

# CAPOD Funding Report

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CAPOD

2023-2024

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Event /Course Title | From Bone to Ivory: Material I.D. Workshop, Cultural Objects Worked in Skeletal & Hard Tissue |
| Date of event       | March 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>   |

1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words): The event was a series of practical microscopy workshops where we worked with cultural materials worked in hard and skeletal tissue. This workshop was designed to teach participants how to ID the animals that materials are made out of after they have been heavily manipulated and worked out of their original form.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

- an appreciation of available identification techniques
- understanding of the chemistry and structure of different osseous and keratinous animal hard tissues used in artefacts including bone, antler, various species of ivory, horn, hoof, tortoiseshell, baleen, rhino horn and hornbill
- experience in recognizing the morphological features resulting from these structures
- experience of the use of reflected light microscopy for non-destructive identifications of worked tissues
- understanding of the meso and macro structural evidence needed to identify these materials and to differentiate between them e.g. bone from ivory, different species of ivory, horn from baleen and rhino horn,
- enhanced confidence in cataloguing objects, CITES and similar assessments
- an understanding of other materials used as substitutes, in imitation of or commonly confused with these animal tissues, including shell, coral and plastics.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

I was able to meet many people in the heritage sector and will be attending other similar events. Additionally, I am now qualified to more widely and accurately identify materials in museum collections which will help in the pursuit of a career in museum curation.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

The materials are in hard copy and are intended only for use by participants as this is the intellectual property of the lecturer, Sonia O'Connor.

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

See question 2

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

N/A