

THIRD CIRCULAR FOR THE 21ST EAVP ANNUAL MEETING



GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear colleagues,

The time is drawing closer to EAVP 2024 in Longyearbyen, and we are all very excited to host you. Please be aware that even in late summer the weather can be cold. In the Arctic it can often be snowy in August. Please bring clothing that is appropriate for walking around in temperatures close to that of a fridge (4°C).

SAFETY NOTICE

Please be aware that Longyearbyen is in the Arctic, and we are guests in the realm of the polar bear. As such safety precautions **MUST** be taken. **Do not under any circumstances walk out of Longyearbyen without a polar bear guard with a firearm. This includes travelling to and from the airport.** Please take the airport bus or use a taxi. Note that walking to/from Longyearbyen town centre to Nybyen or Sverdrupbyen by road is ok, but a bus will be arranged for travel to the conference dinner.

If you want to explore the areas outside of Longyearbyen, please book an armed guide. You can contact the different travel companies for a quote.

Cultural heritage in Svalbard

Please note that everything in Svalbard which is **older than 1946** is automatically protected by law (yes even things that look like rubbish). In addition, all traces of human graves, including crosses and other grave markers, as well as bones and bone fragments found on or below the surface of the ground are automatically protected regardless of their age. The same applies to skeletal remains at slaughter sites for walrus and whales and in connection with self-shooting traps for polar bears.

Automatically protected cultural monuments have a 100-metre protection zone in all directions from the visible or known outer edge. The protection zone has the same protection conditions as the cultural monument itself.

So please do not touch or approach any old mining equipment lying around in Longyearbyen as these are protected.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

We are delighted to announce that the conference has been funded by the Norwegian Research Council, which reduced the registration fee. This year's EAVP will have a polar theme, meaning that sessions are set aside to prioritise submissions using research from Arctic and Antarctic areas (palaeo-latitude included). There will be a main plenary session, largely focused on polar-related talks in the mornings, and then split parallel sessions will take place throughout the day.

The current preliminary EAVP program is as follows:

	Tuesday August 27th	Wednesday August 28th	Thursday August 29th	Friday August 30th	Saturday August 31st	Sunday September 1st
MORNING	Pre-conference extra -field trip "The Upper Jurassic Slotsmøya Member Lagerstätte" -	Pre-conference field trip "The Upper Jurassic Slotsmøya Member Lagerstätte" -	Workshops, symposia and roundtables Workshops (see details in Event section) 10:00-16:00	Scientific Sessions 9:00-18:00 Polar Palaeontology <i>Coffee break</i> Polar Palaeontology +	Scientific Sessions 9:00-16:00 Polar Palaeontology <i>Coffee break</i> Mixed parallel sessions	Post-conference field trip "The marine reptile explosion after the end-Permian mass extinction"
AFTERNOON	Janusfjellet All Day	Janusfjellet All Day		<i>Lunch break</i> Mixed parallel sessions <i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Lunch break</i> Mixed parallel sessions <i>Coffee break</i>	Ledalen and Flowerdalen All Day
EVENING			Ice Breaker Svalbard Museum 18:30-20:00	Mixed parallel sessions Poster session 16:00-18:00 Conference Dinner Gruvelageret 19:00-23:00	Mixed parallel sessions EAVP Assembly 16:00-18:00 Auction Møysalen, UNIS 19:00-22:00	

Workshops:

Note we have a number of workshops running in parallel. See below for the draft schedule of workshop times.

Room	Tempelet		Kapp room 1		Kapp room 2	
Time	Workshop title	Organiser	Workshop title	Organiser	Workshop title	Organiser
09:00 - 11:30	Best-Practice fieldwork and collections	A. Hellemond, A. Roberts, J. Hurum	PAST – Palaeontological data analysis with PAST	Ø. Hammer		
11:30-12:00					ICARP IV discussion meeting	Spitsbergen Mesozoic Research Group
12:00-13:00	LUNCH					
13:00-14:30	Outreach workshop	Spitsbergen Mesozoic Research Group - J. Hurum	How to digitally open our collections and foster a more inclusive research culture	D. Schwarz, A. Campell and V. Díez Díaz	Women in Palaeo roundtable	F. Holwerda et al.
14:30-16:00					Post-hoc on the Post doc	J. Liston

1) Best-Practice fieldwork and collections workshop. Palaeontologist A. Hellemond proposed to run a workshop which will focus on discussing and forming a “best practice” guide to completing palaeontological fieldwork and collections. This will be aimed particularly for polar regions and use Svalbard as a case study. Research in Svalbard, the body responsible for reporting on fieldwork activities in Svalbard, will also send a delegate to attend this workshop. **Number of interested participants: 25**

2) Outreach workshop. The Spitsbergen Mesozoic Research Group (University of Oslo), has a long history of public outreach, both nationally and internationally. This includes public lectures, documentaries, radio, television appearances, books, websites, and exhibitions. We wish to share our experiences and create a platform for sharing polar research especially targeted at polar communities. In addition, a talk will be given from Borch, Belvedere* et al - “*From physical to digital and back. Developing and testing 3D-based educational activities.*” **Number of interested participants: 19**

3) PAST – Palaeontological analysis using PAST. Øyvind Hammer, the creator of the program PAST will host a workshop. Past is a user-friendly, free, and widely cited app suitable for all kinds of paleontological data analysis, including general statistics and plotting, morphometrics, paleoecology, biostratigraphy, and systematics. In this workshop, the author of Past will demonstrate it with examples. There will be sweets served, and maybe some cheap Past merchandise! Please email ohammer@uio.no if you have a data set that we can explore. **Number of interested participants: 28**

4) How to digitally open our collections and foster a more inclusive research culture D. Schwarz, A. Campell and V. Díez Díaz have proposed a workshop on how to make previous colonial collections more accessible for origin countries. The workshop will be centered around the example of the historic German Tendaguru Expedition (1909-1913 to Tanzania), which is subject of the recently started DFG-funded project “Research and Responsibility” with the main topic of combining all data into a virtual research environment. Aspects of this project include 3D digitization of dinosaur bones and best practice, but also inclusion of archive data and metadata for contextualization and transparent representation. Beyond that, we would encourage participants to bring in information and experience from their own collections and scientific research. **Number of interested participants: 17**

5) Post hoc of the Post doc. EAVP president J. Liston will host a workshop aiming to highlight potential problems of post doc positions. The postdoctoral phase is usually a required phase for a newly minted PhD, either on the road to a secure position or withdrawal. In a science such as vertebrate palaeontology, when a significant number of practitioners are not in full-time positions as palaeontologists, often either palaeo-adjacent or palaeozero, there are strong pressures to take postdoctoral positions that are economically restricted, if not severely challenging. This workshop aims to highlight potential problems that can be anticipated in advance of taking up a position, through careful research of sometimes hidden costs. This will be done using the experiences of the workshop organisers and attendees. The aim of this workshop will be to forearm for those in the job market, so they can make more informed decisions prior to taking up positions that might be gruelling, despite the long-term appeal of the presence on a CV.

Number of interested participants: 17

6) Women in Palaeo roundtable. The success of previous meetings continues, with a discussion platform for issues experienced by women in (geo)sciences and palaeontology. The roundtable will be run by F. Holwerda et al. As always, all genders are of course welcome. **Number of interested participants: 14**

7) ICARP IV discussion meeting - ICARP IV stands for the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning. Palaeontology has long been excluded from the proceedings. Here we will have a short discussion on how palaeontology can contribute to the ICARP research aims. The Spitsbergen Mesozoic Research group sent in a short proposal to ICARP IV last year, and we aim to discuss how

vertebrate palaeontology can contribute in future. *This will just be a short meeting of around 30mins.*

Number of interested participants: 4

Talk schedule

An updated draft schedule is available with the timing of presentations (link [here](#)). Please contact the mailing list if you need to be scheduled at a different time or your talk is not listed.

Student awards for best talk and poster

PeerJ has agreed to continue the success of previous EAVP meetings and provide free publication in PeerJ for the best student talk and poster. Thanks PeerJ! A committee for awarding the prize will be created from some of the attending delegates.

Lunch and coffee breaks

Lunch can be purchased at UNIS in the cantina. We will have coffee breaks with free tea and coffee and some refreshments.



FIELD TRIPS AND GUIDE

Conference field trips to the Triassic and Jurassic marine reptile localities

All the conference field trips are fully booked. If you have booked a place and no longer require it, please notify us immediately so we can ask people on the waiting list. On these fieldtrips you will be accompanied by at least two members of the organising committee as guides and a polar bear guard from Hurtigruten. **It is essential that the field group sticks together for polar bear safety, so please listen to your guides, and stay with the group.** Fossils can be collected and brought home which are found on the surface, no digging is allowed without a permit. Please be aware rocks/fossils larger than your hand are not allowed in hand luggage on aeroplanes. If scientifically important specimens are found, they will go to the University of Oslo Natural History Museum collection.

Survival suits will be provided for the boat trip out, but please bring appropriate field clothes and boots for Arctic tundra terrain. This means **windproof jacket and trousers, a warm jumper (wool is best) and sturdy hiking shoes/boots for uneven terrain.** If you do not have appropriate clothing for the trip, Hurtigruten may not allow you to participate. If you have questions about what to wear, feel free to email us at: eavp2024@nhm.uio.no. Some of us have extra field clothing that participants could borrow if they are unable to acquire the appropriate gear, however we would need to be contacted ahead of time (via email above).

We have prepared a field guide to these localities which can be downloaded on our website (link [here](#))

Please print out and bring a copy if you would like one with you on the field trip. Svalbard is an unpredictable place - Please be aware that if the weather is too poor for safe boat travel, the trip might have to be rescheduled or cancelled.

VENUES

Main conference venue - The workshops, annual EAVP member assembly, auction, conference talks and poster session will take place at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS). UNIS has a broad number of lecture theatres and classrooms available for workshop and conference sessions. The University Centre in Svalbard is the core institution of the Svalbard Science Centre, an international Arctic centre of expertise in research and education. In addition, UNIS also incorporates other professional and scientific institutions in Svalbard, such as The Norwegian Polar Institute, EISCAT and Svalbard Science Forum.

Icebreaker venue – The Icebreaker event will be held at the Svalbard Museum, adjoined to UNIS. The Svalbard Museum will next year open new exhibits, including sections involving palaeontological excavations in Svalbard.

Conference dinner venue – The conference dinner will be held at *Gruvelageret* (Link here: <https://gruvelageret.no/en/home/>). Situated in a part of Longyearbyen previously used to host working coalminers in the 1940s, the restaurant has a rich history and a delicious menu including local delicacies. There are still a few places available, please contact Hurtigruta directly: Jenny Gravidahl <Jenny.Gravidahl@hurtigrutensvalbard.com>

General Assembly Meeting

The EAVP members annual assembly will be held in Møysalen at UNIS after the main sessions are complete. EAVP members are encouraged to participate.

Auction

The auction will take place in Møysalen Saturday evening. Please bring objects for the auction, we would suggest smaller sized items due to the amount of air travel for delegates.

Poster session

The poster session will be in the main cantina room of UNIS on Friday. Posterboards will be available.

Children's room

We have booked a room in UNIS, “*Festningen*” for the duration of the conference for attendees who are bringing their children with them. We will supply toys and books for the children to use.

POSTER AND SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Please print posters in portrait size A0. **It is not possible to print in Longyearbyen** so please bring your poster with you.

For talks, please prepare a 12-minute presentation, which will leave 3 minutes for a question or two and transfer time to the next speaker. If possible, use PowerPoint or PDF for your presentation.

STREAMING OF TALKS. MØYSALEN ONLY

All talks in the Møysalen room (main lecture hall) will be livestreamed (but not recorded). If you do want your talk streamed and are scheduled in the Møysalen room (see above) – please notify us so we can adjust the schedule. If you have not notified us prior to the 13th of August, then we take this as acceptance.

ONLINE ONLY INFORMATION

For participants registered for online-only and who sent in an abstract: We have come up with two methods of dissemination of your research. This will be hosted on a website: EAVP2024online.com You can either submit video recordings or a slide presentation in PowerPoint (maximum duration 12 minutes) or online poster. Presentation or poster will be embedded within the post, which will be preceded by a written abstract. Presentation can be recorded for example via PowerPoint recording option with instruction presented in this [link](#). PowerPoint presentation can be exported in HD (720p) or Full HD (1080p) resolution in .mp4 format. Posters should be preferentially submitted in PDF format. EAVP2024online.com will be accessible for all participants of the EAVP meeting throughout the duration of the conference. For poster options, we suggest the delegates submit an extended abstract with figures to present the research with a downloadable link to the poster. We will add an example to website in the next few weeks. Please send your posters, extended abstracts, videos or videolinks (vimeo etc.) to eavp2024@nhm.uio.no

This should be done by the 13th of August.

GETTING TO SVALBARD AND ACCOMODATION

The only way to get to Longyearbyen is by air, either from Oslo (Norway) or Tromsø (Norway). The airlines Norwegian and SAS operate flights from both locations. It is worth noting that many (but not all) of the flights from Oslo have stopover in Tromsø. If you stop over in Tromsø, please note that you will be required to leave the plane and take your bags through customs, then recheck them and go through security and passport control. **You will need to bring your passport with you to travel to Svalbard.**

Staying in Longyearbyen

Booking for our discounted conference hotel has now closed. See visitsvalbard.com for different options for staying in Longyearbyen if you have not booked your stay.

T-SHIRTS

T-shirts with the conference logo will be available for purchase at the conference.

OTHER INFORMATION

Electricity in Svalbard – The power outlets are standard European.

Wine and Spirits purchasing in Svalbard – If you wish to purchase wine or spirits from the shop, please remember to bring your boarding pass as these are rationed in Svalbard. There is also set opening hours for when these items can be purchased. This is not the case for beer, cider or purchasing in bars/restaurants.