



Communication and Marketing Department  
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso  
Kommunikasie en Bemakingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa  
La Grotto House, Glendarrach Rd, Rondebosch, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650-3733/2, Fax: +27 (0) 21 650-5682  
Internet: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)

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## **The sword in the stone: UCT research documents ancient human movement in Garden Route cave complex**

A well-dated cave complex at Pinnacle Point in the Garden Route contains a rich archaeological record of human occupation covering most of the known chronological range of the Middle Stone Age. This is according to University of Cape Town student Kyle Brown. According to his PhD thesis, *The sword in the stone: lithic raw material exploitation in the Middle Stone Age at Pinnacle Point site 5-6, Southern Cape, South Africa*, this locality represents one of the most important archaeological sites in southern Africa in the Middle Stone Age (about 280,000 to 40,000 years Before Present). Brown's thesis represents a comprehensive analysis of the stone artefacts from the site.

Brown's research is part of the large interdisciplinary project that is excavating localities in this region (the Southern African Coast Paleoclimate, Paleoenvironment, Paleoecology, and Paleoanthropology Project, or SACP4). The holistic nature of the SACP4 project allowed him to develop a detailed understanding of the dynamics of ancient human movement on the South Coast of South Africa between 44,000 and 90,000 years ago. The research reported in this thesis represents Brown's singular contribution and stands alone as a unique and significant contribution to the study of stone artefacts as a whole and specifically of South African paleoanthropology.

Brown received his Master's in Anthropology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, in the US. He began doing research at UCT's Archaeology Department in 2008. He has been the research coordinator for an international project based at Mossel Bay. His research has recently been published in such high-profile journals as *Science*. His PhD in Archaeology was supervised by Dr David Brown.

**ENDS**

**Please note:** Information in this release is based on the supervisor's citation for the PhD thesis. UCT advises journalists to obtain a copy of the thesis and/or interview the PhD graduate to verify and expand on this information.

*Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department*

**Patricia Lucas**

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: **076 292 8047**

E-mail: [paf.lucas@uct.ac.za](mailto:paf.lucas@uct.ac.za)

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)