



Zoila Luz EPOSSI NTAH

Home Country
Cameroon

Degree
PhD in Archaeometry

Expertise
Chemistry

Research Focus
**Production
Techniques of
Neolithic Ceramics in
Cameroon**

Host University
**University of Leipzig,
Germany**

Fellowship Awarded
2008

Zoila Luz Epossi Ntah is from Cameroon in central Africa, where for several years she has been teaching courses in physical sciences (chemistry and physics) at the Lycée de Nkolbisson secondary school. She obtained her Secondary School Teacher Certificate and her Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies (the equivalent of a Master of Science degree in the English-speaking university system) from the University of Yaounde in Cameroon, where she is registered as a PhD student.

She is now pursuing her doctorate in Archaeometry at the Institute of Mineralogy, Cristallography and Material Science at the University of Leipzig in Germany. Her research objective is to understand the production of ancient ceramics (pottery) using analytical methods. In Cameroon the ceramics industry has had a long history, and the richness of pottery artefacts in archaeological sites provides great opportunities for research.

Using non-destructive and destructive analytical methods to study ancient and current pottery sherds, Zoila looks at properties such as mineralogy, microstructure, firing temperature, age, methods for forming and polishing, and mechanical properties as well as their use as ornaments. Raw materials are examined for chemical and mineralogical composition and thermal decomposition along with physical properties such as mineralogy and microstructure of the fired products.

In her studies of more recent pottery, Zoila examines such things as technology of production, structure and use, looking for correlations between ancient and recent pottery and the raw materials used. Her research, which focuses on the cultural heritage of her country, requires a great deal of cooperation between natural scientists, chemists and archaeologists and is useful in archaeological studies.

Zoila plans to teach in her home country of Cameroon at the University of Yaounde or at the University of Douala.