



# BEYOND THE TREE

A JOURNEY INTO THE TRADITIONS OF EGYPTIAN WOODCRAFT

Programme and Abstracts  
12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Ifao



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Study Day

## **Beyond the Tree**

A Journey into the Traditions of Egyptian Woodcraft

Thursday 12 June 2025, 9:00 AM  
Institut français d'archéologie orientale  
Free Entry

# Programme

12 June 2025 - Ifao, Cairo

9h-9h30	Registration
9h30	Opening : Pierre Tallet (Director of the Ifao)
9h45	Gersande Eschenbrenner Diemer (University of Jaén): <i>"Beyond the Tree : presentation of the project"</i>
10h-11h	Keynote lecture by Geoffrey Killen (Independent researcher-Furniture Historian): <i>"Beyond the tree, the processing of wood and the use of working drawings to manufacture products designed to meet the needs of ancient Egyptian society"</i>
11h-11h30	Helen Strudwick (Fitzwilliam Museum), Julie Dawson (Fitzwilliam Museum) and Sara Hany Abed (Fitzwilliam Museum): <i>"Ancient Woodworking: Connecting Contemporary Communities"</i>
11h30-12h	Coffee break
12h-12h30	Hala Barakat (Independent researcher-archeobotanist): <i>"Humans and Nature: The Cultural, Environmental, and Nurturing Role of Trees in Egypt"</i>
12h30-13h	Nesrin El Hadidi (Cairo University) and Rim Hamdy (Cairo University): <i>"The Cairo University Herbarium: Living Records of the Past"</i>
13h-14h	Lunch break
14h-14h30	Hind Mostafa (Nadim Foundation): <i>"The Artifact Whisperers; Towards an Understanding of the Wooden Artifacts of Historic Cairo"</i>
14h30-15h	Dina Bakhom (Associate Researcher, Ifao & Cedej): <i>"Restoring Coptic and Islamic wooden elements in Egypt. Conserving authenticity? Conserving values?"</i>
15h-15h30	Sibylle Emerit (CNRS UMR 5189, HiSoMA): <i>"Pharaonic Wooden Harps and Craft Techniques: Methodological Insights"</i>
15h30-16h	Coffee break

- 16h-16h30 Maria Victoria Asensi Amorós (Egyptologist/ Wood Micrograph Expert, Xylodata): *"Wood and Musical Instruments in Ancient Egypt"*
- 16h30-17h Kawkab Tawfik (Ifao & Cedej): *"ASWAT : Daqqat al-zār: From Wood to Sacred Beat. The spiritual life of zār Egyptian frame drums"*
- 17h-17h30 Salvatore Morra (University of Cambridge): *"Crafting with wood: the "Egyptian" 'ūd of the Horniman Museum in London"*
- 17h30-17h45 **Conclusions**
- 17h45-18h15 **Demonstration of woodworking tools' use by Geoffrey Killen**
- 18h30 **Opening of the Exhibition Beyond the Tree with the presence of wood artisans from the Nile Valley**
- 19h30 **ASWAT concert : Zar rhythms and percussion with the Abou Gheit Ensemble**





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