

# Conference on the Environmental Archaeology of European Cities



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium  
May 27-29, 2015

## Call for papers

**RATIONALE AND AIMS.** In the last decades there has been a significant increase in the use of environmental studies within urban archaeological contexts. Today, it can be stated that the full potential of the existing environmental archaeological approaches is not yet always reached. Therefore, the aim of the present conference is to assemble researchers (archaeologists, historians, geoarchaeologists, physical anthropologists, archaeozoologists and archaeobotanists) working on urban archaeology to share their experiences, to explore the development of their disciplines and to discuss how results from different approaches can be more fully integrated.

### MAIN THEMES

**1. Complexity: urban site formation.** The advancements of environmental archaeological techniques in the last decade relevant to urban archaeological studies will be considered in the light of:

- Site stratigraphy and formation; “Dark Earths” and micro-stratified deposits (such as floor levels), often an important part of the urban stratigraphy;
- The urbanisation process;
- The integration of new methods and tools into the archaeological field work, from multi-disciplinarity to integrated research.

**2. Urban economy.** Economic activities and their spatial distribution throughout the city especially:

- Food production within the city (extent of agro-pastoral activities), trade and the exchanges with the hinterland;
- Artisanal activities and the pollution they might have caused.

**3. The personal life.** How did people live in the cities? More specifically:

- Evidence of health, diet, social status and general quality of life; hygiene
- Social stratification as indicated by diet;
- Burial practices.

**4. Urban environment.** The physical urban environment and its changes through time will be explored:

- Physical urban landscape and its changes (e.g. changes in relief and topography);
- Reconstruction of the local vegetation, fauna and other aspects of the environment in cities;
- The evolution of the hydrographic network associated with cities and its impact on the formation, development and functioning of the urban environment;
- Waste management.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

At present, the following invited persons have accepted to give a lecture:

### theme 1: Complexity: urban site formation

- **Gian Pietro Brogiolo and Alexandra Chavarria** (University Padua): "The archaeology of the Early medieval city: state of research and future perspectives".
- **Antonia Huyzendveld-Arnoldus**: "The landscape environment of Rome in Antiquity"

### theme 2: Urban economy

- **Chris Dyer** (University of Leicester): "Historical and archaeological evidence for the rural hinterlands of medieval English towns"
- **Cleia Detry** (University of Lisbon): "Is there a difference between the capital and smaller villages in Roman Lusitania"
- **Anna-Elena Reuter** (RGK-Mainz/Kiel University): "Walnuts, Grapevine and Rye - Urban Food Production and Consumption of the Early Byzantine City Caricin Grad "Justiniana Prima" (Southern Serbia)"

### theme 3: the personal life

- **Gundula Müldner** (University Reading): "The Personal Life: Bioarchaeological Perspectives on City Living"
- **Sheila Hamilton-Dyer** (Bournemouth University): "Fish, fur and feather: exploitation of wild animals in medieval Novgorod"
- **Koen Deforce** (Onroerend Erfgoed): "A taphonomic mix up - The interpretation of pollen spectra from medieval and post medieval cesspits"
- **Julian Wiethold** (INRAP): "Archaeobotanical approaches to late medieval and early modern diet and plant use - examples from Metz (France) and Lüneburg (Germany)".

### theme 4: the urban environment

- **Richard Hoffmann** (York University, Toronto): "At the crossroads inside the wall: environmental perspectives on urban archaeology"
- **Jaromir Benes** (University of South Bohemia): "From rural landscape to the royal urbanisation. Changing environment of Prague from the Early Medieval period to the Early Modern times"
- **Aldona Mueller-Bienek** (Polish Academy of Sciences): "The origin of plant remains in medieval town layers as a key to reconstruction of local vegetation"
- **Roos van Oosten** (University of Groningen): "Dealing with surplus production of human faeces from towns during the pre-industrial period in the Low Countries"

## REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We are now accepting submission of abstracts for individual papers and posters to be presented during the conference. One-page abstracts (300 words) for oral or poster presentations should be submitted before **November 18, 2014**, through following link:

<https://www.naturalsciences.be/science/ceaec/form>

Confirmation of acceptance of presentations and posters will be communicated by November 28, 2014.

### Registration Fees:

- early bird registration, before March 15, 2015: regular participant € 120 / students: € 100
- normal registration after March 15, 2015: regular participant and student: € 180

Registration includes the conference itself, lunches, welcome reception and refreshments during breaks.

## LOCATION

The meeting will take place in the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels. More information on: <http://www.naturalsciences.be/>

## ACCOMODATION

There are many hotels in Brussels in all categories, including youth hostels and B&B. 3 Stars hotels ([www.3starshotels.be](http://www.3starshotels.be)) provide 10% discount for the CEAC participants. For this you need to use the code "NATUUR2014", when entering your dates, then select the "CORPO rate".

More information can be found on the homepage of the conference

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

This workshop is organized by the Brussels Regional Public Service, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. The conference is also supported by the European Research Network BIOARCH and the Association of Environmental Archaeology.

### Scientific committee in alphabetical order

Laurent Bavay, CReA-Patrimoine, ULB, Belgium  
Ann Degraeve, Brussels Capital Region, Belgium  
Chloé Deligne, ULB, Belgium  
Anton Erynck, Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed, Belgium  
Roger Langohr, Universiteit Gent, Belgium  
Richard Macphail, UC London, UK  
Daniel Makowiecki, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland  
Elena Marinova, KU Leuven & RBINS, Belgium  
Arturo Morales Muñoz, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain  
Philippe Rentzel, IPNA - Basel, Switzerland  
Marie-Pierre Ruas, CNRS, Paris, France  
Wim Van Neer, KU Leuven & RBINS, Belgium

### Local organising committee:

for the Brussels Capital Region: Ann Degraeve, Stéphane Demeter  
for the CReA-Patrimoine, ULB: Laurent Bavay, Yannick Devos, Cristiano Nicosia, Luc Vrydaghs  
for RBINS-KUL: Wim Van Neer, Elena Marinova, Clara Boffin, Lien Speleers, Kim Quintelier

## CONTACT ADDRESS

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Yannick Devos and Elena Marinova

All the information can be found also at the conference home page:

[www.naturalsciences.be/en/museum/agenda/item-view/607](http://www.naturalsciences.be/en/museum/agenda/item-view/607)

Please feel free to circulate this information among your colleagues or students to whom you think this conference would be of interest.