

Peking University Intensive Training Report

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Thanks to the Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Professor Sharon Wong for arranging this internship, I had the chance to learn more about archaeobotany in the Peking University in December 2015. I stayed in the Peking University for 12 days and learnt about the knowledge and techniques of floatation and species identification of archaeobotany remains in China under the guidance of Professor Qin Ling. The intensive training also equipped me the necessary knowledge and provided me related research materials to finish my Final Year Project, entitled *Case Study on Sai Kung Nam Pin Wai Archaeological Site: the Possibility of early cultivation during the Late Neolithic Period*. During the training, I tried to extract archaeobotanical remains from my own samples under the assistance of the graduated students in Peking University. The graduated students also generously provided their research samples for me to practise the techniques.

Professor Dorian Q Fuller from University College London in UK visited Peking University and presented a series of lectures about the recent research and development of the origins of agriculture and archaeobotany during my training period. I attended six lectures and learnt about worldwide archaeobotany research, including the research in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Middle East. Moreover, the

lectures provided me insights into the current research trend, potential development of archaeobotany, and how archaeobotany can serve in cross disciplinary subjects. Prof. Qin Ling and Prof. Dorian Q Fuller also commented on the preliminary findings of my Final Year Project and talked about the limitations that I need to improve on.

In addition to the intensive training, I also got the opportunity to visit the Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology and the archaeological library in Peking University and collected some research materials for my Final Year Project. During the training, I observed the archaeobotany samples of a wide range of plant species in China. This experience strengthened my ability to identify the remains of plants in future archaeological studies.

The intensive training at Peking University was very fruitful. It did not only provide me the necessary knowledge for my Final Year Project research, but also broadened my understanding in the archaeobotany development in other regions. The experience in Peking University strengthened my determination to develop my expertise in the field of archaeology. Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers and graduates in Beijing who provided support and assistance to me during my intensive training at the Peking University.

(Edited by Esther Chok)