**From:** Victoria Sainsbury <[victoria.sainsbury@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:victoria.sainsbury@arch.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 30 November 2020 15:05  
**To:** Holmqvist, Elisabeth <[elisabeth.holmqvist@helsinki.fi](mailto:elisabeth.holmqvist@helsinki.fi)>  
**Subject:** Archaeometry Special Issue-Re-Thinking Recycling in the Past

Dear Dr Holmqvist,

We would like to personally invite you to contribute to an (online only) Archaeometry Special Issues on the subject of Re-Thinking Recycling in the Past. We were very intrigued by your paper in JAS about grog in the Baltic Sea Region, and the cross-site connections/ trade seen in some of your grog inclusions. We were wondering if you would consider a paper on grog in the context of recycling and/or reuse, in this or other contexts? If you are interested in taking up this invitation, please let us know by the 15th of December.

In the modern world, the practice of recycling has undoubtedly become one of the most important strategies to build a long-term sustainable society. However, both the perception and practice of recycling can be traced back into prehistory through the archaeological record. The motivations were likely diverse, and much broader than the economic driver which largely underpins recycling in the modern world. Objects made of stone, jade, mortar, textiles, pottery and bones display evidence of physical reshaping and repair, as do objects of metal and glass. Metal and glass, as materials which can be melted and recast, further freed ancient people from the limitations of the physical form of the original object. This mutability can fundamentally alter what remains in the archaeological record. Illustrating and understanding patterns of recycling and the underlying social organization can significantly advance our knowledge of ancient people, their economic, political and cultural motivations for recycling, as well as the broader interaction between the social and material world.

Although the issue of recycling is not novel in the discussions and debates within archaeology, new theoretical frameworks, methodologies and archaeometric data encourage us to revisit the topic in this special issue. We will invite a series of papers to contribute to (but are not necessarily limited to) the following aspects:

1. Methodological discussions on how to distinguish recycled materials from non-recycled ones: key challenges, practical applications and new types of evidence.

 2. Theoretical discussions on how to relate the choice of recycling to the broader social, political, economic and cultural matrix.

3. New data and case studies contributed to long-term debate on recycling in crucial regions or periods.

Final manuscript submission deadline: 1st March 2021

We hope you will consider contributing to this edition.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria

Dr Victoria Sainsbury

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