

Tomasz Michalik

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I am an archaeologist and cognitive scientist interested in the psychological aspects of creation and the acquisition of knowledge about the past. I am particularly focused on cultural differences in engaging with archaeological remains and on research that supports best practices in the visual analysis of archaeological data. I use eye-tracking as my primary research method.

Education

- 2016 PhD in Archaeology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan; Doctoral thesis title: *Archaeologist – archaeological data – knowledge. Cognitive processing in archaeology from the perspective of visual turn*
 - 2011-2015 PhD studies, Language, Society, Technology & Cognition programme (specialization: Cognitive Linguistics), Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan
 - 2008-2013 MA studies in Cognitive-Science, Institute of Psychology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan
 - 2005-2010 MA studies in Archaeology, Institute of Prehistory, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan
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Experience

- 2021 – present, Assistant Professor, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw; position within the *Excellence Initiative – Research University Programme* (main responsibilities: conducting research on the psychological aspects of creation and the acquisition of knowledge about the past)
 - 2019-2021 engineering and technical specialists, Documentation Archiving Department, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (main responsibilities: digitization and processing of archive materials from Polish excavations in the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Africa)
 - 2018 field instructor, Slavia Field School in Mortuary Archaeology, Drawsko, Poland (main responsibilities: teaching excavation and documentation techniques)
 - 2017-2018 museum assistant, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Oświęcim (main responsibilities: development of GIS-based dataset of archaeological excavations in former Concentration Camp, participation in excavations, conducting historical studies for Global Conservation Plan project)
 - 2016-2017 research specialist, Research Department, Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw (main responsibilities: coordinating and developing research aimed at understanding the factors influencing the engagement with interactive STEM exhibitions)
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Projects

- 2021 – present: *Psychological aspects of creating and acquiring knowledge about the past* (primary investigator, project founder: Excellence Initiative – Research University Programme, University of Warsaw)
- 2019-2023 *Soba – the heart of the kingdom of Alwa. The spatial organization of medieval capital city on the Blue Nile* (head of archaeological excavations in the project led by Dr. Mariusz Drzewiecki, PCMA UW, project founder: National Science Centre)
- 2016–2017 *What determines the style of visiting museums and science centers? The influence of students' scientific capital on attitudes during visiting* (substantive care for research conducted within the project led by dr Ilona Howiecka-Tańska Copernicus Science Centre; project founder: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage)
- 2015–2016 *Perception of the past by people with intellectual disabilities* (conducting psychological research, project founder: Faculty of History AMU)
- 2014 *Collective Memory, Collective Identity and Urban Landscape: A Case Study of Poznań*, (carrying out historical queries in the project led by prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Fabiszak FA AMU, project founder: National Science Centre)

Skills

Eye tracking: Tobii Pro Glasses 3, SMI 250RED Languages: English (B2), German (B2)
Tobi Pro Lab, SMI Gaze

Statistics: SPSS, Jamovi Other programmes: QGIS, Agisoft Photoscan, Photoshop

Selected Presentations

- 2024 30th European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy; *Eye-tracking in archaeological education: How research on the visual perception of archaeological remains may enhance archaeological teaching*
 - 2023, The Visual Science of Art Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus; *Between mental and material heritage. Eye-tracking study on perception of medieval Nubian paintings from Old Dongola archaeological site*
 - 2023, 29th European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting, Belfast, Nord Ireland; *From Archaeological Site to Classroom: Eye-tracking as a tool to learn how to analyse archaeological remains and understand expert thinking*
 - 2023, The Ocean Below: Human Experiences and Material Culture of Freediving across Time and Space, Wasaw, Poland; *Vision[s] of the past. Short introduction to eye-tracking as a tool for research on perception of underwater heritage*
 - 2022, 15th International Conference for Nubian Studies, Warsaw, Poland; *Looking at medieval Soba. The use of the eye-tracking method in understanding the strategies of searching for archaeological objects on archaeological magnetic data*
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Media appearance

April
2024

National Geographic

<https://www.national-geographic.pl/artukul/eye-tracking-wbadaniach-sredniowiecznych-malowidel-w-sudanieunikatowe-badania-polskiego-archeologa-240410110815>
