



**Soils as records of Past and Present:  
the geoarchaeological approach**  
*Focus on: is there time for fieldwork today?*

*Turner*  
ART IN FLANDERS

In the last few decades, soil science has contributed greatly to the discussion on climatic and environmental changes, as well as to various topics of human impact on landscape and environment. Nowadays, vast amounts of soil data are collected in a large range of study fields. In many countries soil studies are systematically integrated into archaeological investigations. Moreover, in some countries this methodology is legally required research protocol, as for example in Belgium since 2016. This geoarchaeological approach enables the better understanding and anticipation of complex and fragile interactions between societies and their environments.

The meeting aims to address these complex issues and demonstrate how they are handled and unravelled through past and current interdisciplinary research.

You are kindly invited to participate in this meeting that will consist of:

## **Preliminary programme**

### **6.11.2019 – Scientific field excursion**

The excursion will travel from Bruges through the Polder area to the Belgian coast. The medieval town of Bruges developed on the verge of the cover sands with the tidal landscapes to the north. This landscape position was in many aspects an advantage but was a challenge for trade, as Bruges was accessible only through a highly dynamic system of tidal gullies. Export and import occurred through a system of trade hubs along the tidal gullies. During the excursion the importance and wealth of this extended harbour system will be highlighted, the position of some of these trade hubs will be visited with an emphasis on the landscape dynamics and the complex soilscape.

### **7.11.2019 - Scientific meeting**

At the Groeningemuseum (Dijver 12, 8000 Bruges) in the heart of Bruges.

#### The questions raised during this meeting are:

What is the current state of research on soils as a record of past and present? How has soil research contributed to important archaeological insights? How do formerly collected soil data help us today? Can we still learn from nature through field observation? Is there still time to do fieldwork? What are some of the future challenges?

A series of prominent speakers from all over Europe will present their work, views and insights on these topics. To conclude, Em. Prof. Roger Langohr will give the keynote presentation.

Participants are invited to contribute to the discussion and to present their research results in the form of posters or scientific articles to be integrated in a publication to be edited for this meeting. Research results inspired by the holistic soil study approach and improving the understanding of the book of nature through field observation of soils are welcomed.

## Publication

At the occasion of this meeting we intend to publish a book. This book will include the articles proposed by the keynote speakers, the articles or abstracts of posters presented during the meeting, and scientific articles relevant to this event proposed by other participants of the meeting. The articles published will be peer-reviewed.

The book will be printed in limited edition and distributed during the meeting. Moreover, the book will be published electronically in open-access form, with an individual digital object identifier (doi) for each paper and the full copyright of each author for his own paper.

## Articles

Attached please find a Guideline containing a brief description of the intentions and framework of this publication.

## Abstracts

Abstracts (max. 250 words).

## Fees

**Field excursion:** 50 Euros, limited to 30 people.

The excursion fee includes two coffee breaks, lunch, water, transport by bus and an excursion guide. Departure is foreseen at 9 am, the return to Bruges at 4 pm.

**Participation fee for the meeting:** 50 Euros, including morning and afternoon coffee breaks, lunch, reception and the publication.

We will try to get some sponsoring for the travel fees to encourage young scientists and scientists from East European countries to participate. Please note your preliminary request on the inscription form (see here below). We will provide more details about the application procedure as soon as we have confirmation about budget.

## Accommodation

Bruges was one of the most important trading cities in North-western Europe during the 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Century. The many historical buildings and canals are still witness to that period. The historic city centre is a World Heritage Site of Unesco

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Heritage\\_Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)

The town is enjoyed by many tourists throughout the year. If you plan to stay, it is strongly recommended to make your booking well in advance.

Starting from 20.02.2019, you may find some special offers on:

<https://secure.meetinginbrugge.be/extendedSearch?package=2173&lang=en&start=05-11-2019&end=06-11-2019>

## Organisation deadlines

- 30.04.2019** deadline for submitting the titles of posters and book articles  
31.05.2019 2<sup>d</sup> circular with detailed information about the meeting, excursion and fees  
15.06.2019 submission of papers to be published  
15.07.2019 feed-back from the editorial board if anything needs to be changed  
**1.07.2019** announcing intention of participation in the meeting  
1.08.2019 submitting abstracts for presentations and posters  
**15.9.2019 deadline for final inscriptions for participants**  
15.9.2019 submitting finalised papers  
31.09.2019 3<sup>rd</sup> circular with last details  
**6-7.11.2019 The Meeting**

Please do not hesitate to forward this message to your colleagues or friends who might be interested.

Please send us your intention to participate by filling in the inscription form  
<https://goo.gl/forms/lolKwZbsEf2Ylkag2>

and any comments or questions to the email address:  
[meeting.2019rl@gmail.com](mailto:meeting.2019rl@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to hearing from you,

Organisation Committee :  
Carole Ampe  
Judit Deák  
Jari Hinsch Mikkelsen

February 2019

