



Ricococha Alta, a Prehispanic dam in Ancash, Cordillera Negra, Peru

A HAARD PROJECT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEPENDENCY

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Can archaeological research be sustainable in a world riven by climate change, limited resources and social inequality? The simple answer is yes, so long as this involves community-based approaches and a commitment to broad and public accessibility to research results. If tailored correctly, archaeology can help to provide alternative solutions to modern problems. A key example is the Gerda Henkel Foundation funded High-Altitude Andean Rehabilitation of Dams Project (HAARD), Ancash, Cordillera Negra, Peru.

Water scarcity is an increasing problem across the Andes, incurring debilitating socio-economic effects, including land abandonment, crop failure, out-migration and weakened community cohesion. These are enduring problems which most local and national governments including NGOs have struggled to find durable solutions to.

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In respecting indigenous know-how and together with local and international NGOs, HAARD is a pilot project to rehabilitate a Prehispanic dam. The Cordillera Negra's dams were the product of millennia-long sustainable engineering expertise. In these cash-strapped regions, these stone and clay constructions are cheap to rebuild and to maintain, providing a locally informed path out of ever-greater reliance on outside expertise and tied aid. In effect, sustainable archaeology projects offer participatory and sustainable solutions to modern-day problems, potentially undermining current asymmetrical dependencies.



Dr. Kevin Lane

is an archaeologist and senior CONICET researcher at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is also the director of the Gerda Henkel funded, High Altitude Andean

Rehabilitation of Dams Project (HAARD) dedicated to restoring Prehispanic dams for present-day use. In particular, he studies the juxtaposition between ancient and modern human resilience, adaptability, and dependency in the rural Andes. He also specialises in historical archaeology and heritage management with interests in landscape archaeology, political ecology, ancient hydraulic technology, communities, identity, and frontiers.



Dr. Christian Mader

is Researcher and Coordinator of the Research Group "The Archaeology of Dependency (ArchDepth): Resources, Power and Status Differentiation". His research is driven by the question of how to

identify forms of asymmetrical dependency in the archeological record. Integral to this question is the concept of resource dependencies embodied in a wide range of material culture. Resource dependencies imply two significant sorts of strong structural dependency within a larger ecological and sociopolitical context: the first concerns the dependency of people on resources of every kind, which is a crucial basis for the second, which is dependencies between humans. His regional focus is on Andean South America.