



# Curso de Doctorado

# Back to Basics: A Critical Review of Contemporary Stone Tool Research

# Dictado por:

# Ph.D. ROBIN TORRENCE

Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

# Fecha:

Desde el lunes 7 al sábado 12 de noviembre de 2011

# Lugar:

Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Campus Universitario de Olavarría.

La estadía de la Dra. Torrence cuenta con el aval del "Programa de Alojamientos para la Internalización"

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# Doctorado en Arqueología

#### Curso

1. Título: Back to Basics: A Critical Review of Contemporary Stone Tool Research

2. Docente a cargo: Robin Torrence

## 3. Objetivos:

These are especially exciting times for research on stone tools. Due to new ideas and innovative techniques, the scope of potential topics is expanding rapidly. After literally centuries of being caught up in measuring 'progress' by identifying key tool types, under the guise of design theory scholars moved to focus on what has turned out to be a rather limited range of 'behaviour,' chiefly restricted to hunter-gatherers. Recently, there has been an explosion in research on what stone tools can tell us and many new topics like gender, performance, acoustics and personhood are being explored. This set of seminars will critically examine how the fundamental theoretical and methodological concepts embedded in different contemporary approaches guide the way stone tool assemblages are analyzed and interpreted. As a basis for comparison, we will go 'back to basics' and focus on fundamental questions such as the following. What role did stone tools play in human evolution? Why did people choose stone for their tools (e.g., as opposed to wood, shell, or metal)? In what settings was raw material a limiting factor? How did the production, exchange and use of stone tools create society? Case studies ranging across the globe and through time will provide the data for assessing the potential role of stone tool studies in archaeology.

#### 4. Contenidos:

#### **Seminar Topics**

I. Beyond Typology: Evolution, Selection and Practice
Life history: the fundamental methodology
Technological modes and human evolution
Case Studies: Africa, SE Asia, Australia

II. Why Stone?

Contributions from Ethnoarchaeology *Case Studies*: Papua New Guinea, Brazil

III. Acquiring Stone

Making Choices Assessing Raw Material Determinism





Quarries in their Regional Contexts *Case Studies*: Greece, Australia

IV. Designing Tools

Formal types vs Expediency
Minimising Risk and Maximising Energy
Production for Future Uses

Case Studies: Russia, Japan, Australia

V. Mobilizing Lithics: Subsistence and Settlement

**Technological Organisation** 

Reduction Indices and Use-wear/residue Studies *Case Studies*: Papua New Guinea, USA, France

VI. Creating Society through Practice, Performance and Exchange

Case Studies: Papua New Guinea, Greece, France

## 5. Bibliografía

#### **Key Readings**

I. Theoretical Divides: Evolution, Selection and Practice

Audouze, F. 1999. New advances in French Prehistory. *Antiquity* 73: 167-175.
Bueno, L. 2010. Beyond typology: Looking for processes and diversity in the study of lithic technology in the Brazilian Amazon. *Journal of World Prehistory* 23: 121-143.

- O'Connell, J. and Allen, J. 2007. Pre-LGM Sahul (Pleistocene Australia-New Guinea) and the archaeology of early modern humans. In P. Mellars, K. Boyle, O. Bar-Yosef and C. Stringer (eds.), Rethinking the Human Revolution, pp. 395-410. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Pauketat, T. 2001. Practice and history in archaeology: an emerging paradigm. *Anthropological Theory* 1: 73-98.
- Shott, M. 2003. Chaîne opératoire and reduction sequence. *Lithic Technology* 28:95-105.
- II. Why Stone? Insights from Ethnoarchaeology
  - Ellis, C. 1997. Factors influencing the use of stone projectile tips: an ethnographic perspective. In Knecht, H. (ed.), *Projectile Technology*, pp.37-78. New York: Plenum.





- González-Ruibal, A. Hernando, A. Politis, G. 2011. Ontology of the self and material culture: arrow-making among the Awá hunter-gatherers (Brazil). *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 30: 1-16.
- White, J. P. and Thomas, D. H. 1972. What mean these stones? Ethno-taxonomic models and archaeological interpretations in the New Guinea Highlands. In D. Clarke (ed.), *Models in Archaeology*, pp. 275-308. London: Methuen.

## III. Acquiring Stone

- Andrefsky, Jr., W. 2009. The analysis of stone tool procurement, production, and maintenance. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 17:65-103.
- Brumm, A. 2010. 'The falling sky': Symbolic and cosmological associations of the Mt. William greenstone axe quarry, central, Victoria, Australia. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 20: 179-196.
- Torrence, R. 2005. Valued stone: how so? In I. Macfarlane, R. Paton and M. Mountain (eds), *Many Exchanges: Archaeology, History, Community and the Work of Isabel McBryde*. Aboriginal History Monograph 11: 357-372

## IV. Designing Tools

- Bamforth, D. and Bleed, P. 1997. "Technology, flaked stone technology, and risk." In Barton, C. M. and Clark, B. A. (eds.), *Rediscovering Darwin: Evolutionary Theory in Archaeological Explanation*. Arlington, MA: American Anthropological Association, 109-140.
- Doelman, T, Torrence, R., Kluyev, N., Sleptsov, I., Popov, V. 2009. Innovations in microblade core production at the Tigrovy-8 late Palaeolithic quarry in eastern Russia. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 34: 367-384.
- Elston, R. G. and Brantingham, P. J. 2002. "Microlithic technology in Northern Asia: A risk-minimizing strategy of the Late Palaeolithic and Early Holocene." In R. G. Elston and S. L. Kuhn, eds., *Thinking Small: Global Perspectives on Microlithization. Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association No. 12.* Arlington: American Anthropological Association, 103-116.

#### V. Mobilizing Lithics: Settlement and Subsistence

- Clarkson, C. 2008 Explaining reduction intensity, settlement and subsistence in Wardaman Country, Northern Australia. In Andrefsky, W. (ed.) *Lithic Technology: Measures of Production, Use, and Curation*, pp.286-316. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hiscock, P. and Tabrett, A. 2010. Generalization, inference and the quantification of lithic reduction. *World Archaeology* 42: 545-561.
- Holdaway, S., Wendrich, W. and Phillipps, R. 2010. Identifying low-level food producers: detecting mobility from lithics. Antiquity 84: 185-193.





Torrence, R. 2011. Finding the right question: learning from stone tools on the Willaumez Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. *Archaeology in Oceania* 46: 29-41.

### VI. Creating Society

Carter, T. 2007. The theatrics of technology: consuming obsidian in the Early Cycladic burial arena. In Flad, R. and Hruby (eds), *Rethinking Craft Specialisation in Complex Societies: Analyses of the Social Meaning of Productoin*. Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association 17: 88-107.

Speth, J., Newlander, K., White, A., Lemke, A., Anderson, L. in press. Early Paleoindian big-game hunting in North America: provisioning or politics? *Quaternary International* online.

Torrence, R. Now you see it, now you don't: changing obsidian source use in the Willaumez Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. In J. Cherry, C. Scarre and S. Shennan (eds), *Explaining Social Change: Studies in Honour of Colin Renfrew* (McDonald Institute Monographs). Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, pp. 115-125.

#### 6. Modalidad de dictado:

Intensiva

**7. Duración**: 30 horas reloj (mínimo).

## 8. Requisitos y modalidad de evaluación y promoción:

La evaluación y aprobación del curso consistirá en una calificación conceptual por la participación en la discusión de las lecturas propuestas oportunamente por la docente durante el dictado del curso. Para ello cada alumno deberá presentar oralmente la exposición de una lectura previamente acordada. Asimismo al finalizar el curso se realizará una evaluación escrita a definir.





#### **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **ROBIN TORRENCE**

#### PERSONAL DATA

Date of Birth: September 14, 1949

<u>Citizenship</u>: Australia and United States

Current Address: 46 Pitt Street, Redfern N.S.W. 2016, Australia

Email: robin.torrence@austmus.gov.au

#### **CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

Senior Principal Research Scientist, (Equivalent to Full Professor) Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

## **EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1981 Ph.D. (Anthropology), University of New Mexico, U. S. A. 1974 M.A. (Anthropology), University of New Mexico, U.S.A.

1971 A.B. (magna cum laude), Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

#### HONOURS AND AWARDS

1999 Elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities

Society for American Archaeology Award for Excellence in Archaeological Analysis

#### **CURRENT RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS**

Honorary Research Affiliate, Archaeology, University of Sydney, Australia.

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

1996-2001	Australian Research Council, Senior Research Fellow, Australian Museum
2001	Visiting Associate Professor, Archaeology, University of Sydney (6 months)
1998	Visiting Associate Professor, Archaeology, University of Sydney (March-July)

1991-5 Australian Research Council, Research Fellow, Australian Museum

1990 Visiting Senior Lecturer, Archaeology, University of Sydney

1976-1989 Lecturer, Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield





1987, 1981	Visiting	Lecturer	and	Associate	Professor,	Department	of	Anthropology,
	Northwes	stern Unive	rsitv.	Evanston, Il	linois, U.S.A			

1978-9 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Leicester University
 1974-5 Graduate Tutor, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton
 1972-3 Graduate Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico,

U.S.A.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS**

1989 Australian Museum Visiting Fellowship

1971-2 Woodrow Wilson Fellowship

#### UNIVERSITY TEACHING

### Lecture and Seminar Courses

**Pacific Prehistory** 

Fourth Year Honours

Social Anthropology (Introduction and Intermediate level)

**Economic Anthropology** 

Archaeological Philosophy and Theory

Economic Reconstruction

Methods of Inference in Archaeology

New Directions in Archaeology

Theoretical Approaches to Lithics

**Hunter-Gatherer Studies** 

**Hunter-Gatherer Technology** 

Ideology and Ritual of Funerary Practice

Prehistoric Exchange

Melanesian Exchange Systems

**European Prehistory** 

Rise of Civilisations

#### **Practical Courses**

Lithics

Quantitative Data Analysis

Computing in Archaeology

#### Field Courses

Excavation and Surveying at Roystone Grange, Derbyshire (taught over 5 years)

# Postgraduate Supervision





I have been formal supervisor for 10 PhD, 3 MPhil, 1MSc. and numerous MA and Honours students and have supervised c. 20 PhD and MPhil candidates on an informal basis. Currently, I am formally supervising 2 PhD students at the University of Sydney.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES**

Sheffield University: Postgraduate Admissions Tutor; Tutor for Year Abroad Students; Liaison Officer for Computing Services and Statistical Advisory Service; Ian Sanders Memorial Fund Committee; Recruitment and publicity for postgraduate courses; Organization of staff/postgraduate weekly seminars

Sheffield University, Arts Faculty Board

Sheffield University, Arts Faculty Committee on Numeracy

Sheffield University, University Computing Committee

Australian Museum Seminar Committee

Australian Museum Associate Director Search Committee

Australian Museum Science Advisory Committee Liaison

Australian Museum Acting Head of Science and Collections; Acting Head of Research

#### MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Australian Archaeological Association
International Association of Obsidian Studies
Lithics Studies Group
Prehistoric Society
Royal Anthropological Institute Fellow
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Archaeological Science

World Archaeological Congress Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association

# PROFESSIONAL DUTIES: EDITORIAL BOARDS, MAJOR COMMITTEES, ETC.

1979	Pompeii Committee, U.K.
1979-89	Executive Committee, Theoretical Archaeology Group, U.K.
1982-6	National Committee for the International Union of Pre- and Proto-historic Sciences,
	London
1982-9	Committee on Archaeology and Anthropology, Royal Anthropological Institute,
	London
1983-6	Council, Royal Anthropological Institute, London
1983-9	Editorial Board, Man
1984-5	Institute of Field Archaeology, Committee on Theoretical Archaeology
1987-8	Steering Committee, Southampton-York Archaeological Simulation System, Science
	Research Council
1987-1991	Editorial Board, Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology
1998-2000	Founder, Chairperson, Ancient Starch Research Group





1998-1999	Editorial Board, Archaeology and Natural History, Australian National University
1991 on	Editorial Board, Archaeology in Oceania
1993 on	Editorial Board, Journal of Archaeological Science
1995-2003	Treasurer, World Archaeological Congress
1997 on	Assistant Editor, Archaeology in Oceania
2000 on	Editorial Board, Lithic Technology
2002 on	Editorial Board, Journal of Field Archaeology
2007 on	Editorial Board, Australian Archaeology
2007on	Editorial Board, Heritage Management
2007-9	Editorial Board, Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association
2009-2012	Editorial Board, Museum Anthropology
PROFESSI	ONAL DUTIES: CONFERENCE ORGANIZER
1978	Theoretical Archaeology Group Symposium, Sheffield
1979	First Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, Sheffield
1980	"Approaches to Micro-wear," Sheffield
1982	Session organizer, SAA Annual Meeting Minneapolis
1986	"Recent Research in Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Research," Sheffield
1986	"Social Implication of Technological Change," Theme organizer at World
	Archaeological Congress, Southampton
1992	Annual Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association, Valla Beach
1992	Session organizer, "Melanesia: Archaeology sets the Paradigm," Australian
	Archaeological Association, Valla Beach
1994	Session organizer, "Culture Contact in Melanesia," World Archaeological Congress,
	Delhi
1997	Sixth Australasian Archaeometry Conference, Sydney
1998	Annual Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association, Valla Beach
1998, 2000	Australian Research Council Special Initiative Workshop on Ancient Starch,
1999	Session Organiser, World Archaeological Congress 4, Capetown
2000-3	Theme and Session Organizer, World Archaeological Congress 5, Washington, D.C
2005	Session organizer, Fourth Lapita Conference, Tonga
2006	Session organizer, IPPA conference, Manila, Philippines
2008	Session organizer, World Archaeological Congress 6
2000	G

## PRINCIPAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

# FIELD PROJECTS

2009

20102011

1969 Assistant Director of the Venango County Archaeological Project, Oil City, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Workshop organizer, School of Advanced Research, Sante Fe, USA

Workshop and session organizer, Lapita Pacific Archaeology conference, Apia, Samoa

Session organizer, IPPA conference, Hanoi, Vietnam





1971	Field Supervisor for the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation excavation, Thoreau, New Mexico, U.S.A.		
1972	Research Assistant for the excavation and survey directed by Professor L. R. Binford at Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska, U.S.A.		
1973	Staff Archaeologist for the Natural Areas Survey of the L. B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.		
1974-7	Intensive programme of research at the obsidian quarries of Sta Nychia and Demenegaki on Melos, Greece. Test excavation of an obsidian dump at Phylakopi, Melos, Greece.		
1982-7	Co-Director for excavation at the rockshelter and within the landscape of Roystone Rocks, Derbyshire. Sheffield University Field courses.		
1988-9	Survey and sampling of obsidian sources and production sites at Talasea, New Britain with colleagues from the Australian Museum.		
1991	Analysis of tephra chronology in West New Britain, collaborative project with scholars from Australia, Japan, and PNG.		
1992-1997	Excavation and survey of prehistoric sites on Garua Island, PNG.		
1999-2005	Survey and excavation in West New Britain, PNG		
2004-2008	Survey and excavation of obsidian quarries, Far East Russia		
LABORATORY AND MUSEUM PROJECTS			
1974-80	Detailed analysis of the waste products at Sta Nychia and Demenegaki obsidian quarries, Melos, Greece.		
1975-6	Analysis of the chipped stone from the following sites in Greece: Knossos (excavations of S. Hood, P. Warren, J. D. Evans), Pyrgos, Lerna, Nemea, Ayia Irini, Southern Argolid Survey, Achilleion, Halieis.		
1976-1988	Analysis of the chipped stone assemblages from the bronze age site of Phylakopi, Greece.		
1977	Seriation analysis of the chipped stone from the Melos site survey, Greece.		





1978	Attribute analysis of 250 prismatic, obsidian cores from the Phylakopi collection housed in the National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen.
1978	Descriptive study of the chipped stone assemblages from the site survey of the Biferno Valley, Molise, Italy.
1980-1990	Analysis of the chipped stone assemblages from the bronze age site of Ayia Irini, Greece.
1984	Analysis of the chipped stone assemblages from the Kea Archaeological Survey, Greece.
1984-6	Analysis of the chipped stone assemblages from the Nemea Valley Archaeological Project (including the survey and the excavation at the prehistoric site of Tsoungiza), Greece.
1986-1990	Analysis of assemblages from the obsidian quarry at Umleang, Manus Province, PNG.
1987	Analysis of obsidian artefacts from recent sites on Watom Island and various Lapita sites in the Pacific.
1987-1995	Museum study of obsidian-tipped daggers and spears from the Admiralty Islands. Collections housed in Britain, U.S.A., Australia, PNG.
1991 <b>-on</b>	Analysis of obsidian production and exchange using assemblages from West New Britain, PNG.
1992- <b>on</b>	Analysis of the effects of obsidian exchange on subsistence and land use on producers Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG. Involves artifact and plant fossil analyses, dating, obsidian characterisation.
1996-2004	Analysis of modern reference material and ancient starch grains in order to establish a classification scheme for starch grains.
1999 <b>-on</b>	Analysis of lithic artifacts from West New Britain, PNG.
2007 <b>on</b>	Analysis of ancient starch from stone mortars and pestles, Australian Museum
2007 <b>on</b>	Analysis of Indigenous agency based on studies of museum collections from Central Province and Wuvulu, PNG





# **RESEARCH GRANTS**

KESEAKCH GK	ANIS
1976	Sheffield University Research Fund, for the study of obsidian artifacts from Greece: £453.
1978	British Academy, for the study of Phylakopi cores in Copenhagen: £383.
1979	Science Research Council, UK, for research on obsidian microwear (with P. A. Phillips): £5000.
1979	Sheffield University Research Fund, for the study of chipped stone from Molise: £115.70.
1980	Sheffield University Research Fund, for the study of chipped stone from Ayia Irini: £138.50
1981	Sheffield University Research Fund, for the study of chipped stone from Ayia Irini: £295.50.
1981	Sheffield University Travel Grant: £175.
1981	British Academy, for the study of chipped stone from Ayia Irini: £500.
1981	Science Research Council, UK, obsidian microwear (with P. A. Phillips). £6,600.
1982	British Academy Conference Grant: £300.
1983	The Society of Antiquaries of London, for excavations at Roystone Grange (with G. Barker): £200.
1984	<u>Prehistoric Society</u> for excavations at Roystone Grange (with G. Barker): £250.
1984	The Society of Antiquaries of London, for excavations at Roystone Grange (with G. Barker): £500.
1984	Sheffield University Research Fund for the study of chipped stone on Kea: £300.
1985	British Academy, for fieldwork on Lou Island, Melanesia. £1000.





1985	Sheffield University Research Fund for fieldwork on Lou Island, Melanesia. £199.70.
1986	British Academy, for study of Melanesian obsidian in Australia: £1680.
1987	Sheffield University Research Fund, for analysis of museum collections in Papua New Guinea: £325.
1988	British Academy, for the analysis of museum collections of obsidian-tipped spears and daggers from the Admiralty Islands: £1981.
1989	Wenner-Gren Anthropological Foundation, for the analysis of museum collections of obsidian-tipped spears and daggers from the Admiralty Islands: US \$8000.
1992	<u>Australian Research Council</u> , for survey and excavation of archaeological sites on Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG \$30,000.
1993	<u>Australian Research Council</u> , for survey and excavation of archaeological sites on Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG. \$30,000.
1994	<u>Australian Research Council</u> , for survey and excavation of archaeological sites on Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG: \$15,000.
1992	<u>Australia and Pacific Foundation</u> , for excavation on Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG: \$6950.
1993	<u>Australia and Pacific Foundation</u> , for excavation on Garua Island, West New Britain, PNG: \$6950.
1994	<u>Papua New Guinea Biological Foundation</u> , for ethnobotany in West New Britain, PNG: \$6700.
1994	AINSE, for obsidian characterisation (with J. P. White): \$19,010.
1994	ARC Small Grant AMS, Associate Investigator on grant to Bill Boyd for dating of phytoliths from Garua Island: \$10,000
1995	AINSE, for obsidian characterisation (with J. P. White): \$23,180.
1995	National Science Foundation, Associate Investigator on grant to John Terrell, for excavation in PNG: US \$79,000.





1995	<u>Australian Museum</u> (with R. Fullagar), Preparation of starch reference collection, \$9,000.
1996-7	ARC Major Grant (with B. Boyd), Archaeological Research on Garua Island: \$45,000.
1996	<u>Australian Museum</u> (with R. Fullagar) Extraction and analysis of starch from modern soils: \$19,700.
1996	Earthwatch Institute Excavation on Garua Island: \$7315.
1996	AINSE (with P. White) Obsidian characterization: \$14,400.
1997	<u>Australian Museum</u> (with J. Specht) Fieldwork at Numundo Plantation, PNG: \$8,000.
1997	Earthwatch Excavation on Garua Island: \$2926.
1997.	AINSE (with P. White): Obsidian characterization: \$9000.
1997-8	ARC Small (with P. White): \$26,000.
1998	ARC Special Initiative Grant Analysis of prehistoric starch: \$30,000.
1998	AINSE (with P. White) Obsidian characterization: \$19,800.
1998	AINSE (with B. Boyd) Obsidian characterization: \$9000.
1998	<u>Australian Museum</u> (with J. Specht) Analysis of starch and pollen from West New Britain cores, PNG: \$10,000.
1999	<u>Australian and Pacific Foundation</u> Fieldwork at Numundo Plantation, PNG: \$7290.
1999	AINSE (with P. White) Obsidian characterization: \$12,600.
2000	AINSE (with P. White) Obsidian characterization: \$14,400.
2000	<u>Papua New Guinea Biological Foundation</u> , Fieldwork at Numundo Plantation, PNG, \$6710.





2000	<u>Australian Museum</u> (with J. Specht) Dating of volcanic eruptions in PNG: \$8,500.
2001-3	ARC Large Grant Fieldwork and analysis of Willaumez Peninsula, PNG: \$300,000.
2001	AINSE (with P. White) Obsidian characterisation \$11,000; AMS dating: \$5,360.
2001	Australian Museum Research Grant, Survey of Unea Island, PNG: \$8,555
2002	<u>AINSE</u> Russian obsidian characterisation \$6,545; PNG obsidian characterization: \$6,545.
2002	<u>Papua New Guinea Biological Foundation</u> , Geological fieldwork in West New Britain: \$11,790.
2003	AINSE Obsidian characterisation, Papua New Guinea: \$9200.
2003	Australian Museum Research Grant, pollen coring in PNG: \$10,000
2004-7	ARC Discovery (with T. Doelman, N. Klujev), Reconstructing prehistoric exchange of volcanic glasses in Far East Russia: \$230,000.
2004	AINSE Russian obsidian characterization: \$11,875
2004	ARC Networks (member of group application): \$10,000
2005-9	ARC Network (member) Discovering the past and present to shape the future: networking environmental sciences for understanding and managing Australian biodiversity. [Director Prof Bob Hill, University of Adelaide: \$1,500,000]
2006	AINSE, Characterisation of obsidian sources from Papua New Guinea: \$16,000
2006	AINSE Volcanic glass and human colonisation of remote Oceania: \$9500
2006	Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (with Klujev): US\$28,500
2006-8	ARC Linkage (with A. Clarke and J. Philp) Producers and collectors: Uncovering the role of Indigenous agency in the formation of museum collections: \$103,950





Australian Museum Research Grant (with I. Graham), pilot study of Laser

Ramon technology: \$6,600

2009-2012 ARC Discovery (with E. Carter and N. Kononenko) Valuing stones: obsidian

stemmed tools in the creation of social complexity in Papua New Guinea:

\$457,000

#### **CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Method and theory in lithic studies
Archaeology of the Pacific region
Prehistoric exchange (with special reference to obsidian)
Role of natural disasters and risk avoidance in long term history
Indigenous agency within colonial societies (with special reference to Papua New Guinea)
Complexity and diversity of material culture
Hunter-Gatherers

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **BOOKS**

- Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. (eds) *Unpacking the Collection: Networks of Material and Social Agency in the Museum*. New York: Springer.
- Specht, J. and Torrence, R. (eds) *Changing Perspectives in Australian Archaeology*. Technical Reports of the Australian Museum, Online 23.
- 2007 Grattan, J. and Torrence, R. (eds) *Living Under the Shadow: The Cultural Impacts of Volcanic Eruptions*. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press.
- Torrence, R. (ed.) New Approaches to the Study of Volcanic Glass. *Papers from the Manila Congress, Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association* 27: 114-162.
- Torrence, R. and Barton, H. (eds) *Ancient Starch Research*. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press.
- Specht, J. Attenbrow, V. and Torrence, R. (eds) *Shaping the Future Pasts: Papers in Honour of J. Peter White.* Special issue, *Australian Archaeology* 57. 16 chapters.





- 2002 Torrence, R. And Grattan, J. (eds), *Natural Disasters and Culture Change.* London: Routledge.
- Torrence, R. and Clarke, A. (eds), *The Archaeology of Difference: Negotiating Cross-Cultural Engagements in Oceania*. London: Routledge.
- Torrence, R. and White, J. P. (eds), *For the Experimental Archaeologist: Papers Presented to Wal Ambrose.* Special issue *Archaeology in Oceania* 32 (1). 15 chapters.
- van der Leeuw, S. E. and Torrence, R. (eds), *What's New? A Closer Look at the Process of Innovation*. London: Allen and Unwin.
- Torrence, R. (ed.), *Time, Energy and Stone Tools.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Reprinted in paperback 2009.
- Torrence, R., *Production and Exchange of Stone Tools: Prehistoric Obsidian in the Aegean.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Reprinted in paperback 2009.
- Torrence, R., and Cherry, J. (eds), L. R. Binford, *In Pursuit of the Past*. London: Thames and Hudson. Reprinted by University of California Press 2002.

## **ARTICLES**

- In press Torrence, R. Volcanic disasters and agricultural intensification: a case study from the Willaumez Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. *Quaternary International*. DOI 10.1016/j.quaint.2011.03.041
- In press Clarke, Anne and Torrence, R. Archaeology and the collection: tracing material relationships in colonial Papua from 1875 to 1925 *Journal of Australian Studies*.
- Torrence, R. and Clarke, A. "Suitable for decoration of halls and billiard rooms," finding indigenous agency in historic auction and sale catalogues. In Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. (eds) *Unpacking the Collection: Networks of Material and Social Agency in the Museum*,pp. 29-54. New York: Springer.
- Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. Networks, agents and objects: frameworks for unpacking museum collections. In Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. (eds) *Unpacking the Collection: Networks of Material and Social Agency in the Museum*, pp. 3-28. New York: Springer.
- Torrence, R. Finding the right question: learning from stone tools on the Willaumez Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. *Archaeology in Oceania* 46: 29-41.





- 2011 Specht, J. and Torrence, R. Changing Perspectives in Australian Archaeology. Preface. *Technical Reports of the Australian Museum, Online* 23: 1–2. doi:10.3853/j.1835-4211.23.2011.1565
- McKee, Chris O., Neall, Vincent E., and Torrence, Robin A remarkable pulse of large-scale volcanism on New Britain Island, Papua New Guinea. *Bulletin of Volcanology* 73: 27-37. D0I 10. 1007/s00445-010-0401-8.
- 2010 Popov, V., Kluyuev, N., Sleptsov, I., Doelman, T., Torrence, R., Kononenko, N. and White, P. Gialoklatic Shkotovo plateau (Primorye): an important source of archaeological obsidian in the south of the Russian Far East. In N. Kluyuev and Y. Vostrestsov (eds.), Lifting the Veil of Millennia: for the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Janna Vasilyevna Andreeva. Vladivostok: Institute for History, Archaeology and Ethnology of the Peoples of Far East Russia, pp. 295-314. (in Russian).
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#### **MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS**

1993-4 (6 months) (written and designed with S. Colley and the staff at the Macleay Museum) "Lukluk Bek Long Taim Bepo: Community Archaeology in Papua New Guinea." Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.

1995 on (written and designed with S. Colley and the staff at the Macleay Museum)
"How We Know About the Past: Archaeology in West New Britain." National
Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.