

# Preliminary results from excavations at Cerro de Oro: a monumental settlement in the coast of Peru



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With over 150 ha of intricate adobe architecture and 1000 years of occupation covering its surface, Cerro de Oro is a unique example of early urbanism in the south coast of Peru. Located on a mound overlooking the close-by agricultural areas and the Pacific Ocean, the site seems to have played a pivotal role in prehistoric politics of the area. Although the site presents multiple layers of complex cultural depositions, these occupations seem to have been spatially divided. In this sense, my research is particularly focused on the remains associated to the period between 500-800 A.D., concentrated in the southern part of the site. This period seems to have witnessed that largest construction project at the site, revealed by a standardization of materials, orientation and layout. After a successful pilot research carried out at site during this summer I am eager to present my preliminary results and fresh research questions, as well as receive feedback in preparation for my second research season.

*Francesca Fernandini is a third year PhD archaeology student at Stanford University. She has centered her research on Andean complex societies and has worked in the Altiplano, the coast and highlands of Peru, and has Co-Directed for several seasons a project in the Nasca drainage. Her research is focused on how imperial formations trigger a globalized context where the easy access to powerful ideological elements allows for meanings to be reshaped within local historical trajectories. She aims to provide an integrative and flexible perspective on practical politics and power relations that shift its focus from imperial dichotomies onto the everyday processes that lie behind cultural change.*

**Monday**  
**October 15th, 2012, 12:00-1:05 pm**  
**Conference Room, Building 50, Room 51A**



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