Steps:

1. Upon receiving a request to review, please read SAFA’s reviewer guidelines (https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/reviewer_guidelines) and ethics (https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/reviewer_ethics), and navigate to the supplied URL in the invitation email to access the submission.

   [SAFA] Article Review Request

   safalakenny3@editor.journals.uj.ac.za 2021-11-17 09:40 AM (30 minutes ago)

   safalakenny3@editor.journals.uj.ac.za

   Based on your expertise and interest, we invite you to review the manuscript, "VARIATION IN HUNTING WEAPONRY FOR MORE THAN 300,000 YEARS: A TIP-CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA STUDY OF MIDDLE STONE AGE POINTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA," which has been submitted to Southern African Field Archaeology. The submitter’s abstract is inserted below.

   Please log into the journal web site by 2021-11-03 to indicate whether you will undertake the review or not, as well as to access the submission and to record your review and recommendation.

   The review itself is due 2021-11-17.

   Submission URL: https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/submission?aid=9080&revno=3&status=072902

   We thank you for considering this request, and trust that you will treat the invitation, the manuscript, and your review as confidential. Please see our reviewer guidelines (https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/reviewer_guidelines) and ethics (https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/reviewer_ethics).

   Kind regards,

   safalakenny3@editor.journals.uj.ac.za

   "VARIATION IN HUNTING WEAPONRY FOR MORE THAN 300,000 YEARS: A TIP-CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA STUDY OF MIDDLE STONE AGE POINTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA"

   Much has been written about Middle Stone Age hunting in southern Africa, yet there is no comprehensive overview for the development and use of stone-tipped hunting weapons. With this contribution, I use the tip-cross-sectional area (TCSA) method to hypothesize about variation in weapon-assisted hunting strategies for the last 300,000 years or more. I assess and build upon previous hypotheses generated from similar approaches, introducing a larger sample from across the region. By also bolstering the standard TCSA ranges for juvenile tips and stabilizing/thrusting spear tips with more experimental and ethno-historical material, the method’s interpretative reliability is increased. The results indicate a general trend through time towards smaller weapon tips up to reaching very thin, long tips during the MSA 4 glacial. Whereas light-weight javelins, similar to those used by African hunters today may have been in play since around 300,000 years ago, it remains uncertain whether speerthrowers and dart technology was used in southern Africa. Finally, I align the TCSA outcomes with climatic and demographic reconstructions and explore how human cognition intersects with technological adaptations such as the use of hunting weapons – demonstrating how the interplay between environment, demography, technology and cognition is integral to the development and understanding of Middle Stone Age weapon-assisted hunting strategies.

   Southern African Field Archaeology

2. Or, navigate to https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/safa/index and click ‘Submit a Review’.
3. You will be asked to register or login. New reviewers click ‘Register’ on the login page and complete the registration process (not shown here; once registration is complete, select ‘View Submissions’). Existing reviewers enter their username and password and click ‘Login’.

4. The SAFA ‘Submissions’ page will open. Please click ‘View’ to access the review request.
5. Note the due dates, and decide whether you have the necessary time and expertise to serve as reviewer before accepting or declining the review request.

Review: VARIATION IN HUNTING WEAPONRY FOR MORE THAN 300,000 YEARS: A TIP CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA STUDY OF MIDDLE STONE AGE POINTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

Request for Review

You have been selected as a potential reviewer of the following submission. Below is an overview of the submission, as well as the timeline for this review. We hope that you are able to participate.

Article Title
VARIATION IN HUNTING WEAPONRY FOR MORE THAN 300,000 YEARS: A TIP CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA STUDY OF MIDDLE STONE AGE POINTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

Abstract

Much has been written about Middle Stone Age hunting in southern Africa, yet there is no comprehensive overview for the development and use of stone-tipped hunting weapons. With this contribution, I use the tip cross-sectional area (TCSA) method to hypothesise about variation in weapon-assisted hunting strategies for the last 300,000 years or more. I assess and build onto previous hypotheses generated from similar approaches, introducing a larger sample from across the region. By also bolstering the standard TCSA ranges for javelin tips and stabbing/thrusting spear tips with more experimental and ethno-historical material, the method’s interpretative robusticity is increased. The results indicate a general trend through time towards smaller weapon tips until reaching arrow-tip range during the MIS 4 glacial. Whereas light-weight javelins, similar to those used by African hunters today may have been in play since almost 200,000 years ago, it remains uncertain whether spearthrower-and-dart technology was used in southern Africa. Finally, I align the TCSA outcomes with climatic and demographic reconstructions and explain how human cognition interacts with technological adaptations such as the use of hunting weapons – demonstrating how the interplay between environment, demography, technology and cognition is integral to the development and understanding of Middle Stone Age weapon-assisted hunting strategies.

Review Type
Anonymous Reviewer/Disclosed Author

View All Submission Details

Review Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Editor’s Request</th>
<th>Response Due Date</th>
<th>Review Due Date</th>
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6. Declare conflicts of interest, if applicable, and then accept or decline the request.

7. Reviewers who decline the request have the opportunity to state why in an email to the editor (e.g., lack of time, not your field of expertise, etc.), and suggest alternative reviewers.
8. Reviewers who accept the invite can consult the reviewer guidelines and ethics, and/or click ‘Continue to step 3’.
9. Click on the review files to download them. The online manuscript review form is below the review files. Note that you can exit the review workflow and logout the website at any stage (e.g., after downloading the files), and when logging back in later you will return to the same stage of the workflow.

![Review Files]

**Review: VARIATION IN HUNTING WEAPONRY FOR MORE THAN 300 000 YEARS: A TIP CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA STUDY OF MIDDLE STONE AGE POINTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA**

|-------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|

**Review Files**

- **FIELD manuscript.docx**
  - October 6, 2021
  - Word Manuscript File

- **Supplementary data.xlsx**
  - October 6, 2021
  - Supporting Online Material (Excel/Word files)

**Reviewer Guidelines**

**Manuscript review form**

Please complete the form and provide appropriate responses based on your review.

**Manuscript title: please paste the title of the paper you are reviewing below.**

- [ ]

**Subject of the manuscript: is the subject of the manuscript appropriate for publication in Southern African Field Archaeology?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unsure

**Subject of the manuscript: if 'no' or 'unsure', please provide a reason.**

- [ ]

**Assessment of potential impact: please provide an assessment of the potential impact of the manuscript by indicating it as of global (multi-continental), continental (Africa-wide), sub-continental (southern Africa), or local (within the country of origin) relevance.**

- [ ]

10. Once you are ready to submit your review, please login to access the submission. When completing the review form, note that certain questions require mandatory responses (those with an asterisk, see below) before the form can be submitted (e.g., inserting a review recommendation at the bottom of the form, assessing the subject of the manuscript, etc.).
11. Towards the end of the review form, you may also upload a review report (not compulsory).
12. Towards the bottom of the form, the review recommendation and justification sections need to be completed. Please refrain from selecting ‘Resubmit for Review’, ‘Resubmit Elsewhere’, and/or ‘See Comments’ under the recommendation dropdown list.
13. Please provide a justification for your recommendation following the guidelines below.

**Recommendation justification:** please provide your motivation/reasoning here.

* 

Your review recommendation must be selected from the dropdown list at the bottom of this page. Based on your recommendation, please complete your justification here as follows:

- **Concise motivations are required here** when selecting 'accept submission' and 'revisions required' (minor to moderate).
- **Thorough reasoning is required here** when selecting 'revisions required' (major) and 'decline submission'.

*Please refrain from selecting: 'Resubmit for Review', 'Resubmit Elsewhere' and/or 'See Comments'.*

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14. Click ‘Submit Review,’ then click ‘OK’ to confirm the submission.
15. The review process is now complete.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE REVIEWER WORKFLOW, PLEASE SEE: https://docs.pkp.sfu.ca/learning-ojs/en/reviewing