

IAG – Working Group on Geoarchaeology

Presentation of the Working Group on Geoarchaeology 2005-2009

We define Geoarchaeology as the geosciences and geographical methods and techniques applied to Prehistory, Archaeology, and History. Our aim is to promote Geoarchaeology in an open-minded way and from an interdisciplinary point of view.

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Activity report : 2005-2009

The IAG/AIG Working Group on Geoarchaeology was formed at the 1997 International Conference of Geomorphology in Bologna. Morgan De Dapper, who created the group, chaired it together with Jose Luis Pena-Monné and John Boardman as vice-chairmen. Two conferences have been organized by the Working Group: the first one, entitled "Geoarchaeology of the Landscapes of Classical Antiquity", by Morgan de Dapper in Ghent (Belgium) (23-25 October 1998), was arranged in cooperation with the European Commission for Education (COST Action G2). 120 researchers attended this conference, whose proceedings were published in 2001. The second conference, entitled "Geoarchaeology in Northwestern Europe", was organized by vice-chairman John Boardman and Martin Bell in Reading (UK) (15-17 December 1999) in collaboration with the British Geomorphological Research Group, and brought 150 participants together. This first four-year term allowed to set up a network of researchers and confirmed the vitality of geoarchaeology and the importance of geomorphology.

In Tokyo the Working Group was renewed for four years. Eric Fouache (University of Paris XII, France) was appointed chairman of the Group, with Morgan de Dapper (Ghent, Belgium) and Zhongyuan Chen (Eastern China University, Shanghai) as vice-chairmen. In 2003 Professor Kosmas Pavlopoulos (Harokopio University, Athens, Greece) joined the Working group as General Secretary. During this last term, the Working Group encouraged regional syntheses in geoarchaeological studies.

During the Sixth International Conference on Geomorphology, the Working Group on Geoarchaeology (WG3) obtained a new term of four years and announced that a formal association, the 'International Working Group of Geoarchaeology' (IWGG) was funded under the aegis of the IAG.

The head-office of this association is found in Athens, in Harokopio University, 70 El. Venizelou Str. 17 671 Athens.

The main object of this association is to provide a permanent basis for the Working Group on Geoarchaeology and to increase the notoriety of the Working Group. For this new term Eric Fouache (University of Paris XII) is Chairman, Kosmas Pavlopoulos (University of Harokopio, Athens) and Jose Luis Pena-Monné (University of Zaragoza) Vice Chairmen and Stephane Cordier (University of Paris XII) General Secretary in charge of the Newsletter.

Last events

18-21 June 2008: 13th Belgium-France-Italy-Romania Geomorphological meeting. International Conference in Porto Heli (Greece): "Landscape Evolution and Geoarchaeology" organized by Kosmas Pavlopoulos (Harokopio University, Athens, Greece, vice president of the Working Group), Niki Elvepidou (University of Athens), and Kostas Vouvalidis (University of Thessaloniki) in collaboration with the Hellenic Committee for Geomorphology and Environment, the Working Group on Geoarchaeology of the IAG and the French Group of Geomorphology, with the support of the French Archaeological School in Athens (5 Romanian colleagues were invited and 2 students, one Romanian and one Egyptian student obtained of the school a one month scholarship and plane ticket). This Conference has been organized under the umbrella of the IAG as the 13th Belgium-France-Italy-Romania Geomorphological meeting. 150 researchers (15 countries) attended the conference (7 keynotes lectures, 80 communications and 20 posters) and three special issues are in preparation in *Quaternary International*, *Zeitschrift für Geomorphology*, and in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of Greece*.

Two field trip have been organised the last day (21th June) one in the Argive Plain (25 people), organized by H.Maroukian, K.Papanastassiou-Caki (University of Athens) and D. Papanastassiou (National Observatory of Athens), and the second at Frachti Cave and Halieis (25 people) organised by P. Karkanias (Ephorate of Paleoanthropology and Speleology of Greece), K. Baika (University of Peloponnese), K. Pavlopoulos (University of Harokopio) and N. Evelpidou (University of Athens).

22-25 june 2008 Workshop at Porto Heli. A workshop entitled « Methods and techniques in geoarchaeology », under the auspice of the IAG and of the Working Group on Geoarchaeology, was organised by Kosmas Pavlopoulos (Harokopio University), Niki Elvepidou (University of Athens), and Kostas Vouvalidis (University of Thessaloniki) in collaboration with Eric Fouache (University of Paris 12), P. Karkanias (Ephorate of Paleoanthropology and Speleology of Greece), G. Apostolopoulos (National Technical University of Athens), S. Poulos (University of Athens), G.Syrides (University of Thessaloniki), K. Albanakis (University of Thessaloniki), D. Sakellariou (Hellenic Center of Marine Research) and V. Kapsimalis ((Hellenic Center of Marine Research). 12 postgraduate students (7 country) and colleagues participated at the workshop.

14-19 september 2008. IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology. Brasov Romania . Common session between the Working group on Geomorphosites and the Working group on Geoarchaeology « Geomorphology and Human heritage". Co-convenors : Emmanuel Reynard and Eric Fouache.

19-24 april 2009 - European Geosciences Union Meeting - Vienna (Austria) - Session on Geomorphology (GM11.1). Title "Geoarchaeology: an approach at the interface between

environmental reconstruction and human settlement". Convener: E. Fouache Co-Convenors: Dr Chiverrell M. Ghilardi. Chairperson of the two oral sessions : Matthieu Ghilardi and Richard Chiverrell. The aim of the session was to further understanding of the connectivity between human activity/settlement and the wider environmental context over Holocene timescales. Rapid evolution or changes in the landscape are often correlated with archaeological evidence to assist the interpretation of sediment or landform archives, but discerning the nature of the relationship between human activity and landscape is often more elusive; cause, effect or a mixture of both?

Contributors submitted abstracts for papers on original topics from a broad unrestricted geographical range; in particular papers that focus on European and North African countries are invited. Papers could enhance or develop new techniques and improve the "Geoarchaeological" approach. The following themes will be explored by this session: Human-environment connectivity: linkages between site/activity and geomorphological process/record. Sediment provenance detangling depositional sequences (geochemistry, magnetism, etc). Chronostratigraphy (boreholes/geological trenches) of archaeological sites and wider environments. Spatial (remote sensing and GIS) interpretation of geoarchaeological evidence"

The proceedings will be published in a special issue of the international journal "Géomorphologie, relief, processus et environnement". The guest editors are : Matthieu Ghilardi, Eric Fouache, Richard Chiverrell

the proceedings will collect original papers and the proofs will be published within the year 2009.

6-11 July 2009, 7th International Conference on Geomorphology, Melbourne, Australia. IAG Working group meeting "Geomorphology and Geoarchaeology: cross-contribution and interactivity". Co-convenors : Trish Fanning, Kosmas Pavlopoulos, Eric Fouache.

Fieldtrip : Arid Environments and Geoarchaeology. Field trip Organisers: Trish Fanning and John Pickard.

We are candidate for a new term of 4 years

Our main objectives for 2009-2013:

1. To structure an international network of national associations, and scientists (geomorphologists, geologists, archaeologists, paleo-environmentalists etc...) involved in the field of Geoarchaeology and to increase the distribution of the electronic newsletter.

2. To promote regional area of interest on the point of view of Geoarchaeology.

3. To publish a collective geoarchaeological field book

4. 19-21 September 2010. IAG WG3 with the "Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO), in association with UMR 6635 CEREGE and CFEETK. Symposium "Archéologie du Paysage. L'Égypte et le Monde Méditerranéen". Organisers : Yann Tristant and Matthieu Ghilardi.

We propose:

Pr. Dr. Kosmas Pavlopoulos, Harokopio University (Greece) as Chairman

Pr. Dr Patricia Fanning, University of Sydney (Australia), as Vice President

Dr. Stéphane Desruelles, Senior Lecturer, University of Amiens (France) as general secretary

Pr, Dr Morgan de Dapper Ghent University as Honorary Chairman