



## 3<sup>rd</sup> VIRTUAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND PALEONTOLOGISTS

Exploring past species and their environments

### The Virtual Conference for Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists

The number of women hired and promoted in science is still lower than the number of men. Recent research (Ross *et al.* 2022) suggests that there is a significant gap between the number of women-authored works produced in science and those produced by men, which has clear implications for retention and promotion of women. As a result, women publish and patent less than men and the evidence indicates that women are not less productive, but rather undervalued. Furthermore, it is less likely that women receive mentorship from eminent faculty, are published in journals with fewer citations, have fewer collaborators, and are underrepresented among journal reviewers and editors (Lerman *et al.* 2022).

After the success of the two first editions in 2021 and 2022, the VCWAP is back in 2023 to offer **young/early-career women researchers (not holding a permanent position from master to postdoctoral stages) in Archaeology and Paleontology**, an opportunity to **gain visibility** by presenting recent developments in their research and to **reflect on the gender-related issues** in these disciplines.

In Archaeology and Paleontology, reexamination of ancient assemblages, recent discoveries, and innovative methodologies allow questioning and updating old paradigms. This scientific event is also an opportunity to **exchange ideas** and to **combine approaches** from the two disciplines.

**We especially encourage** archaeologists and paleontologists (and those from related disciplines), who **have permanent positions**, to attend our conference, since we wish to turn it into a space that not only highlights the work of those without a stable position, but also provides **new opportunities** and encourages the **development of new contact networks**, that are so important in both research and academic fields.

### Event's format

This third edition will take place on the **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023** and will be **held online (on Zoom, Discord and Gather Town) and free of charge for speakers and attendees**, as we are aware of difficulties to access scientific events for early career researchers or in different countries (Valenzuela-Toro and Viglino, 2021). If you wish to help us to finance the awards and the workshop of this 3<sup>rd</sup> VCWAP, you can, for 5€, [join the Association for early-career Women Archaeologists and Paleontologists \(AWAP\)](#).

Thanks to the support of the **Wenner Gren Foundation**, young/early-career women researchers will be able to present their work in the form of a Regular talk on Zoom or a Poster on Gather Town, which provides a real space for dynamic and live discussion. We aim to create a **Paleoart**

1

**Gallery** for you to discover the reconstruction work of **women paleoartists** on Gather Town as well.

In addition to the scientific sessions, we will organize as in previous years a round table on gender issues encountered both in Archaeology and Paleontology. We are also planning to organize a **workshop**, however we will give you more information in February 2023.

[If you would like to attend this event as an audience, please fill out the form on the website of the AWAP.](#)

## Proposal for contributions

**For young/early-career women (trans and cis.) researchers in Archaeology, Paleontology and related disciplines, spanning from the Paleozoic to Historical periods.**

Communications should be related to the study of ancient life forms (plants, fungus, invertebrates, vertebrates including humans...), their relationships, as well as to the study of raw or craft materials, paleoenvironments, paleoclimates, taphonomy, development of methodologies/approaches (including experimentations, conservation and preparation techniques) and gender archaeology.

Remember that the VCWAP audience gathers a wide range of specialists (paleontologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, etc.). For this reason, communications must be understandable by a wide audience. Abstracts (1800 characters max. including spaces) must be written in English, be clear and organized, and clearly summarize the problematic, the purpose of the study, the methods used, and the main results in a synthetic way.

Although the speakers must be early-career women researchers, all co-authors must be included in the authors list (no matter their gender).

Your contribution could take one of the following formats:

- **Regular talk:** 15 minutes, ideally including 10 minutes of presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions and answers. In order to give even more visibility to your work, we are considering the possibility of recording the presentations of the speakers who wish to do so and putting them online.
- **Poster:** A poster session will take place on GatherTown. Further details about dimensions will be provided in January.

Although live talks are preferred, if you have any internet issues or special conditions that make it impossible for you to make a live presentation, you can send us your recorded presentation and then answer questions and participate on Discord. For those whose time zone difference is important, we will try to adapt the timing of your talk to the local time in the country where you live.

### **For women (trans and cis.) paleoartists**

If you are interested in exhibiting your work in the Virtual Paleoart Gallery of the VCWAP 2023, please submit a **short description of your paleoartistic reconstruction piece** via the registration and abstract submission form (1300 characters max. including spaces).

You can present your work in the form of a single picture or a composite image with text (for example, to show the stages of reconstruction). It is not necessary for the image to be original. A

2

**short commentary** (800-1800 characters) will have to be provided with the image, explaining the scientific assumptions, the artistic choices, the references and/or specimens on which the reconstruction is based is necessary to make this reconstruction informative and provoke further discussion. During the Paleoart Session, if you wish, you can present your work to the participants at the Paleoart Gallery.

Each speaker/paleoartist will also have a room on **Discord** to deepen the exchanges with the public and to share content.

[If you would like to submit a proposal for a contribution \(abstract or description\) and register for the VCWAP at the same time, please fill out the form on the website of the AWAP.](#)

### 3rd VCWAP prizes

**The best Regular talk** will be rewarded with a free course, of the laureate's choice, by our sponsor [Transmitting Science](#). 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).

**The best Poster** will be rewarded with a prize to cover the participation cost, up to €100, for an archaeology or paleontology (or related disciplines) congress in 2023.

Attendees will vote for their **favorite paleoart piece**. This paleoartistic reconstruction and her creator will be promoted on the AWAP website and social media accounts. If the paleoartist so desires, her reconstruction can cover both the Abstract Book and the Program of the VCWAP 2024.

### Deadlines

- Submission of abstracts (regular talk, poster, paleoart): **December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**;
- Submission reconstructions and their comment for the Paleoart Gallery: **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**;
- Registration for the public: **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

A **certificate** will be provided to the 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.

For any request or further information, please contact the organizing team at the following address, specifying «question» in the subject line of your email: [vcwap@awap-science.org](mailto:vcwap@awap-science.org)



@ women\_archeopal // Web: <https://awap-science.org/en/home/>

#### Bibliography:

- Valenzuela-Toro, A.M & Viglino M. 2021. How Latin American researchers suffer in Science. *Nature* 598, 374-375
- Ross, M.B., Glennon, B.M., Murciano-Goroff, R. *et al.* 2022. Women are credited less in science than men. *Nature* 608, 135–145.
- Kristina Lerman *et al.* 2022. Gendered citation patterns among the scientific elite, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.