



# LOESS AND PEDOSTRATIGRAPHY WORKING GROUP

## The Loess and Pedostratigraphy Working Group General Meeting

Held on Monday 17/7/2023 at 18:15 Rome

### AGENDA

1. Apologies

AD - late due to the clash with another meeting. NG – unable to attend INQUA.

2. Report from President on activities over the last 4 years

President (SY) – provides an overview of the group's activities. Yerevan loess meeting. Loessfest at China but had to be moved online due to COVID. We organised an ECR workshop pre Loessfest.

4 special issues –

A special issue entitled "Pleistocene geoarchaeology and palaeoenvironments in European loess" has been published in *Journal of Quaternary Science* (Guest editors: Janina Nett and Wei Chu; JQS 36(8) November 2021).

A special issue entitled "Eurasian climate and environment" has been published in *Quaternary Research* (Guest editors: Slobodan B. Marković, Qingzhen Hao and Nick Lancaster; Volume 103, September 2021).

A special issue entitled "Loess environments: generation, transport, deposition, and human adaption" in *Quaternary Research* (Guest editors: Shiling Yang, Thomas Stevens and Randall Schaetzl) is in the final stages of preparation with papers under review at present.

A special issue entitled "Eurasian loess-paleosol sequence: paleoclimate and landscape dynamics" in *Quaternary International* (Guest editors: Shiling Yang, Zdzisław Jary, Pierre Antoine, and Zhiwei Xu) is also in the final stages of preparation with papers under review at present.

3. Constitution – comments and vote in

Summary provided by the secretary - *About two years ago we drafted a constitution for the group and sent it out for comments from the community. One point was raised regarding Loessfest. The proposal in the constitution was to have one meeting termed Loessfest. This does not stop other loess meetings from happening, they just do not bear the name "Loessfests". This would help signal to members a larger meeting and was proposed based on feedback from ECRs and members from countries without large research funds. This will allow members with limited funds to target larger meetings when more community members gather. We also proposed an "award/medal" system which needs a specific timeframe and meeting.*

Alternative proposal is given by VC (RS) – two Loessfest Meetings rather than one. Every two years – in even years. Argument being to have more meetings as they are beneficial to the community.

GU – Relaying proposal from Redzhep Kurbanov to hold Loessfest in Tajikistan.

IO – we need some more arguments for and against more frequent meetings.

XXX – making them every two years would mean that PhD students will have a chance to attend.

MF – is it realistic to have so many Loessfests? Who will organise them? Who wants/can take on organising bigger meetings every two years? We are not such a big community.

FL – we want to make sure any such meeting has a fieldwork component attached to that.

CZ – can we attach to EGU/AGU.

KF – this needs to fit with the needs of the wider community. For western based members attaching to EGU/AGU might work but not for other researchers.

Secretary – echoes that with the cost of EGU/AGU conferences.

Vice President (RS) – proposal amended to have at least one meeting always in even years to coincide with INQUA, with the possibility of holding another Loessfest in between INQUA congress if there is interest/will/etc.

Proposal seconded by LZ. Voted in by the group. Secretary will amend the constitution draft relating to the Loessfest.

Second point was to vote in the constitution of the group. No other comments on the draft were raised. Secretary proposes to vote in the constitution (with the amended Loessfest section).

LZ asks to go over the constitution draft to make sure everyone has seen it. Secretary goes over the constitution draft.

Motion by the secretary to vote in the constitution. Seconded by LZ. Voted in by the group.

#### 4. Election results

Secretary reports on election. All candidates run unopposed. Votes were conducted online over the course of the last month. All voted in – New President – Professor Zdzisław Jary; Vice President for Asia - Professor Qingzhen Hao, Vice President for Europe - Professor Kathryn Fitzsimmons, Vice President for Americas - Dr Brett Lenz; Secretary – Dr Kaja Fenn. However, no applications were received for Early Career Representatives. We welcome applications from ECRs. Members will be elected after INQUA.

#### 5. Arrangements for the next Loessfest

Loessfest proposed by the Redzep in Tajikistan next year in October. Vice-President (ZJ) proposes that Loessfest should be held in Germany because of the 200-year anniversary.

MF - could be in Germany.

Various members from Germany discuss briefly potential locations with available exposures.

Secretary – we have Loessfest proposed in Tajikistan.

GU – gives details of proposal to hold it in Tajikistan.

KF – raises point of visas to Tajikistan.

Members from US echo that saying it is very difficult for them to go to Tajikistan.

LZ – we need formal proposals.

Agreed that formal proposals for both will be sent to the committee.

6. Open floor discussion on the direction of the group and how to support members.  
LZ – need to keep Loess Newsletter going.

7. Any other business –  
NA

Meeting closed at 19:00