

**30th European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) Annual
Meeting in Rome, Italy
28 - 31 August 2024**

SESSION #496

Theme & Session Format

Theme:

2. Archaeological Sciences, Humanities and the Digital era: Bridging the Gaps

Session format:

Regular session

Title & Abstract

Title:

From Micro to Macro: Integrating Micromorphology and Microcontextual Analyses for Archaeological Insights

Abstract

What is today's role of archaeological soil/sediment micromorphology in unearthing human narratives from different contexts? Soil micromorphology has proven to be a powerful tool for investigating the minute details of natural and archaeological deposits. This method offers a unique perspective, revealing "microscopic whispers" that echo across time and provide essential insights into formation processes, human activities, and environmental conditions.

Rooted in Soil Sciences, micromorphology's scope has expanded to encompass diverse fields of study, from Natural to Social Sciences, broadening its potential and helping us to understand past human cultures and their interactions with the surrounding environment.

Micromorphological observations have thus become a recognised and shared basis of the geoarchaeological approach, paving the way for its integration with emerging state-of-the-art methodologies and analytical techniques concerned with the microscopic or sub-microscopic scale. To date, we might be talking about microarchaeology, considering it a 'pocket knife' to decipher context-based archaeology.

In this session, we will explore the integration of micromorphological analyses with other micro-contextual techniques within geoarchaeological investigations, as this integration provides valuable insights that enhance our interpretations of complex archaeological contexts. Therefore, we invite global case studies spanning all chronologies to foster discussions on (A) how micromorphology can be implemented with other micro-contextual analytical tools and (B) how these micro-scale analyses can help us shed light on macro-scale archaeological questions.

This session calls for contributions that not only highlight the current state of the field but also explore its future potential. By examining how micromorphology adapts to emerging

methodologies, we aim to chart a course for the ongoing integration of micro-contextual techniques in the ever-expanding realm of archaeology.

Together, we envision the continued growth of micromorphology as a cornerstone of archaeological inquiry, enriching our understanding of human history and environmental dynamics across diverse contexts and epochs.

Keywords:

Micromorphology, Micro-contextual Analyses, Microarchaeology, Microstratigraphy, Site Formation Processes, Geoarchaeology

Affiliated with MERC:

no

Affiliated with CIfA:

no

Affiliated with SAfA:

no

Affiliated with CAA:

no

Affiliated with DGUF:

no

Consider for filming:

yes

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