

The Department of Anthropology Presents

DORIAN FULLER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

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Beyond the bread frontier: Sticky rice, millet porridge and grain wines in the definition of a civilizational area.

My predominant research focus has been the origins of agriculture and its social and ecological, but I have interests in how we understand later agricultural systems in early states and empires, as well as the plant use systems in hunter-gatherers systems that precede any agriculture. I have a wider interest in human-environment interactions both in terms of climatic constraints but also human modification of environments. I have been actively engaged in fieldwork projects in India, starting from South India. I have subsequently carried out fieldwork in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarnchal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, as well as Sri Lanka and have studied materials from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Nepal and NWFP, Pakistan. My fieldwork has focused on systematic archaeobotanical sampling of archaeological sites aimed to fill in some of the many regional and temporal gaps in direct evidence for past agriculture. While filling gaps in the archaeobotanical record of South Asia has been a particular focus (since my Master's dissertation in 1996), I take as my mission the larger task of helping to fill the major gaps in knowledge of early agriculture in the Old World throughout Asia and Africa. In this regard, I have always been ready to take on archaeobotanical projects in Africa, either directly or through supervision of students. In this capacity I have worked/ am working on archaeobotanical from Libya, Mali, Mauretania, Morocco, Senegal, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Sudan. I began research in China in 2004, and have had a particular focus on understanding rice domestication and the evolution of rice cultivation systems in the Lower Yangtze region—especially as part of a NERC-funded Early Rice Project (2009-2012), but also in studies of agriculture in Later Neolithic to Bronze Age China more widely. In recent years I have also become involved in the study of archaeobotany in Thailand. As the integration of archaeology and historical linguistics has become increasingly discussed, I became interested in how the details of archaeology and archaeobotany of South India could be confronted with the details of linguistics in the region, especially of the Dravidian language family. I have contributed a number of papers on this topic, and have recently given some thought to how historical linguistic hypotheses in East and Southeast Asia more broadly might match up with our revised evidence for the origins and spread of rice agriculture

*Reception to follow immediately in SSB 269 Spiro Library