



# BABAO Conference

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## **Dr Simon Underdown**

**Senior Lecturer in Biological Anthropology**

Dr Simon Underdown is Senior Lecturer in Biological Anthropology at Oxford Brookes University. His research focusses on the co-evolution of humans and disease and how patterns of human-disease interaction in the past can be used to reconstruct human evolutionary patterns and processes and especially the role played by diseases in shaping the adaptive environment during human evolution and the impact of disease exchange during contact between hominin species.

He has carried out fieldwork in Argentina and Chile (with a focus on Tierra del Fuego), Israel, the UAE, Oman & Jordan. His current work is focussed on southern Africa especially South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. He is a member of council of the Royal Anthropological Institute and was Vice President between 2012-15, former Chair of the Society for the Study of Human Biology, and a Research Associate of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at the University of Oxford.