

FIRST CIRCULAR FOR THE 21ST EAVP ANNUAL MEETING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear friends and colleagues,

We wish to welcome you to the 21st EAVP annual meeting in Longyearbyen, Svalbard (Norway). The conference will take place 30-31st of August. Workshops and the icebreaker will take place on the 29th August and pre and post conference fieldtrips will take place on the 28th August and the 1st of September. A preliminary program is available below. EAVP 2024 is a joint effort between the University of Oslo (Norway), University of Uppsala (Sweden) and the University Centre in Svalbard (Norway). EAVP 2024 is supported by a grant from the Norwegian Research Council.

Registration will open in January 2024. Please note, there is a limited number of spots available, and registration will close once this limit is reached. Please note that registration will only cover participation in the conference, workshops, icebreaker, auction and assembly. Hotel, fieldtrip and conference dinner bookings will be handled by Hurtigruta. Details on how to book this will be posted on our website when registration opens. Updated information will be available on our webpage:

<https://nhm.uio.no/english/research/events/conferences/EAVP2024/Program/>

We are interested in receiving more workshop proposals, please submit your proposal to: **eavp2024svalbard@nhm.uio.no**. The final **deadline for workshop proposals is February 10th, 2024**. **Abstract deadline is set for March 22nd, 2024**. Abstracts should be submitted by email to: **eavp2024svalbard@nhm.uio.no**. Details on formatting of abstracts will be available on the webpage.



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The Research
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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. 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.

General assembly – As part of this year's EAVP Annual General Meeting, all EAVP board position will be open for election.

GETTING TO LONGYEARBYEN AND YOUR STAY

Travelling to Longyearbyen - 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. Be aware that there is a wedding taking place in Longyearbyen at the same time as the conference, so please book flights early.

Staying in Longyearbyen – We have arranged a discounted hotel rate with the hotel operator Hurtigruta. This business runs multiple hotels in town. Hurtigruta will set up our own site for booking hotels (and fieldtrip + conference dinner). This will be posted as a link on our webpage when registration opens. It is possible to share a room as many of these hotel rooms have twin beds, thereby halving the cost. Breakfast is included. There are also several guest houses available in town. See visitsvalbard.com for more details.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND EVENTS

We are delighted to announce that the conference has been funded by the Norwegian Research Council, which will reduce the registration fee. Events will take place in person and online as a fully hybrid meeting.

This year's EAVP will have a polar-theme, meaning that sessions will be set aside to prioritise submissions using research from Arctic and Antarctic areas (palaeo-latitude included).

The current preliminary EAVP program is as follows:

	Wednesday August 28th	Thursday August 29th	Friday August 30th	Saturday August 31st	Sunday September 1st
MORNING	Pre-conference field trip	Workshops, symposia and roundtables	Scientific Sessions 9:15-17:30	Scientific Sessions 9:15-17:30	Post-conference field trip
	“The Upper Jurassic Slotsmøya Member Lagerstätte” -	Workshops (see details in Event section) 10:00-16:00	Polar Palaeontology <i>Lunch break</i>	Polar Palaeontology <i>Lunch break</i>	“The marine reptile explosion after the end-Permian mass extinction”
AFTERNOON	Janusfjellet All Day		Mixed parallel sessions	Mixed parallel sessions	Ledalen and Flowerdalen All Day
EVENING		Official opening/ Ice Breaker Svalbard Museum 18:30-20:00	Poster session 16:00-17:30	Poster session 16:00-17:30	
			Conference Dinner Gruvelageret 19:00-23:00	EAVP Assembly and Auction 18:00-22:00	

Workshops - Three workshops have been suggested:

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. Svalbard’s fossil localities are recognised as iconic for fossil geoheritage worldwide. Svalbard’s fossil record includes some of the earliest fishes, land plants and ancient marine reptiles, as well as the northernmost occurrence of dinosaur tracks. Many of these localities will be lost in the next 50 years and fossils will only be found in museum collections due to erosion from climatic change. The need to document this vanishing fossil wealth is imminent

and immediate. We will invite representatives from Research in Svalbard (RiS) to contribute to the discussion as there is currently no way of knowing where fossils removed from Svalbard end up, and Norway risks losing important geoheritage.

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.

3) 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.

Fieldtrips – We are very excited to host EAVP delegates to our previous fieldwork sites in Svalbard.

The pre-conference fieldtrip (28th August) will head to the Late Jurassic Slottsmøya Member at Janusfjellet. The locality is a rich marine reptile Lagerstätte. Between 2004-2012, several expeditions from the University of Oslo Natural History Museum took place at Janusfjellet. The research from specimens collected during these expeditions included several new taxa including: *Janusaurus lund* and, *Cryopterygius kristiansenae*.

The post-conference fieldtrip (1st September) will go to the Early and Middle Triassic marine localities in Ledalen and Flowerdalen. This succession is well-known for early ichthyopterygians (including the earliest ichthyopterygian – Kear et al., 2023, Current Biology), temnospondyls, sarcopterygians, actinopterygians and chondrichthyans.

Booking for these fieldtrips will take place via Hurtigruta, and there is a limited number of spaces. Travel from Longyearbyen will take place via boat and is a great opportunity to see some of the amazing wildlife Svalbard has to offer, seabirds, whales, walrus, seals, and polar bears. The hike up to localities (particularly the Jurassic locality) is challenging, so please bear this mind when booking. Hurtigruta will provide armed polar bear guards, guides and boat drivers.

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 from Longyearbyen town centre to Nybyen or Sverdrupbyen by road is ok. We recommend you look over these rules/guidelines before planning your visit:

<https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/about-svalbard/sustainable-tourism/10-rules-of-visiting-svalbard>



The Arctic Landscape of Svalbard. Photo: A. J. Roberts