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My current research is on the long term (>500 years) historical ecology of East African landscapes, with particular reference to the consequences of the shifting demand for elephant ivory on societies, habitats, elephant populations, and land use management strategies (including the rise of a wildlife conservation ethic). This is a continuation of a four year project (Historical Ecologies of East African Landscapes – HEEAL) funded by the EU, in which another network participant (Pauline von Hellermann) participated (for an overview of the project goals & definitions of historical ecology see Lane PJ (2010) *African Studies* 69/2). I am currently in the process of expanding this project into a multi-sited one (in both the literal sense of having parallel research projects in several different localities working on different points (East Africa interior and coast, UK industrial processing & consumption, New England processing & consumption, Indian working and consumption, etc.) the ivory commodity chain – and in the sense implied by Marcus’s definition of ‘multi-sited ethnography’ using an ‘object biography’ approach. There is an obvious tie in with the work and research interests of other members of the network – notably James Fairhead’s, since it was sea captains from Salem who were especially instrumental in opening up the North American side of the 19th century ivory commodity chain.

Additionally I have active research interests in the maritime archaeology of the Indian Ocean (from the very earliest evidence of human utilisation of marine & coastal resources to the recent past); in the archaeology of colonial encounters (in East Africa, notably Portuguese, German & British, but French & Dutch activity is also of interest); and in the history and archaeology of slavery and its consequences in the Indian Ocean region. In all of this work I am interested in tracking climatic and vegetation change, the drivers of these changes and their consequences for human societies both in the past and also in the present day and even in the future. More generally, I am part of a newly constituted Indian Ocean Archaeology World Universities Network – which had its first meeting in Perth, Western Australia, last month, and will meet again in February 2013 at the British Museum. I am also an advisor to the University of Oxford Sealinks project (<http://sealinks.arch.ox.ac.uk/>), which is currently investigating the timing, sequence and agents involved in much older biological transfers around the Indian Ocean – particularly SE Asian domesticates to Africa and African domesticates to the Indian subcontinent.