

# PREFACE

This volume brings together a selection of contributions that reflect recent community archaeology initiatives undertaken by Sudanese and Polish archaeologists in Sudan. The volume is edited by Dr. Tomomi Fushiya, who pioneered the implementation of community archaeology at the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (PCMA UW).

Over the past six years, Dr. Fushiya, in collaboration with Sudanese and Polish colleagues, has significantly transformed archaeological practice at Old Dongola. Since the beginning of community archaeology at this site, I have emphasized generating tangible socio-economic benefits for the local communities surrounding this amazing archaeological site of global significance. By doing so, we not only contribute to community development but also encourage local engagement in the management and protection of cultural heritage in one of the world's lowest-income countries.

Through Dr. Fushiya's efforts, what was once a situation characterized by parallel coexistence and minimal interaction has evolved into a collaborative model of research, heritage management, and local development. This transformation represents a critical shift toward inclusive and sustainable archaeological practice.

The contributions in this volume explore diverse experiences and perspectives on archaeologist–community collaboration. Lorenzo de Lellis offers insights from the field archaeologist's viewpoint, while Robert Stark discusses capacity building in the field of bioarchaeology. Sudanese scholars Habab Idriss and Mohamed Siedahmed contribute with perspectives grounded in local experience. Maciej Kurcz and Katarzyna Radziwilko present anthropological approaches and case studies, while Tomasz Michalik and Tobiasz Trawiński introduce new methodological developments.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Fushiya for her editorial work on this volume and for her unwavering dedication to establishing community archaeology at Old Dongola and within the PCMA UW. Most importantly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the communities of Ghaddar and Bokkibil for their trust and collaboration. Their openness has made it possible to reimagine the relationship between archaeological research and local stakeholders.

I am writing this while Port Sudan is under attack. The ongoing conflict is impacting the society of Sudan in the worst possible way. While remaining in solidarity with our friends and colleagues, I hope that the war ends soon and we can all focus on building a better future for the Sudanese people. While the Sudanese are suffering, the past two years were also a difficult time for the Polish Nubiological community. We have lost three beloved scholars, Mahmoud El-Tayeb, Stefan Jakobielski, and Magda Łaptaś.

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