

Abstract

The Jebel Moya Project: Pastoralists and Farmers in southern Sudan

Lecture by Isabelle Vella Gregory

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Jebel Moya (Site 100, 250 km south south-east of Khartoum) is one of the largest known cemetery and habitation locales of agro-pastoralists in Sub-Saharan Africa. Situated on the Gezira plain, this site offers a rare glimpse into the lives of pastoralists who practice farming.

The site was first excavated by Henry Wellcome (1911-14), the pharmaceutical entrepreneur who revolutionised the world of medicine. The site was then largely forgotten until excavations resumed in 2017. This lecture presents all our results of a complex site whose biography stretches to at least 5000 BC. There are over 3000 human burials, a fascinating and complex material culture and ways of living that have been previously unknown in the region.

As a result of our excavations, we now have more information in population health, environmental changes and the development of pottery technology in the area. The lecture will introduce Sudan's fascinating archaeology and then focus on the site of Jebel Moya, telling its story through archival materials and the results from our first two seasons of excavation. (Isabelle Vella Gregory/Mike Brass).



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