



# OXFORD DESERT CONFERENCE

JULY 2021







Welcome to the 5th Oxford Interdisciplinary Desert Conference!

The first Desert Conference was organized 11 years ago and inaugurated a new forum to bring together a highly diverse and international group of scholars and practitioners. The Desert Conference is now a tradition, sprouting up every 2 or 3 years. In 2018 a mini Desert Conference was organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan at Kazakh National University, in part funded by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals programme. Through the series three books and one journal special issue have originated at the conferences. These are matched by new research partnerships, dryland agendas and enduring friendships.

We very much hope to continue the Desert Conference into the future and encourage its replication in new places and with new people. The spirit of the conference has always been one prioritizing connection and collaboration, interdisciplinary dialogue and debate, exchange of idea and mentorship of students and early-career researchers.

The 5th Oxford Desert Conference was originally organized to take place in April 2020 at the School of Geography and the Environment. When we began organizing in 2019, we never suspected that a global pandemic would force us to postpone the event for over a year. We are grateful to be able to organize this mini-version of the Oxford Desert Conference – for many of us it will be the first in-person event in 18 months!

This year, we will greatly miss the participation of our international colleagues. Due to the fatigue of participating in virtual events, we made decision to prioritize a smaller, in-person conference. Our key goals are to re-connect, provide a space for networking, exchange research updates and advance research even in these challenging circumstances.

Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm!

Best wishes from the Conference Organizers



Special thanks to our funders

# VENUE INFORMATION

**1 July 2021**

## **Knowledge Exchange**

Branca Restaurant

111 Walton St

Oxford OX2 6AJ

**2 July 2021**

## **5th Oxford Desert Conference**

St. Cross College

61 St Giles

Oxford OX1 3LZ

Max Room Capacity: 25

### **Virtual Participants (2 July Only):**

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440711957>

Meeting ID: 894 4071 1957

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KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:  
POLICY & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES IN DRYLANDS

- 15:00      **Welcome and Introductions**
- 15:15      **The Implications of Social Protection, Resilience and  
Pastoralism Nexus in Ethiopia**  
*Berekat Tsegay*
- 15:45      **Break**
- 16:00      **Roundtable: Spaces of deliberation for Unrepresented,  
Indigenous and Mobile Peoples**  
*Maryam Khanzai*  
*Anouska Perram*  
*Jill Shankleman*
- 17:00      **Dana+20: Reflections & Future Directions**  
*Dawn Chatty*  
*Ariell Ahearn*
- 17:45      **Briefing: Central Asia Spotlight**  
*Irina Petrova*
- 18:15      **Break for Walk and Pre-dinner drinks**
- 19:00      **Dinner at Branca**



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9:00 **Welcome**

9:15 ***Desert Digest***

**Research Update from Iran**  
Sina Maghami Nick (Virtual)

**Pastoralism in the Karakum**  
Paul Wordsworth

**Researched-researcher-relations in the face of "othered"  
pastoralists**  
Jill Blau (Virtual)

**Research Update on Tectonics and Natural Hazards**  
Richard Walker

10:30 **Journal of Nomadic Peoples**  
Saverio Kratli

11:00 **Break**

11:15 ***Desert Representations***

**The Red Planet: On Hollywood's Rush to Middle Eastern  
Deserts**  
Daniel Mann (Virtual)

**Domes of Heaven**  
Peter Winchester

**Definitions, causes and methods: the textual development  
of 'rocky desertification' in the PRC since 1981**  
David Edwards (Virtual)

12:00 **Roundtable: Covid Impact on Mobile Peoples**  
Saverio Kratli, Muhammad Haqmal, Angela Ravens-  
Roberts (Virtual), Joana Roque de Pinho (Virtual) and  
Troy Sternberg

- 13:15 Lunch (provided by St. Cross)
- 14:00 *Desert Environments*
- Reassessing palaeoenvironmental data from the Arabian Peninsula over the last 20 ka  
Sam Wool
- Monitoring low densities of large predators in drylands  
Muhammad Farhadinia (Virtual)
- Forest Restoration and Tree Growth in Berenty, Southern Madagascar  
Vanessa Winchester
- 15:15 Break
- 15:30 *Mobile Peoples and Desert Discords*
- Environmental impact assessment and uranium mining in Niger: the issue of underground water  
Sarah Lunacek (Virtual)
- A demand for recognition, or a request to exist?  
New Travellers and the Police Crime and Sentencing Bill  
Freya Hope
- San Litigation to Gain Rights over the Etosha national park in Namibia  
J r mie Gilbert and Willem Odendall
- 16:20 Break
- 16:30 Uprooted: Seed, Land and Labour in the Agricultural Industries in Egypt's Deserts  
Vanessa Lehmann
- "Oppidan bias": Elite mediation in the public dialogue process for a new refugee settlement in Turkana, Kenya  
Cory Rodgers
- Western Sahara's Renewed Conflict: Local Responses, Regional Implications  
Matthew Porges (Virtual)
- 17:30 Conclude and Drinks Reception