



Editorial: Welcome to the First Issue

We are excited to announce the launch of the *Old World Trade and Interaction*, a vibrant and engaging journal dedicated to fostering discussion and debate in the field of historical trade and exchange.

Our mission is clear: to establish a platform that disseminates new research and innovative ideas concerning the dynamics of exchange, transport, migration, interaction and communication, as well as the preservation of cultures, minorities, and heritage. Our goal addresses a long-standing gap for a dedicated forum on the history and archaeology of trade.

We recognise the complexities of the Afro-Eurasian landscapes and cultures involved in trade networks. At the same time, we honour the resilience and determination of our ancestors, who forged connections through their voyages and left a lasting legacy for modern societies. Consequently, our scope is broad. We cover a web of maritime and overland routes, ranging from China's Tea-Horse Roads to the Trans-Saharan Roads, across diverse chronological periods. We are eager to learn about the roles the Old World played in facilitating the exchange of goods, culture, and ideas.

Our commitment to advancing heritage preservation and academic collaboration is reflected in our efforts to standardise interdisciplinary cooperation across the humanities, as well as the natural and social sciences. We are also partnering with heritage institutions to influence public policies that protect at-risk minorities and heritage sites. The open-access nature of our journal complements a growing ecosystem of initiatives aimed at fostering scholarly innovation and practical conservation.

The journal serves as a platform for a wide range of scholars engaged in theoretical and empirical research, utilising diverse methodologies including fieldwork, case studies, or studies of material culture. Indeed, our first issue manuscripts cover fieldwork studies, laboratory research, analyses of material culture, and theoretical discussions. While we welcome submissions focused on the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative, our primary aim is to support interdisciplinary research related to historic Afro-Eurasian trade regions. Our areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- Archaeology

Trade, connectivity, migration, genome-wide diversity, cultural diffusion, material culture, ethnicity, heritage management, forensic, maritime, bioarchaeology, conflict, and industrial archaeology.

- History

Trade history, slave trade, material culture, ethnicity, and cultural history

- Anthropology

Ancient religions, intangible heritage, cultural exchange, and diffusion of traits

- Sociology

Minority groups, social change, race, religion, and globalisation

We publish peer-reviewed original research that presents new data, case studies within historical and interactional frameworks, curated overviews of achievements in the research community, short communications, and reviews. If you are unsure whether your manuscript aligns with our publishing framework or if you have ideas you would like to see developed within the journal, we encourage you to contact our editorial team.

Competing Interests

The author has no competing interests to declare.