Session B82 - Advances in Archaeological Palimpsest Dissection
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In archaeological sites, the remains of human activity from different times are normally found mixed together into single layers of sediment and this means that in many cases, the temporal and spatial distribution of the high resolution information we obtain is not representative of the original anthropogenic context. This fact, known as the palimpsest effect, represents a handicap for both traditional and high-tech approaches to the archaeological record.

For instance, a rich archaeological assemblage may give the wrong impression of belonging to a single period of "intense" human activity while really representing the remains of many independent, overlapping "weak" human activity events. As another example, we might end up analyzing a sample of microscopic plant residues such as phytoliths or pollen from sediments spanning thousands of years. In this case, our high resolution data is not sufficiently accurate to identify shifts in climate/vegetation that might have had an influence on humans. Such a drawback has important repercussions for interpretation of archaeological contexts, particularly when we attempt to understand historical processes.

The goal of this session on archaeological palimpsest dissection is to lay out different research strategies that are currently contributing to advance in the dissection of archaeological palimpsests from different time periods. So far, the leading part has been played by digital archaeostratigraphy, refitting studies and geoarchaeology - through single and multi-technique microstratigraphic approaches. In this session, we welcome examples from these and any other fields of research that might contribute to archaeological palimpsest dissection. We are particularly interested in examples of integrated approaches that bring together different sources of data.

We invite you to present your work in our session and hope to see you in Burgos for interesting discussions on new ways to narrow down the time scales at which we investigate the past.

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The deadline for submission of abstracts is April 30th, 2014. Each abstract must be submitted via the website indicating the session and name of the session organizer.

The conference will take place in Burgos (Spain), on 1-7 September, 2014.
The conference website is http://www.burgos2014uispp.com