



## **International Workshop**

### ***Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Human and Shells Interactions from Prehistory to Present***

Organizers:

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Jeff Kinch, National Fisheries College (Papua New Guinea)

Main disciplines concerned: anthropology, ethnobiology, archeology, ecology and malacology

Place: Musée de l'Homme and Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris

Date: 1-Nov-2017 to 3-Nov 2017

Duration: three days (two days of public conference and one day reserved to speakers discussion)

#### **General presentation of the workshop**

The aim of this workshop is twofold:

- 1) to bring together selected international scientists from different fields –anthropology, archeology, ecology, nutrition, etc. – to discuss multiples approaches to the study of human and shells interactions; and
- 2) to consolidate an international working group interested in binding efforts to foster interdisciplinary research on shells.

The workshop will present various research activities to understand:

- 1) The evolution of shells as food and utilitarian and cultural items;
- 2) The structural variability and interpretation of shell middens;
- 3) Current use, extraction technologies and production systems;
- 4) The ethnomalacological and local ecological knowledge on shells;
- 5) The potential use of shells as indicators of coastal change; and
- 6) The vulnerability of malacological resources to environmental change and globalization.

Pre-identified themes by discipline:

Disciplines	Pre-identified Thematic Areas
Biology and ecology	General introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity of bivalves and gastropods and their life forms (<i>e.g.</i> habitats, ecological niches and geographical ranges)</li> </ul>
Archeology	First interactions between Man and Shells: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of shells in human sedentarization</li> <li>• Appearance of shells in the diet (<i>e.g.</i> middens and shell deposits), in aesthetics (<i>e.g.</i> ornaments and jewelry) and in the making of tools.</li> </ul>
Anthropology, ethnobiology and nutrition	Local knowledge, representation and food security : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary techniques and strategies for shell gathering and shellfish production</li> <li>• Ethno-malacology and local malacological knowledge</li> <li>• Uses and contemporary representations of shells</li> <li>• Nutritional value of shellfish.</li> </ul>
Ecology, fisheries management, biology	Production systems, bioindicators and vulnerability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries and aquaculture</li> <li>• Mollusks as bio-indicators</li> <li>• Vulnerability of mollusks to environmental change and globalization</li> </ul>

### Organization

The workshop will be held over three days at the French Natural History Museum.

On the first two days, each of the participants will present their research questions, approaches and findings. Sessions will be composed of three to four participants (20 min presentations) and include a final discussion on 40 min.

The third day will be dedicated to the sharing of field and laboratory experiences, and the identification of interdisciplinary research themes that might inform future collaborations and activities. This day will be exclusively reserved to speakers and will include a visit to the malacological collection of the French Natural History Museum.

