Simon J.M. Davis

Born: London, England, January 1950.

Graduated - Zoology, University College, London 1971.

PhD – Zoology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem [thesis title: *The large mammals of the Upper Pleistocene of Israel*].

My chief zooarchaeological interests are:

1. the use of mammal bones to reconstruct the palaeo-environment,
2. when, where and why were mammals domesticated and the subsequent
3. improvement of livestock and
4. osteometric methods to distinguish between closely related mammals.

I have worked mainly in England, Israel, Cyprus, Iran and Portugal and strongly believe in the importance of reference collections comprising securely identified skeletons.

My principal publications are:

1980 Late Pleistocene and Holocene equid remains from Israel.  *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* **70**, 289‑312

1981 The effects of temperature change and domestication on the body size of Late Pleistocene to Holocene mammals of Israel. *Paleobiology* **7**, 101‑114

1982 Climatic change and the advent of domestication: the succession of ruminant artiodactyls in the late Pleistocene‑Holocene in the Israel region. *Paléorient* **8**, 5‑15

1983 Morphometric variation of populations of House mice (*Mus domesticus*) in Britain and Faroe. *Journal of Zoology*, London **199**, 521‑534

1984 The advent of milk and wool production in western Iran: some speculations. In: Grigson, C. and Clutton‑Brock, J. (eds) *Animals and Archaeology*. pp. 265‑278. Oxford, British Archaeological Reports, International series **202**

1987 *The Archaeology of animals*. London, Batsford (and New Haven, Yale University)

1989 Why did prehistoric people domesticate food animals? In: Bar Yosef, O. and Vandermeersch, B. (eds.), *Investigations in south Levantine prehistory*. pp. 43‑59. Oxford, BAR International Series **497**

1993 (with Sebastian Payne) A barrowful of cattle skulls. *Antiquity* **67**, 12-22

1996 (with Umberto Albarella) Mammals and birds from Launceston Castle, Cornwall: decline in status and the rise of agriculture. *Circaea* **12**, 1-156

1999 (with John Beckett) Animal husbandry and agricultural improvement: the archaeological evidence from animal bones and teeth. *Rural History* **10**, 1-17

2000 The effect of castration and age on the development of the Shetland sheep skeleton and a metric comparison between bones of males, females and castrates *Journal of Archaeological Science* **27**, 373-390

2002 The mammals and birds from the Gruta do Caldeirão, Portugal. *Revista Portuguesa de Arqueologia* 5, 29-98

2005 Why domesticate food animals? Some zoo-archaeological evidence from the Levant. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **32**, 1408-1416

2008 Zooarchaeological evidence for Moslem and Christian improvements of sheep and cattle in Portugal. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **35** (4), 991-1010

2012 (with Emma Svensson, Umberto Albarella, Cleia Detry, Anders Götherström, Elisabete Pires and Catarina Ginja) Molecular and osteometric sexing of cattle metacarpals: a case study from 15th century AD Beja, Portugal. *Journal of Archaeological Science*. London. 39 (5), 1445-1454.

In preparation: Neolithic mammal bones excavated between 1977 and 2007 at Khirokitia, Cyprus – stasis and change on an oceanic island