

Follow the thread: cross-cultural connectivity and mobility patterns of textile fibers and fiber crops

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As added-value commodities often traded over long-distances, ancient textiles encapsulate past journeys and exchanges. This session aims to tune into stories of connectivity in archaeological plant-based fibers and textiles, through a range of approaches and methodologies. From the identification of diverse fibre sources to the analysis of dyes and weaving techniques, the study of ancient textiles lends itself to integration across multiple disciplines. We invite submissions employing various techniques applied to organic remains – including, but not limited to fibre morphology, ethnoarchaeology, experimental archaeology, archaeobotany and the range of archaeological sciences. We also encourage submissions integrating textual, linguistic and iconographic sources. Papers in this session may deal with fiber types (e.g. linen, cotton, silk, hemp, ramie and palm), or the plants used in producing and processing them (e.g. flax, cotton, mulberry, woad, etc.). By bringing together researchers working across these diverse fields, this session aims to offer complementary perspectives on production processes and commerce. By examining textiles as focal points of knowledge transfer, cross-craft interaction, and long-distance exchange networks, we seek to follow the thread on ancient textile production and trade as catalysts for technological innovation and cross-cultural connection.



Submit your abstract by 5 February 2026:

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