













International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), Commission 1.6 Paleopedology International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), Paleopedology Working Group

Researchers of the Quaternary and the Anthropocene (INCUA)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS)

International Paleopedology meeting

Paleosols and ancient societies: from early humans to the industrial revolution

On-line conference June 10-12, 2021

Announcement and Call for Papers

Unfortunately, most face-to-face scientific meetings have been cancelled as a consequence of the pandemic. After one year without active communication, the IUSS Commission 1.6 Paleopedology and the INQUA Paleopedology Working Group together with the IGRAS and UNAM have decided to organize a three-day on-line meeting with scientific sessions, in order to ensure everyone's health and safety and to facilitate active participation despite the current global travel restrictions.

The format of the Meeting does not allow for the inclusion of all branches of paleopedological research into its program. We have decided instead to focus on topics which link paleosols to the history of the interactions between humans and the environment. This issue is particularly relevant today as human activities strongly affect the planet. We must therefore try to improve our understanding of past interactions to make a better evaluation of the current problems and suggest more effective solutions to mitigate against human impacts. We expect that the problems of the interactions between the soil mantle and ancient cultures will draw the attention from a range of different specialists: paleoecologists, Quaternary geologists, archaeologists and historians. This meeting will enhance the influence and visibility of Paleopedology within the Soil Sciences.

Therefore, during the online meeting, we propose to discuss, on one hand, the contribution of paleopedology to the understanding of the interactions between societies and their environments throughout the whole history of hominids and, on the other hand, the feedback that soil science could receive from the studies of types and rates of pedogenetic processes in ancient anthropogenic contexts.

Scientific sessions

- 1. Paleopedological indicators of early human ecology along the migration routes out of Africa and beyond.
- 2. Soil mantle under the impact of ancient agriculture: transformation, degradation and resilience. Paleopedological indicators of ancient land use. Man-made soils and soil horizons: artificial terraces, raised fields and plaggen.
- 3. Features, processes and evolution of urban pedogenesis: settlement soils from the Paleolithic to the Industrial era. Stratigraphy, microstratigraphy and micromorphology of the archaeological soil-sedimentary sequences and living floors that serve as a record/memory/archive of site formation processes and onsite life cycles.
- 4. Soil as a raw material for ancient technologies (earth-architecture, pottery, etc.): provenance, chaîne opératoire and environmental effects.
- 5. Soil chronosequences on artificial land surfaces as a tool for evaluating timescales, rates and characteristic times of pedogenetic processes.
- 6. Soils and pre-Colombian civilizations of America.

A virtual Business Meeting of the Paleopedology Commission is planned at the end of the Conference.

A panel discussion about the Anthropocene (historic and nowadays) is also proposed.





Organizing committee

Maria Bronnikova – Chair of the IUSS Paleopedology Commission. Leader of the INQUA Paleopedology WG, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Elizabeth Solleiro-Rebolledo – Vicechair of the Paleopedology Commission, co-leader of the INQUA Paleopedology WG, Institute of Geology, UNAM.

Sergey Sedov – Past vicechair of the Paleopedology Commission, Senior researcher, Institute of Geology, UNAM.

Berenice Solís-Castillo – Researcher, Center for the Research of Environmental Geography, UNAM, and the leader of the Association of "Researchers of the Quaternary and the Anthropocene (INCUA)".

Georgina Ibarra-Arzave – Secretary of the on-line conference. Postdoctoral researcher, Institute of Ecosystems and Sustainability Research, UNAM.

Abstract submission

As we plan to do an online publication of the abstracts available to all the participants, we ask you to submit them within the following format:

Language: English.

One letter-size page including line drawings, tables, etc., with 2 cm margins.

First line: title, centered, bold, Times 12 font.

Second line: authors, starting with the last name. Third line: authors' affiliations. Times 10 font. Body text: Times 12 font, single spaced. Abstract reception is open until May 15. Please, send your abstracts to paleomeeting21@gmail.com Presentations: The duration of each talk will depend upon the number of participants. The authors will share their presentations with the audience. We plan to publish the Conference proceedings in a special issue of one of Mexican geological journals. Currently we are discussing this possibility with the editors of the Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Geológicas and the Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana (both journals have SCI). The final decision on publication medium will be made at the Conference Business Meeting. We ask the participants to fill out the registration form and send it together with the abstract. REGISTRATION FORM: I intend to participate in the Paleopedological meeting. Institution: E-mail: I intend to submit a paper titled:

Preferred scientific session:

I intend to submit a manuscript for the Conference Special Volume Yes/No