

Postgraduate Conference Bursary

Chiara G. M. Girotto, chiara.girotto@web.de

The European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) is the main archaeological association for European archaeologists and has members from more than 60 countries worldwide. It aims to provide guidelines for research but more importantly to promote scientific exchange and research in all fields of archaeology. Additionally to their peer-reviewed journal the annual conference allows researchers to share their results and engage in fruitful discussions. This is especially important in archaeology as the field is interdisciplinary and extremely broad.

This year almost 1500 abstracts for paper presentations and posters were submitted for the conference in Vilnius (Lithuania) from the 31th of August till the 4th of September. I submitted two proposals, one for a part of my Master thesis (paper presentation) and one to present the main results of my Bachelor's thesis (poster). Both of them were accepted and due to the absence of a speaker in the session of my poster presentation I was suddenly invited to present the poster as a talk. Additionally I prepared a poster for the AGM of St Mary's Society as I could not attend it in person and present my research to the alumni.

Both talks went very well and the discussions were both interesting and stimulating about the wider research context of the areas but also on the applications of my theses. My paper presentation received only positive comments. Additionally the recommendations I made for fracture patterns in people suffering from leprosy were discussed in a broader sense and even other possible causes than the ones I presented were evaluated. The ideas and methodology of my bachelor thesis as well as the interdisciplinary research conducted in it were received extremely positively and future impacts of my research in the evaluation of prehistoric societies were discussed.

Furthermore the open nature of the conference allowed me to meet many people who are currently driving the research in my interest areas as well as many researchers from my native country as well as those from my archaeological focus areas. The discussions have lead to interesting new ideas and possible future applications of my methodology. These contacts are extremely helpful in diversified and interdisciplinary fields, such as archaeology.

The conference helped by introducing me to up to date and currently unpublished research but also broadened my knowledge about the archaeology of the Baltic area, a field that I had almost no knowledge prior to the conference.

Overall attending the conference has been very helpful and useful for me and I am very grateful for the contribution of St Mary's College Society enabling me to attend it.