Prehistoric farming settlements in the northern Kalahari and their relationship to southern Africa’s first kingdoms

The stone-walled farming settlements near the present-day village of Mosu in Botswana are one of several locations throughout southern Africa that appear to have sprung into existence at the end of the first millennium AD. Initial farming settlements in the subcontinent had concentrated along the eastern coastline and related waterways. This expansion of the ninth and tenth centuries into much drier environments preceded the florescence of some of sub-Saharan Africa’s first state-level societies, so what can the Mosu-area settlements tell us about the trade and migration processes that may have been taking place throughout southern Africa?