

# International Obsidian Conference 2021

3<sup>rd</sup> Circular – IOC 2021  
April 30 - May 2, 2021



Venue: Virtual conference

Hosted by the *Archaeological Research Facility (ARF)*, the *International Association for Obsidian Studies (IAOS)*, and *Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We invite you to participate in the updated International Obsidian Conference (IOC 2021) to be held virtually from April 30 – May 2, 2021.

Our aim is to invite specialists on all aspects of obsidian studies extending from natural sciences to anthropology. Following prior meetings, we intend for the conference to remain global in scope and encourage contributions from any geographical region, yet highlight obsidian studies in the Americas. Because the geologies of North America are so diverse, we also aim to include semi-glassy fine-grained volcanics (FGV) used by Amerindians in the Great Basin and other regions in the Americas.

## Suggestions for conference sessions and themes:

- Formation and geology of obsidian and FGV
- Sources, their characterization, and archaeological distributions
- Analytical and methodological aspects
- Archaeological obsidian and FGV by chronological periods
- Lithic technology and use-wear studies
- Theoretical and cultural concerns (e.g., materiality, itineraries, tool stone resource management or control strategies)

## Conference Updates

With the consistent threat of COVID-19 in combination with changes to university safety guidelines, we are compelled to change the date of the conference and its overall format. Our main reason for doing so is the result of new rules at UC Berkeley that have cancelled all in-person gatherings like ours into early 2021; our venue will therefore not be available. The dates of the conference are now April 30 – May 2 to mitigate overlap with the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) and allow participants to spread out their conference activities and obligations. The conference will follow a virtual format to be announced soon. Other relevant changes and updates include:

- 1) The conference is now **free** for participants and attendees. We do ask that you become a member of the International Association of Obsidian Studies (IAOS) as a courtesy for IAOS helping to organize and subsidize the conference. You can become a member by clicking [here](#). By joining IAOS, you will become part of an international network of obsidian researchers that offers a variety of resources to support your research. Your membership dues will also assist in sponsoring future conferences.
- 2) There is a location for submitting registration and abstract information on the recently updated IOC homepage through the UC Berkeley Archaeological Research Facility (see below). Submissions should be made by the revised deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- 3) The conference will offer an option to present live or to submit a pre-recorded presentation that will be streamed at a set time. We will also set aside time to showcase poster presentations and make them available to conference participants.
- 4) Dr. Steven Shackley has accepted our invitation to give a Keynote speech during the conference.
- 5) The Archaeological Research Facility (ARF) at UC Berkeley plans to publish the conference proceedings pending review and approval in their publication series that began in 1960. This publication series has seen many seminal works on obsidian studies, and we anticipate our conference proceedings to be an important addition to this legacy.
- 6) Our excursion to Napa Valley is canceled.

## Local Organizing Committee

- Nicholas Tripcevich – University of California Berkeley, Archaeological Research Facility
- Lisa Maher – University of California Berkeley, Anthropology
- Lucas R. M. Johnson – Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.
- Kyle Freund – Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.
- Tom Origer – Origer and Associates

## Scientific Committee

- Biró, Katalin - Hungarian National Museum, Budapest, Hungary

- Glascock, Michael - University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, USA
- Kuzmin, Yaroslav - Institute of Geology & Mineralogy, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia
- Le Bourdonnec, François-Xavier - Université Bordeaux Montaigne, Pessac, France
- Lexa, Jaroslav - Earth Sciences Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Markó, András - Hungarian National Museum, Budapest, Hungary
- Ono, Akira - Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan
- Torrence, Robin - Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia
- Tykot, Robert - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, USA
- Vianello, Andrea - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, USA

### **Partnering Institutions**

UC Berkeley

### **Contact Persons**

The conference email address is [obsidian2021@gmail.com](mailto:obsidian2021@gmail.com). Please direct questions to this address.

Kyle Freund, Ph.D.; Lucas R. M. Johnson, Ph.D.; Nicholas (Nico) Tripcevich, Ph.D.

### **Technical Information**

*Duration and Dates:* 3 days, April 30 – May 2, 2021

*Location:* Online, to be held from 9am-5pm Pacific Standard Time

*Keynote Speech:* Dr. Steven Shackley, Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley

*Presentation Logistics:* Because our conference is international, those participants in other time zones beyond Pacific Standard Time may wish to submit a pre-recorded asynchronous presentation to be viewed during the conference.

*Oral Contributions:* Oral contributions will be 15 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion. Please prepare them in common presentation format (e.g., PowerPoint).

*Poster Presentations:* The posters should be planned as standing (portrait) orientation and their size must not exceed A0 (841 x 1189 mm). Submitted posters will be hosted online for view during the conference (website location to be announced).

*Abstracts:* must not exceed 300 words

*Language:* The official language of the conference is English.

*Deadline for submitting abstracts:* March 1, 2021

*Deadline for registration:* March 1, 2021 for presenters (April 15, 2021 for attendees not presenting a poster or paper)

*Submission location:* <https://forms.gle/JnaWkzRuuxQMV4ZQ6>

*Registration Fee:* None

The conference is **free** for participants and attendees. We do ask that you become a member of the International Association of Obsidian Studies (IAOS) as a courtesy for IAOS helping to organize the conference and pay for any incidental costs.

PLEASE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IAOS [HERE](#)

Four membership tiers are available:

IAOS Student Registration	\$10 USD
IAOS Regular Membership	\$20 USD
IAOS Institutional Membership	\$50 USD
IAOS Lifetime Membership	\$200 USD

### **Publication of Proceedings**

Contributions of the Archaeological Research Facility, Berkeley  
<https://arf.berkeley.edu/publications/contribution-series>

### **Conference Homepage**

<http://arf.berkeley.edu/projects/ioc2021>

Please forward this circular to anybody who may be interested.  
We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Lucas, Kyle, and Nico