My project: Death is another country

My research examines the funerary behavior in the region of Fazzan, particularly trying to explain the variability and diversity in the Garamantian rituals related to death and burial and its relation to the creation and maintenance of cultural identity and social memory.

Memory, Identity and the Dead

Mortuary rituals are drawn on previous practices and memories are enacted through similarities. Cemeteries and funerary monuments act as physical memories; they become the focus of rituals and tie them to the social memory. The analysis of the cemeteries, place (structures) and burial rituals linked with death provides information on the cultural identity of contemporary communities in the Garamantian period with their own set of cultural and social values which may have been transmitted through the funerary record.

Materiality of Death

Death is universal and there is the need to deal with the emotional and physical aspects of death, including the disposal of the deceased. This means the place of the dead, the burial of the individual and the assemblages. All these can be understood in relation to memory and identity.