

RADIOCARBON UPDATES

Internet Resources

Received from Caitlin Buck of Cardiff University:

The School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom, would like to invite readers of *Radiocarbon* to make use of BCal, the first online Bayesian radiocarbon calibration service, at

<http://bcal.cf.ac.uk/>

The Bayesian framework is acknowledged as offering considerable benefits over traditional calibration methods as it allows the integration of prior relative chronological information along with radiocarbon evidence to arrive at coherent and integrated archaeological interpretations.

BCal can be accessed from any computer on the Internet with a frame-enabled Web browser (e.g. Netscape 2 or above) and is not dependent on the power of the user's machine, since all calculations are undertaken on the dedicated BCal server.

We believe that this is the first example of a site offering online Markov chain Monte Carlo Bayesian data analysis, and we encourage the international research community to take advantage of the resources we are able to offer.

BCal is available for use free of charge by members of the international academic research community and for a small fee by individuals, institutions, and companies who wish to use it for commercial purposes. Please do visit the site and register as a user. We will be glad to share our resources with you and to hear of the results of your research.

Grant Award

Received from NERC:

NERC Grant Award GR3/JIF/01: An Accelerator Mass Spectrometer Facility for ^{14}C and Cosmogenic Isotope Analysis Applications: £3,912,303.00.

In July 1998 the outcome of discussions between the Governors of the Wellcome Trust and the United Kingdom's Chancellor of the Exchequer was to create a joint fund of £1.4 billion to provide a programme towards addressing the infrastructure problems of the universities. This Joint Infrastructure Fund (JIF) has targeted the biological, physical, engineering and social sciences, and is administered through the relevant Research Councils. It provides for buildings, major equipment and other elements of infrastructure of the universities.

Under the direction of Professor Tony Fallick (Director of Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre), a successful bid was made to the JIF by the Scottish radiocarbon dating community (Drs Doug Harkness, Gordon Cook, Marian Scott and Charlotte Bryant), together with the wider cosmogenic isotope community (Prof. Mike Summerfield, Dr Dick Kroon and Dr Sarah Metcalfe from the University of Edinburgh and Prof. Paul Bishop and Dr Colin Braithwaite from the University of Glasgow) to establish an AMS facility for applied research in ^{14}C and other cosmogenic isotopes.

Birth Announcement

Irka and Wojtek Hajdas are pleased to announce the arrival of their baby boy, Jon Stanislaw, born on 13 November 1999.