

Joint Meeting and Field Trip of IGCP 610 and INQUA POCAS Focus Group, Palermo, Italy
1-9 October 2017



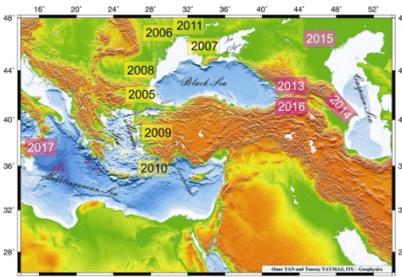
First Circular

University of Palermo, Department of Marine and Earth Sciences, Palermo, Italy
1-9 October 2017

IGCP 610 “From the Caspian to Mediterranean:
Environmental Change and Human Response during the Quaternary”

<http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP>

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INQUA Focus Group
SACCOM: 1709F “Ponto-Caspian Stratigraphy and Geochronology (POCAS)”

Co-Leaders:
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AIMS AND SCOPE

The meetings of IGCP 610 and INQUA Focus Group POCAS (SACCOM 1709F) will be carried out jointly in order to bring the international communities of both projects together to solve a number of contentious issues involving stratigraphy, geochronology, geological history, archaeology, and anthropology of the Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor ["CORRIDOR"].

The main goal of the IGCP 610 Project is to provide cross-disciplinary and cross-regional correlation of geological, archaeological, environmental, and anthropological records in order to (a) explore interrelationships between environmental change and human adaptation during the Quaternary, (b) create a networking and capacity-building structure to develop new interdisciplinary research initiatives, and (c) provide guidance to heritage professionals, policy makers, and the wider public on the relevance of studying the "CORRIDOR" for a deeper understanding of Eurasian history, environmental changes and their relevance, as well as past and future impacts on humans.

The main goal of the INQUA Focus Group POCAS created within the INQUA SACCOM for the term 2017-2020 is to study the geology of the Ponto-Caspian region during the Quaternary. The main activities of POCAS are oriented toward solving existing contradictions employing, if needed, new work in the field via a wide range of multidisciplinary scientists and modern research methods and equipment.

The "CORRIDOR" is perfectly suited for these purposes. (1) It encompasses the large chain of intercontinental basins—the Caspian, Black (together called Ponto-Caspian), Marmara, Aegean, and Eastern Mediterranean (Levantine) seas—with their connecting straits and coasts. Here, sea-level changes are clearly expressed due to geographical location and semi-isolation from the World Ocean, which makes the "CORRIDOR" a paleoenvironmental amplifier and a sensitive recorder of climatic events. Periodic connection/isolation of the basins during the Quaternary predetermined their specific environmental conditions and particular hydrologic regimes, and thus, the area, and especially the Ponto-Caspian, represents a "natural laboratory" to study the responses of semi-isolated and isolated basins to GCC. (2) It has rich sedimentary and geomorphologic archives that document past environmental changes. (3) It has a substantial archaeological, anthropological, and historical record. (4) It is easily accessible for study.

To achieve the main goal and objectives, the Projects incorporate six dimensions, each addressed by integrating existing data and testing of hypotheses: 1. The geological dimension examines the sedimentary record of vertical sea-level fluctuations and lateral coastline change. 2. The paleoenvironmental dimension integrates paleontological, palynological, and sedimentological records to reconstruct paleolandscapes. 3. The archaeological dimension investigates cultural remains. 4. The paleoanthropological dimension studies responses of different *Homo* species to environmental change. 5. The mathematical dimension provides GIS-aided mathematical modeling of climate and sea-level changes, and human dispersal linked to paleoenvironmental variation that can be meaningfully compared with current global changes. 6. The geo-information dimension grasps the "big picture" of geoarchaeological events over the duration of the Quaternary. Particular attention will be given to

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synthesizing the wealth of literature published in local languages, stored in archives, and largely unknown or ignored in the West.

Study sites include the Caspian, Azov-Black Sea, Marmara, Eastern and Western Mediterranean. These sites are characterized by rich sedimentary, geomorphological, archaeological, paleoanthropological, and historical records providing a superb opportunity to assess the influence of climate and sea-level change on human development.

Five IGCP 610 Plenary Conferences and Field Trips were planned in the following regions: 2013 – Western Georgia; 2014 – Azerbaijan; 2015 – Russia (Northern Caspian); 2016 – Eastern Georgia (Inner Kartli and Kakheti regions); and 2017 – Palermo, Italy. They were scheduled for the third quarter of each year. Prior to each Conference and Field Trip, the Conference Proceedings and Field Trip Guide are prepared. Each Plenary Conference provides a forum for dialogue between multidisciplinary specialists in the Quaternary history of the “CORRIDOR” and other workers in related areas. The Field Trips follow the Plenary Meetings (Fig. 1).

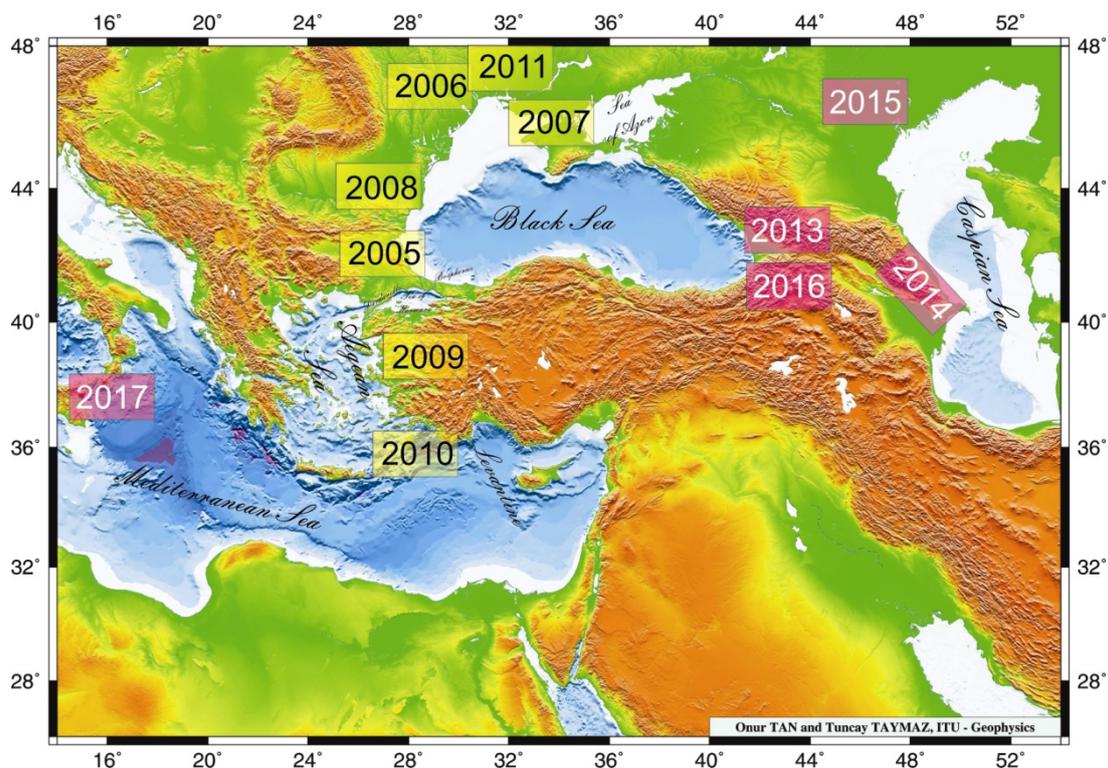


Figure 1. The Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean “CORRIDOR”: in yellow are the locations of IGCP 521-INQUA 501 meeting and field trip sites (2005-2011); in other colors are sites studied by the ongoing IGCP 601 Project: 2013 – Tbilisi, Western Georgia; 2014 – Baku, Azerbaijan; 2015 – Astrakhan’ (Volga Delta), Russia; 2016 – Tbilisi, Eastern Georgia; 2017 – Palermo, Italy

They are focused on observation of geological characteristics of Quaternary and Pliocene stratotypes as well as key archaeological and paleontological sites. All of them are easily accessible for study and can be sampled during the Field Trips for further investigation in various laboratories around the world.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of IGCP 610 and the First Meeting of POCAS will focus on the Plio/Pleistocene geological history of the central Mediterranean of southern Italy (Sicily and Calabria). This subject is very important in shedding light and achieving a better understanding of climate evolution during the Plio/Quaternary.

The Conference will be held in the beautiful setting of the Botanical Garden of Palermo (<http://www.ortobotanicoitalia.it/sicilia/palermo/>), one of the oldest in Italy. In its more than two

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hundred years of activity, it has promulgated the study of many tropical and subtropical species throughout the Mediterranean.

The two days of the Conference will be devoted to oral presentations and posters, and five days will be devoted to geological field trips that focus on the GSSPs of the Zanclean, Piacenziano, Gelasian, and Calabrian stages of the Plio-Pleistocene.

It is expected that meeting will bring together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world to enhance the West-East scientific dialogue and provide a foundation for collaboration on correlation and integration of subjects covered by the conference as previous IGCP 610, IGCP 521, and INQUA 0501 meetings have done.

The meeting will cover eight days in total. Two days (2-3 October) will be spent in Plenary Sessions, and five days (4-8 October) will be dedicated to the Field Trips.

SCHEDULE

1 October: Arrival and Registration. Ice-breaking. (accommodations in Palermo).

2 October: Plenary Session. Conference Dinner (accommodations in Palermo)

3 October: Plenary Session (accommodations in Palermo)

4-8 October: Field Trips

9 October: Visit to Arab-Norman Palermo (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1487>); departure.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The final number of plenary sessions will depend upon the number of participants and accepted presentations. To be accepted, each presentation must deal with results obtained from the study of environmental change and human response during the Quaternary and pre-Quaternary in the CORRIDOR. It can also have a more general scope, for example, GIS-based modeling of the water exchange between adjacent basins; evolutionary mechanisms of the Eastern Paratethys and its separation into the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, etc. Presentations that go beyond data description to address interpretation and broader understanding of the chosen topic are especially encouraged.

Exemplary Subjects:

- Ponto-Caspian as a relict of the Eastern Paratethys
- Quaternary and upper Neogene paleontology, palynology, and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR
- Recent ecosystems of the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Seas
- Role of active tectonics in dividing the Eastern Paratethys into separate basins
- Paleoenvironmental and paleogeographic reconstructions
- Climate modeling
- Sea-level and salinity modeling
- Submarine geohazards (earthquakes, submarine landslides, tsunamis, gas emissions) in the Mediterranean and Ponto-Caspian region
- Mud volcanism in the Mediterranean and Ponto-Caspian region
- The late Miocene (Messinian) salt crisis in the Mediterranean basin and its consequences in the Black Sea
- Archaeology, ethnography, and paleoanthropology of the CORRIDOR
- Modeling of environmental change and human dispersal during the Quaternary

FIELD TRIPS

4 October: Field Trip 1. Palermo – Eraclea Minoa. Visit to the Messinian-Lago Mare outcrops, Messinian/Zanclean GSSP, visit to the Eraclea Minoa Greek Town (accommodations in Agrigento).

5 October: Field Trip 2. Visit to the Capo Rossello area (Fig. 2), Turkish Scale, Zanclean/Piacenzian GSSP, visit to the Valle dei Templi Greek Town <http://www.valleyofthetemples.com/> (accommodations in the hotel «Gran Village Mose», Agrigento).



Figure 2. Capo Rossello section (Southern Sicily), lithological cycles controlled by Milankovitch periodicities. Astronomical Time Scale

6 October: Field Trip 3. Agrigento-Monte San Nicola Gela, visit to the Piacenzian/Gelasian GSSP (accommodations in Messina).

7 October: Field Trip 4. Messina-Vrica Crotone; Vrica section, visit to the Gelasian/Calabrian GSSP (accommodations in Crotone).

8 October: Field Trip 5. Vrica section-Reggio Calabria, visit to the Archeological Museum of Reggio Calabria, arrival in Palermo at 7 p.m. (accommodations in Palermo).

More information will be provided in the Second Circular.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

During the conference, a sight-seeing tour in Palermo will be organized. More details will be announced in the Second Circular.

VENUE

Palermo is a city of southern Italy, the capital of both the autonomous region of Sicily and the Metropolitan City of Palermo. The city is noted for its history, culture, architecture, and gastronomy. It is over 2,700 years old and played an important role throughout much of its existence. Palermo is located in the northwest of the island of Sicily, right by the Gulf of Palermo in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The city was founded in 734 BC by the Phoenicians as Ziz ('flower'). Palermo then became a possession of Carthage before becoming part of the Roman Republic, then the Roman Empire, and eventually part of the Byzantine Empire, all over the course of a thousand years. The Greeks named the city Panormus meaning 'complete port'. From 831 to 1072, the city was under Arab rule during the Emirate of Sicily, when the city first became a capital. The Arabs shifted the Greek name to Balarm, the root for Palermo's present-day name. Following the Norman reconquest, Palermo became the capital of a new kingdom (from 1130 to 1816), the Kingdom of Sicily and the capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Frederick II Holy Roman Emperor and Conrad IV of Germany, King of the Romans. Eventually Sicily would be united with the Kingdom of Naples to form the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies until the Italian unification of 1860.

The population of Palermo's urban area is estimated by Eurostat to be 855,285, while its metropolitan area is the fifth most populated in Italy with around 1.2 million people. In the central area, the city has a population of around 676,000 people. The inhabitants are known as Palermitani or, poetically, panormiti. The languages spoken by its inhabitants are the Italian language, Sicilian language, and the Palermitano dialect. Palermo is Sicily's cultural, economic, and tourist capital. It is a city rich in history, culture, art, music, and food. Numerous tourists are attracted to the city for its good Mediterranean weather, its renowned gastronomy and restaurants, its Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque churches, palaces and buildings, and its nightlife and music. Palermo is the main Sicilian industrial and commercial center: the main industrial sectors include tourism, services, commerce, and agriculture. In fact, for cultural, artistic, and economic reasons, Palermo was one of the largest cities in the Mediterranean and is now among the top tourist destinations in both Italy and Europe.

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It is the main seat of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale. The city is also going through careful redevelopment, preparing to become one of the major cities of the Euro-Mediterranean area. Roman Catholicism is highly important in Palermitano culture. The Patron Saint of Palermo is Santa Rosalia, whose Feast Day is celebrated on 15 July. The area attracts significant numbers of tourists each year and is widely known for its colourful fruit, vegetable, and fish markets at the heart of Palermo, known as Vucciria, Ballarò, and Capo.

The meeting will be held at the “Lanza Conference Hall,” Botanic Garden (<http://www.ortobotanico.unipa.it/>), via Abramo Lincoln 2 (Palermo, Italy).

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are numerous hotels in Palermo. Participants should arrange their accommodations in Palermo by themselves. Accommodations during the field trips will be arranged by the organizers, and the prices for hotels will be provided in the Second Circular. There are student dormitories in Palermo, and they are not cheaper than 20 Euro. The Conference Hall is located in central part of Palermo.

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee (Please refer to the “Registration Form”)

	Registration before 31 August 2017	Registration after 31 August 2017
	Euro	Euro
Participant	350	400
Accompanying person	300	350
Student*	200	250

**Student identification is required.*

The registration fee covers conference kit, refreshments during coffee breaks, lunches during Field Trips, museum entrance fees, and bus transportation during the Field Trips. It does not cover the conference dinner as well as hotel accommodations in Palermo and during Field Trips.

REFUND POLICY

Fifty percent refund before 31 July 2017. No refund is possible after 31 July 2017.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

IGCP 610 has very limited funds available to distribute and is not able to support the full cost of meeting attendance. Therefore, applicants should show evidence of seeking or having obtained funds from elsewhere before applying for assistance. Preference in funding allocations will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries who plan to present a high quality paper accepted by the Scientific Committee. An application for support may be e-mailed to the Organizing Committee (valyan@onu.edu.ua) requesting in your own words a funding amount with justification.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official conference language is English.

ABSTRACT

Preference will be given to extended and informative abstracts containing new data and arguments. As a rule, your abstract(s) should at least 2 pages. But we will be quite flexible with the length of the abstract (up to 6 pages) if it offers new ideas and information. **Short and uninformative abstracts or abstracts irrelevant to the themes of the meeting will not be considered.**

The guidelines for abstract preparation and submission are outlined in the Abstract Template. You must specify the mode of your presentation: ORAL or POSTER. No abstracts will be accepted without registration of at least one of the authors. Every registered participant has the right to submit up to two extended abstracts as the first author.

Please type your abstract using the template (attached to the First Circular). Submit your abstract via e-mail to Prof. Valentina Yanko-Hombach valyan@onu.edu.ua; valyan@avalon-institute.org

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Each speaker will have 20 minutes for a presentation, including questions. Poster format is 100x180 cm. Projection Equipment: Screens, LCD (PowerPoint presentation) projectors, and overhead projectors are available.

PUBLICATION

Accepted abstracts will be published in the IGCP 610 Proceedings. The full papers will be published (after proper review) in an IGCP 610 Special Volume of the peer-reviewed journal (*to be defined and announced in the Second Circular*).

VISA

Visitors from other countries must carry a valid passport and the Schengen visa to be able to enter Italy. For more information on visas and other required travel documents, please contact the Italian Embassy or Consulate in your area before your departure. Each attendee is responsible for obtaining his/her visa for entering Italy.

CLIMATE

In Sicily, the middle of October is a good time for Field Trips. Daily temperature is about 20-25° C, and at night, it is about 15-20° C.

TRAVEL

Sicily is easily accessible by direct, regular, or charter flights (Palermo, Trapani, and Catania) from all main airports.

Palermo

The Falcone-Borsellino airport in Palermo is located about 35 km from the center of Palermo. It is well connected to the city by bus Prestia and Comandè (6.30 Euro), both every 30 minutes (journey time 50 minutes). The closest stop is the Central Railway (Piazza Giulio Cesare); from here the Congress is an 8-minute walk. From airport taxis (35 Euro) or collective taxis (7-8 Euro). At the airport the box office of the collective taxis is close to the bus terminal (<http://www.prestiaecomande.it/?idPlugin=20959&ttp://www.prestiaecomande.it/>).

Trapani

Birgi airport is about 115 km from the center of Palermo; It is connected to the city by the bus line Salemi (journey time 2 hours). <http://autoservizisalemi.it/tratte/aeroporto-trapani-birgi/?lang=en>.

Catania

Fontanarossa airport is about 205 km from the center of Palermo (Central Railway); It is connected to the city by bus line SAIS (journey time 2 hours and half) <http://www.saisautolinee.it/>

DEADLINES

21 April 2017	First Circular on IGCP 610 website: (http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/)
21 April 2017	Abstract submission and registration opens
10 August 2017	Abstract submission closes
31 August 2017	Notification of abstract acceptance
31 August 2017	Deadline for early registration
20 May 2017	Submission of application for financial support opens
20 June 2017	Submission of application for financial support closes
15 September 2017	Second Circular and the Conference Programme on IGCP 610 website (http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/)