



University
of Victoria

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Survival and Lithic Procurement Strategies of Middle Pleistocene Hominins at a Levantine Refugium: A Case Study from Azraq, Jordan.



Jeremy Beller

PhD Candidate, Anthropology Department, University of Victoria

Monday, February 26th 2018

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Cornett Building: B135

Jeremy is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UVic and will be speaking about his archaeological research at a Middle Pleistocene (250-120k BP) site in Jordan. Recent excavations directed by April Nowell at Shishan Marsh 1 in the Azraq Basin, Jordan have uncovered several occupational phases that correspond to warm and dry conditions in the region, similar to those of the present. However, the Shishan Marsh, a spring-fed oasis in the middle of the desert, seems to have operated a desert refugium. Similar to other organisms living under these harsh conditions, hominins were forced to contract around this isolated body of water, ultimately leading to increased competition for resources. In order to survive around this desert refugium, hominins had to engage in certain adaptive strategies, such as predator avoidance, carcass protection, and a broader subsistence base. Consequently, Shishan Marsh 1 presents the opportunity to investigate lithic procurement strategies in a water-stressed and arid environment. The context and methodology of the research will be discussed as well as the implications of some preliminary results.

EVERYONE WELCOME.