



2nd VIRTUAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND PALEONTOLOGISTS

From Neogene to Neolithic: approaches on past climates, environments and populations.

After the successful first edition of the Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists & Paleontologists the 8th-9th March 2021 which brought together around 210 people from 19 countries around the world for two really interesting days (39 talks, 7 posters, 1 round-table), we are back this year with the same objective: to make visible the research of women researchers from our disciplines and to reflect on the problems that intersect us as women in science.

Last year we started from the premise that although there are much more women graduated in higher education, they are under-represented in the research community. The Covid-19 crisis particularly affected women in several areas, including research (Minello, 2020; Viglione, 2020) and their academic production was lower than that of their male colleagues (Viglione, 2020). New scientific research has confirmed this fact this year (Squazzoni *et al.*, 2021). During the pandemic, not only has our scientific production decreased, but that of our male colleagues has increased significantly, widening the already existing gap (Squazzoni *et al.*, 2021). In addition, given the scope that the congress had last year, we want this scientific event to be accessible (as an audience) to everyone, as we are aware of the difficulties that many researchers from other countries are going through and their difficulty to access scientific events in many occasions (Valenzuela-Toro and Viglino, 2021). Therefore, this second edition will also be **free of charge and held online**.

As last year, we would like to offer **young and early career women researchers (those not holding a permanent position: from Master students to Postdoctoral fellows)** in Archaeology and Paleontology an opportunity to gain visibility by presenting recent developments in their research works. In Archaeology as in Paleontology, the revision of ancient assemblages, recent discoveries, as well as the development of innovative methodologies, make it possible to question and update old paradigms. As researchers and professionals of these disciplines, our work contributes daily to the renewal of knowledge about past species and the environments in which they live and evolve. This scientific event also gives us the opportunity to share and combine our approaches between both disciplines.

This second edition will take place on the **7th and 8th March 2022**, by videoconference, and we would like to invite proposals of the recent contributions of young and/or early career women researchers to the study of vertebrate populations and their relationships (including those between humans and other species), as well as to the study of raw materials, past environments, climates, taphonomy and

development of new methodologies, **from Neogene to Neolithic (a play on words by combining both disciplines)**.

We propose to organize this congress around several axes:

1. DYNAMICS OF POPULATIONS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Studies focusing on biotic and abiotic components of past environments and their change over time and space. This session includes studies that characterize species and populations (e.g. taxonomy, paleogenomics, ...), taphonomical analyses of archaeo/paleontological sites, landscapes (e.g. paleoenvironments/habitats/landscape genetics), climates (e.g. paleoclimate, isotope studies), but also understanding of raw materials procurement strategies, and animal biogeography and mobility.

2. TRACKING FUNCTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTS.

Studies focusing on understanding the relationships between environmental and ecological factors and morphofunctional, physiological or behavioral variations among past vertebrate (including human) species or populations. This session can include studies on subsistence strategies and raw material exploitation, mobility, form/function relationships (e.g. biomechanics such as feeding and locomotion, ecomorphology, tool use and function) or life history traits under selective pressures.

3. DEVELOPPING ACTUALISTIC OR EXPERIMENTAL FRAMEWORKS, AND ACCOUNTING FOR BIASES AND LIMITS IN PAST RECORDS

Studies focusing on understanding and accounting for biases and limits in the archaeological/paleontological record, as well as on the development of actualistic and referential frameworks to improve our knowledge about past populations and environments. This session includes studies focusing on, for example, new statistical methods, methodological biases, experimental frameworks to better understand taphonomic processes, artefacts or ecological proxies, as well as methodological comparisons and exploration/application of new methods and analytical tools, or insights from other disciplines with several applications in both archaeology and paleontology.

As last year, the registrations are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

For this second edition, your contributions could take one of the following formats:

- **Regular talk:** 15 minutes, ideally including 10 minutes of presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions.

- **Flash talk:** 5 minutes, 3 to 5 slides. We encourage our colleagues presenting research plans or who only have very preliminary results to preferentially submit their work in this format.

During the two-day meeting, each speaker (both regular and flash talk) will also have a room on **Discord** in order to deepen, if necessary, the exchanges with the public and to share content.

In order to give even more visibility to your work, as last year (https://www.canal-u.tv/producteurs/universite_toulouse_ii_le_mirail/colloques/1st_virtual_conference_for_women_archaeologists_and_paleontologists), we are currently considering the possibility of recording the presentations of the speakers who wish to do so and putting them online.

If you are a young/ early career woman researcher (**not holding a permanent position: from Master students to Postdoctoral fellows**) and you wish to present your work at this event, you will find all the information relative to the submissions (including a template for your abstract) and much more on the website of the VCWAP : <https://womenpaleoarch.sciencesconf.org/> (Login>My Space>My submissions). Please, keep in mind that:

Abstract submissions will be done on the website.

The deadline for the submission of your abstract is: now open until **31/12/2021 at midnight (Paris Time Zone)**.

Please bear in mind that the slots are limited.

This year, thanks to the **sponsorship of Transmitting Science** (<https://www.transmittingscience.com/>) we will give a **prize to the best presentation** (Regular talks). The prize consists of a **Transmitting Science course of the winner's choice**. It can either be an online or in-person course (in case of the in-person course, registration fee is covered but travel expenses, accommodation and meal expenses are the responsibility of the participant).

Although from the organization we prefer live talks, if you have any internet issues, you can send us your recorded presentation and then answer questions and participate in the discord room enabled for you. For those whose time zone difference is important, we will have a special consideration to adapt the timing of your talk to the local time in the country where you live. Please, provide us with this information when you submit your abstract.

The 7th of March, we will end the day with a **round table**. The topic of this year's round table will be the "Impostor Syndrome" (to be confirmed).

If you would like to attend this event as an audience, **please fill out the form on the website of the VCWAP**: <https://womenpaleoarch.sciencesconf.org/> (Login>My Space>My registration)

Registration deadline for the audience: now open until **28/02/2022 at midnight (Paris Time Zone)**.

A certificate will be provided to all speakers upon request to justify their participation in this congress.

The link and connection code to access communications will be provided a few days before the event.

For any request or further information, please contact the organizing team at the following address, specifying «question» in the subject line of your email: congressarcheopaleo@gmail.com



@ women_archeopal // Web: womenpaleoarch.sciencesconf.org

Bibliography:

Minello, A., 2020. The pandemic and the female academic. *Nature*.
Valenzuela-Toro, A.M & Viglino M. 2021. How Latin American researchers suffer in Science. *Nature* 598, 374-375
Viglione, G., 2020. Are women publishing less during the pandemic? Here's what the data say. *Nature* 581, 365-366.

Squazzoni F, Bravo G, Grimaldo F, García-Costa D, Farjam M, Mehmani B (2021) Gender gap in journal submissions and peer review during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. A study on 2329 Elsevier journals. *PLoS ONE* 16(10)

