

**Véronique Forbes' thoughts for the
SAGES-NABO Meeting
March 26th**

What are the three most important issues we need to understand about human-environment interactions?

- 1) The 19th and early 20th century modernisation processes (urbanisation, technological advances, growth of capitalism, increased international trade, etc.) had a great and very rapid impact on the lives of the people that lived in the North Atlantic. The study of material culture, the built environment and biological remains preserved in archaeological contexts from latter periods could help us understand how the technological progress and the urbanisation processes of the 19th and early 20th century affected the daily practices of the people, in terms of farming methods, living standards and sanitary conditions.
- 2) Many Early Modern and Medieval sites which have been studied focused on middens and did not include the occupation deposits inside inhabited buildings. In consequence, there is a dearth of data to allow detailed interpretation of day-to-day practices and the organisation of the living space.
- 3) We need to include more environmental analyses (archaeobotany, archaeoentomology) in our studies of sites not only from earlier periods, but also from the Early Modern Period.

What are the biggest obstacles to developing inter-regional comparisons and synthesis?

Some periods and specific areas are still under-investigated, which means that there are still some gaps to fill in before we can obtain a broader picture of human-environment interactions in the North Atlantic. We need our research agendas to include more site-scale and regional studies that would cover the colonization period to the Modern Period. This would allow a better understanding of chronological and geographical variability of subsistence and resource management strategies and daily practices of past communities right up until the present day.