

## The 9<sup>th</sup> PZAF (Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum), Online, June 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

PZAF (Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum) is a conference organised by and for postgraduate students and early-career professionals dealing with human-animal relationships in the past. It has established itself as an important and dynamic forum for young researchers to share their work among their peers and gain experience in research presenting and debating. In 2017 it was accepted as an ICAZ (International Council of Archaeozoology) affiliated group.

The conference was established in 2009 at the University of Cardiff by dr Richard Madgwick. Since then, eight more meetings have been held (Paris, France 2010; Sheffield, UK 2012; London, UK 2014; Tarragona, Spain 2015; Torun, Poland 2017; Palermo, Italy 2018; Yerevan, Armenia 2019), with the 9th meant to be organised in Serbia, but held online in June 2021, due to Covid19 pandemic.

The conference was organised by postgraduate students of the Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia, represented by Dimitrije Marković and Teodora Mladenović. This year over 50 participants from 16 countries across three continents took part in the Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum. A total of five sessions was held over three days, with 27 presentations overall, which were grouped based on the researched period, with one being reserved for methodological papers.

After the opening remarks made by the conference hosts at the begging of the first day of the conference, two sessions were held. The first session was opened by a keynote lecture given by prof. Haskel Greenfield (University of Manitoba, Canada) talked about his zooarchaeological experiences in the Balkans and elsewhere. The session itself was focused on novel methodological approaches and included four pieces of research dealing with wide-ranging topics. The first lecture was presented by Jacob Griffith (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium), who talked about the importance of multidisciplinary in archaeology through the implementation of a multi-isotopic approach to understanding cattle husbandry practices in Scotland. Following him, Mauro Rizzetto (The American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece) proposed new methods for the morphometric distinction of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), relying on the collection of morphometric data taken from modern specimens of known species. Benjamin Wimmer (University of Sheffield, UK) shared his thoughts on the possibility of cattle teeth measurements being an indicator for sexual and breed differences in zooarchaeological material, while the first session was closed with Jessica Peto (Cardiff University, UK) sharing the results of her research concerning the digitalisation of the Iron Age dog skeleton found in a burial at the site of Cladh Hallan (Scotland), thus, pointing to the advantages of digitalisation of animal remains in zooarchaeological analyses.

The second session included works related to the periods of early prehistory, that is, from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic. Again, before the contributors shared their research, prof. Vesna Dimitrijević (University of Belgrade, Serbia) held her keynote lecture concerning Neolithic marine shell ornaments from Serbia, their usage and their significance in the Neolithic communities. The second session included a total of seven oral presentations. The opening one was given by Rosana Cerezo-Fernández (University of Salamanca, Spain), who shared the results of her research dealing with artefacts made from deer antlers which were found in the Upper Paleolithic layers of the Cave of Tito Bustillo (Spain). Apart from the regular typological analysis, she was able to reconstruct the “chaines operatories” of these artefacts. She was followed by Jovana Janković (University of Belgrade, Serbia), who tried to differentiate between human and carnivore activities in the Aurignacian layers of the Orlovača cave in Serbia, with the aim of understanding to which degree either of these groups was responsible for the accumulation of the bones. Satenik Mkrtchyan (Institute of Molecular Biology, National Academy of Sciences Armenia, Armenia) took us to the South Caucasus and presented the results of archaeozoological and taphonomical analyses of the Neolithic period animal remains from the Qarnitak cave and adjacent sites. After him, we were transported to South America, where Sebastian Yrarrazaval (Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Chile, Chile) talked about the results of combining taphonomic, stratigraphic, micromorphological, lithic and radiocarbon analyses to try and understand the nature of stone-built architectural features dated to the Late Archaic period (5700–4000 cal yr BC). Harley Burgis (Florida State University, USA) analysed molluscs to investigate human behaviour during the climatic changes of the Mid-Holocene period in Middle Tennessee (USA). The second lecturer from Croatia, Goran Tomac (University of Zagreb, Croatia), shared his research about the animal husbandry practices, diet and subsistence strategies in the Neolithic and Eneolithic periods of eastern Croatia. Finally, Vito Giuseppe Prillo (Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy) analysed and compared Neolithic faunal remains from the island of Ustica, near Sicily, with assemblages from Sicily itself and other adjacent islands. The aim was to try and illustrate the differences and similarities between the said assemblages, with emphasis on their ecological and geographic positions.

The second day of the conference was divided into two sessions, as well. The third session was focused on the late prehistoric periods and included five presentations. First of all, Chiara Messana (Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució IPHES – CERCA, Tarragona, Spain) gave an insight into sheep’s seasonal reproductive patterns on the northeastern Iberian Peninsula before the Roman influence, using the stable isotope analysis to characterize birth seasonality and the duration of the lambing period. Following her, Monika Opelkova (the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic) gave a lecture about the socio-economic significance of animals in the LaTène period layers of the settlement of Modlešovice in Bohemia (Czech Republic), later comparing it to other open-type settlements in the region. Daniel Malaxa (Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva, Romania) analysed animal remains from the site of Vețel-Luncă (Romania) dated to the periods between the Chalcolithic and the Iron Age, alongside a Post roman assemblage. The research was focused on trying to understand the similarities and differences between the diet and husbandry practices between the said periods. Second to last was Kinga Bigoraj (University of

Warsaw, Poland), who presented the results of the “Textiles and Seals” research project, which, among other things, investigates representations of goats and sheep in the Aegean glyptic. Antonela Barbir (the Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia) closed this session with a presentation on funerary rites of Early Iron Age female burials found on two necropolises in the southern Carpathian basin, based on the analysis of animal remains that served as grave goods.

The fourth session was dedicated to the period of Roman domination and was opened by a keynote lecture given by prof. Sonja Vuković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) concerning the roles wild animals had in this period on the territory of today’s Serbia, with emphasis on the former capital of the *Upper Moesia* province – Viminacium. The first lecture was given by Óscar González-Cabezas (University of Salamanca, Spain), who talked about galliform remains and the role poultry had in a Late Antique settlement of El Castillon, Spain. Milan Savić (University of Belgrade, Serbia) took us away from animal remains for a moment and shared his research on the representation of crocodile motifs and consequently the perception of ancient Egypt, on Roman mosaics from different parts of the Empire. Rocío Pazos García (University of Salamanca, Spain) talked about animal husbandry and dietary practice of a Roman villa in Almenara-Puras (Spain), including a small-scale experimental study concerning the butchery marks on the bones, while Ana Beatriz Santos (Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal) gave a state-of-the-art lecture on the roman period animals, that is, mammals, birds and molluscs remains from today’s region of the city of Lisbon (Portugal). The analysis had in mind the nature of the sites in question, such as the Roman city itself or adjacent Roman period villas. The session was closed with two presentations from Serbia – the first one given by Dimitrije Marković (University of Belgrade, Serbia), who talked about the ritual practices of the 2nd-3rd century cremation burials in today’s south Serbia, based on the analysis of animal remains found in the graves, while Mladen Mladenović (University of Belgrade, Serbia) shared centuries-ranging research of the beasts of burden from the territory of today’s Serbia during the Late Antique and Early Byzantine periods.

The last day of the conference was opened by a keynote lecture by Dr David Orton (University of York, UK), who talked about the possibilities of archaeology and zooarchaeology contributing to our understanding of the past pandemics. He shared the results of his research concerning the presence or absence of rodent remains in the faunal material throughout Europe, and how they coincide with known plague pandemics in the past. This talk was followed by the final, fifth session dedicated to the Medieval period. The first lecture was given by Aleksa Alaica (University of Toronto, Canada), who argued about deer hunting in the Late Moche period in Peru (CE 600–950) being both a supplemental subsistence resource, as well as an elite symbol among different social strata. Following her, Marina Fernández (University of Barcelona, Spain) talked about animal management between the Roman times and the late Middle Ages in Barcelona (Spain), paying attention to the differences in the diet and husbandry practices between different periods. Olga Trojánková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) gave a lecture about livestock feeding regime in the High Medieval town of Most (Czech Republic), using a multi-proxy approach which combined the results of a standard archaeozoological analysis and stable carbon ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) and nitrogen ( $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ) analyses of the

tooth dentine collagen. Later on, Elena Vasileva (National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria) shared her research considering animal remains from four potentially ritual pits discovered in a Medieval village in the Vidin district (Bulgaria). The final session, and thus the conference, was closed with Teodora Mladenović (University of Belgrade, Serbia) who gave an insight on the everyday life of one nobleman's residence in the Medieval castle of Solotnik (Serbia), based on archaeofaunal data.

Although it was held online, last year's PZAF showed that the postgraduate zooarchaeological community is continuing to grow, with this being the first meeting to be held over three days. Also, the presented research showed the possibilities of archaeozoology answering complex questions concerning the economy, husbandry and diet, rituals and symbolism, as well as social dynamics of the past societies. However, it must be noted that the post-session discussions were not as lively as expected. This was potentially influenced by the fact that these are young researchers with little to no conference experience. Also, the conference being held online certainly makes it difficult for a discussion to develop.

Overall, the sheer quality and range of the research and topics give us the right to say that the field of archaeozoology is further developing through new research models among young postgraduates. We hope that their research can continue to be heard at future conferences.

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## **9. PZAF (Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum), Online, 25–27. jun 2021.**

PZAF (Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum) je konferencija za studente postdiplomskih studija i profesionalce u ranoj karijeri koji se bave odnosima između ljudi i životinja u prošlosti. U pitanju je važan i dinamičan forum za mlade istraživače, gde se pruža mogućnost da podeli svoja istraživanja sa vršnjacima i steknu veoma važno iskustvo u konferencijskom prezentovanju i debatovanju.

Do sada je održano osam konferencija, a iako je 9. po redu izdanje PZAF-a prvobitno trebalo da se održi u Srbiji, usled pandemije bolesti Kovid-19 održano je putem interneta između 25. i 27. juna 2021. godine. Konferenciju su organizovali Dimitrije

Marković i Teodora Mladenović, doktorandi i istraživači Laboratorije za bioarheologiju Filozofskog fakulteta Univerziteta u Beogradu.

Ukupno je održano pet sesija koje su bile grupisane prema istraživanom periodu (starija praistorija, mlađa praistorija, antika, srednji vek), dok je jedna bila rezervisana za metodološke radove. Na konferenciji je učestvovalo preko 50 postdiplomaca iz 16 zemalja širom sveta, a ukupno je bilo prezentovano 27 do sada nepublikovanih istraživanja. Pored njih, svoja predavanja održalo je i četvoro glavnih govornika, prof. Haskel Grinfeld, prof. Vesna Dimitrijević, prof. Sonja Vuković i dr Dejvid Orton.

Iako je održan onlajn, prošlogodišnji PZAF je pokazao da postdiplomska arheozoološka zajednica nastavlja da raste. Takođe, rezultati predstavljenih istraživanja pokazali su mogućnosti arheozoologije da odgovori na složena pitanja koja se tiču ekonomije, uzgoja životinja i ishrane, kao i rituala i simbolizma unutar prošlih društava. Međutim, mora se napomenuti da diskusije koje su započinjane nakon svake od sesija nisu bile aktivne kako se očekivalo. Na to je potencijalno uticala činjenica da se radi o mladim istraživačima sa malo ili nimalo iskustva na konferencijama, dok razvoj diskusije otežava i to što je konferencija održana putem interneta.

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