

# Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Krakow, Poland

19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**Organizer:** Petr Kvetina, Imogen Wood

**Theme:**

*Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record*

**Session Title:**

**Decoding deposition. Intra-site spatial analyses.**

**Abstract:**

The aim of the session is to present different methodological approaches towards analyses and interpretation of intra-site settlement space. The papers should contribute to a discussion on the methods of spatial analysis and their potential for understanding ancient settlements. Settlement remains are essential and frequently the only source for studying extinct cultures.

Application of wide-range of computer methods, starting from field excavation through analysis of archaeological data to the interpretation of the results, is characteristic for the present trends in this field of study. Geographical Information System is a particularly powerful tool; this technology is usually applied to study the landscape and environmental background of large scale settlement areas. However it is also useful in research focusing on spatial relations between components at one site, in our case a settlement. Archaeological features, building structures and even artefacts can constitute these components of analysis. Study of spatial relations between settlement components and their attributes contribute substantially to the interpretations of their function, social background and chronology. The intra-site spatial analyses is probably the most important method to solve questions dealing with settlement refuse behaviour and formation processes of archaeological record.

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