



# 15th European Maya Conference Maya Society and socio-territorial organisation



29 November - 4 December 2010  
Madrid, Spain

The 15th European Maya Conference will be held in Madrid, Spain, from 29 November – 4 December 2010. The meeting that is organised by the *Sociedad Española de Estudios Mayas* in cooperation with the *Museo de América* and the *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* will combine a three-and-a-half day long Maya Hieroglyphic Workshop (29 November – 3 December) and a symposium (3 – 4 December).

## SYMPOSIUM

The theme of this year's conference will be: "**Maya Society and Socio-Territorial Organisation**".

In recent years, the structure and internal organisation of Maya society has been the subject of animated discussion. Various explanatory models have been proposed, ranging from simple forms of organisation, which comprise two basic integrated segments of nobility and commoners, to more complex systems that incorporate other ranks and social segments; there are further proposals that –not necessarily antagonistic but rather complementary– suggest a structure based on hierarchical pyramids and heterarchic webs. The categorisation of Maya social structure is only the first step in the exploration of a much richer universe, in which other elements such as territory, economy, beliefs and rituals define essential dimensions that need to be taken into account. Social groups are distributed in space in residential patterns and different levels of clusters, occupying the territory, while at the same time providing order and meaning. Within this territory the social groups change into economic agents of production and consumption at different scales that ultimately form the political entity.

To acquire a better understanding of this important topic, we hope to discuss a wide range of questions during the symposium, including the description and discussion of Maya social structure and its proposed models of interpretation, the kinship system, the role of descent groups, the mechanisms of inheritance and succession, strategies of integration and relation between different social segments (rituals, alliances, marriages, visits, administration), the spatial expression of social groups (settlement patterns, grouping of domestic groups within major economic-administrative units in urban contexts, and the establishment of hierachical webs and heterarchies), as well as society and economy. All these topics may be addressed in synchronic or diachronic perspective.

Invited keynote speakers will cover the conference theme from the different perspectives of the disciplines that make up Maya Studies, including archaeology, epigraphy, iconography, physical anthropology, ethnohistory and ethnology. Keynote speakers will include: Stephen Houston (Brown University), Rodrigo Liendo Stuardo (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Simon Martin (University of Pennsylvania Museum), Dominique Michelet, Marie-Charlotte Arnaud & Philippe Nondédéo (CNRS, Université de Paris 10), William Ringle (Davidson College), Mario Humberto Ruz Sosa (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), David Stuart (University of Texas at Austin), Vera Tiesler & Andrea Cucina (Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán), and Andrés Ciudad, Pepa Iglesias, Jesús Adánez, Pedro Pitarch & Alfonso Lacadena (Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Wayeb Conference Board invites the submission of abstracts concerning the conference topic. Papers will be selected from all subdisciplines of Maya Studies to cover the topic in all dimensions and from various perspectives. Presentations will be accepted in English and Spanish. Abstracts may not exceed 250 words. Contributions of authors who submit more than one abstract (including co-authored papers) will not be considered. Co-authorship needs to be indicated upon submission.

Please submit in electronic format (Word attachment) in the following order:

1. Author's name and affiliation
2. Address, Phone Number and email address
3. Title of Paper
4. Abstract

The abstracts will be forwarded without the author's particulars to an anonymous Review Committee that will be selected by the Wayeb Conference Board.

#### MAYA HIEROGLYPHIC WORKSHOP

The conference will be preceded by a three-day long hieroglyphic workshop. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced workshops will be available. All groups will be taught and supervised by experienced tutors. Tuition will be available in English and Spanish (at Beginners level). The workshop includes introductory lectures by Alfonso Lacadena (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and Simon Martin (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology).

There will be separate registration available for both events.

For more information, please contact the [ConferenceBoard@wayeb.org](mailto:ConferenceBoard@wayeb.org) or the local organisers in Madrid [emc2010@wayeb.org](mailto:emc2010@wayeb.org).

Organisers in Madrid: Andrés Ciudad, Alfonso Lacadena, Pepa Iglesias, Jesús Adánez, Ana García Barrios, Rocío García Valgañón, Auxi Zamora, Florencia Scandar, Cristina Badia, Gloria Puigmal, Laya Cabrerizo, Carmen Palacios, Nacho Cases.