

LUIZ OOSTERBEEK

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Basic Biographical Information

Luiz Oosterbeek, born the 24th August 1960 in Ede (Netherlands), with Portuguese nationality, graduated in History (Lisbon 1982), having started his academic activity as an archaeologist in 1982. He worked mainly on the mechanisms of spread of agro-pastoralism in Iberia, the topic of his PhD research in Archaeology (London 1994, Oporto 1995). Acting as a lecturer and a museum director, he has conducted research in the fields of prehistory, heritage and landscape management in Portugal, Africa and Southern America since 1983 (Oosterbeek 2007, 2009). For these activities he has received prizes and awards from the European Commission, the Brazilian Order of Advocates, the Portuguese Ministry of Culture, the Gulbenkian Foundation, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and several private sponsors.

Luiz Oosterbeek is the Secretary General of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, since September 2006. He is also the Secretary General of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences since October 2014, and a member of the German Institute of Archaeology, of the Scientific Committee of the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage (Ravello, Italy) and an advisor of the Taihu World Cultural Forum, as well as member of several other academic bodies. He is president of the Instituto Terra e Memória (Portugal), a research and development structure based in Mação, with ongoing projects in archaeology, heritage management and landscape management in various countries in Europe, Africa and Southern America. As a former vice-manager of the Iberianamerican Program on Science and Technology, he assessed and monitored several research projects on Science and Society. From 1994, on several occasions he served as academic Expert for the European Commission and the European Training Foundation, in programmes such as Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Culture and Marie-Curie. He is a Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar, coordinator of Master and PhD Erasmus Mundus programmes in quaternary and prehistory, Professor at the Universities of Córdoba (Spain) and Ferrara (Italy), member of the scientific council of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (France). He has been a guest professor in over 40 universities from 20 countries in Europe and Brazil, and is a member of several NGOs in the field of cultural and environmental heritage.

Luiz Oosterbeek is the author of over 300 papers and 50 books, mostly on the origins of agro-pastoralism, rock art, landscape management and heritage studies. He is Director of the Museum of Prehistoric Art in Mação, Portugal (which holds the Vice-Presidency of the Association CARP for the Council of Europe Rock Art Itinerary), Vice-President of HERITY International in Italy and one of the founders of the Portuguese Association for Intangible Heritage. He is Principal Investigator of the Quaternary and Prehistory group of the Geosciences Centre of Coimbra University. Currently he is a member of the Scientific Commission and the leading task force of the International Year for Global Understanding, approved by UNESCO General Assembly in 2013. He is also involved in the preparation, for 2017, of the World Conference of the Humanities (organised by UNESCO, CIPSH and LIEGETOGETHER).

Major Accomplishments

In 1994, Luiz Oosterbeek (Oosterbeek 1997) was the author of a proposed mixed model of agro-pastoral spread into the west Mediterranean. He also developed a new model of landscape management (presented in Rio+20 and implemented in various regions) that considers archaeology and intangible heritage as a major component for the contemporary understanding of technology and for governance (Oosterbeek 2012).

After international concerns were raised about the preservation of rock art in Portugal, he proposed and became coordinator of the International Rock Art Seminars in Portugal (created in 1998, today known as “Mação’s International Rock Art Seminar” – see Oosterbeek, ed. 2006). In addition, he has been the coordinator of several projects funded by the Portuguese government since 1983, and by the European Union since 1989.

Luiz Oosterbeek served as organizer of several structures for archaeology and heritage in Portugal and beyond. Namely, he was a member of the installation commission of the former Portuguese Institute of Archaeology, in 1996, and the Secretary-General of the XV world congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, in 2006. Based on his view that the business-oriented approach of contemporary universities damages their long term resilience, he proposed and coordinates an international research network, the Instituto Terra e Memória, with members and activities in three continents and over ten countries. He won the European Commission Erasmus Prize 1994 (lecturers) and the European Commission Gold Prize 2008 for the Quality of the Organization of Mobility (Intensive Programmes of the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar).

Since the end of the 1990’s Luiz Oosterbeek started applying prehistoric archaeology models to assess contemporary issues of landscape management, leading to the presentation, since 2010, of a new framework of reference for integrated landscape management, currently applied in several contexts and the basis of an Erasmus+ strategic partnership named APHELEIA (apheleiaproject.org).

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