



國立臺灣大學人類學系學術演講

Advances in Southeast Asian Archaeobotany

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Archaeobotany is a specialisation that focuses on the study of plant remains and requires specific methodologies to obtain them. When adopted in archaeological fieldwork and integrated in archaeological research, archaeobotany is a powerful tool which aids in the interpretation of how people lived in the past. What our ancestors ate and how they acquired their food are some of the pieces of information derived from archaeobotanical results. We can piece together how humans manipulated their environment, how they produced food, what they consumed and traded, what they used for craft and for ritual. Archaeobotany delves into the core of what makes us human.

Archaeobotanical investigations in Southeast Asia have been limited by the belief that preservation is an issue in tropical climates. However, in the past fifteen years, the retrieval of botanical macroremains in many sites across mainland Southeast Asia has been successful. The results provide a deeper understanding of the emergence of rice agriculture, diets in prehistoric and historic periods, ecological reconstructions of the area, farming systems and the adaptation of people to changing climatic conditions. This presentation will elucidate some key findings from my recent work. I include my collaborative work on cereals, Musaceae (banana family) and Cambodian archaeology and provide insights from the archaeobotanical remains.

*本演講為與法國遠東學院合辦，歡迎大家聆聽。