporation of C4 plants (notably millet) into European agricultural and social practices.

By contextualising and integrating these chicken isotope data with other isotope and archaeobotanical datasets, this paper aims to unite the stories of two exotic taxa.