



## NEWSLETTER

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### EDITORIAL //



Dear FASE members and colleagues,

With only a few days left in 2014, we would like to shortly summarise the FASE year for you.

The long awaited FASE certification has officially started. In September, two applicants passed the exam successfully and have been certified along with five honoris causa members. Also in September, we met in the beautiful Zagreb for the biennial Basic Workshop in Forensic Anthropology. It was wonderful to see how much enthusiasm there is for forensic anthropology among participants from diverse scientific and geographic background. It was also a nice opportunity for the FASE Board members to meet in person and to discuss the present and future of FASE with other lecturers and the participants.

Unfortunately, we had also some bad news. The revised

FORANTEN project was again not funded by the EU. However, even after this rejection the spirit of the participating parties remains one of hope regarding future projects.

To end on a positive note, next year we look forward to several FASE events, including the Ancestry Estimation workshop at the IALM Congress in Dubai in January, the Advanced Course on Imaging and Forensic Anthropology in Montpellier in September, and we also hope to be well represented at the EAFS meeting in Prague. Also, the FASE webpage is growing strong and we hope to have more input from you so it can really become an exchange platform for European and international forensic scientists.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2015!

*The editorial team*



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Dear FASE members and colleagues,*

During 2013 an important step ahead has been taken by FASE. After some years of discussions we were able to do the **first certifications in forensic anthropology within IALM**. This is a strategic step for the future since we believe that without certification, both of experts and of labs, forensic science cannot look towards a secure future.

Thus, one of my wishes for 2015 is that this process may continue and that experts from many countries around the world will join FASE, and acknowledge our goals.

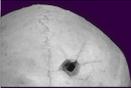
This is my **last year as FASE president**, and I did my best during the last 6 years in this position. Regardless of my role in FASE I will keep pushing for the future of forensic

anthropology in Europe, since there are still many things that need improvement.

Before I conclude, I wish to invite you to the 2015 FASE events, particularly to the **Advanced Course in Imaging in September in Montpellier**. We are looking forward to seeing you there and welcome your contributions to the scientific and organisational proceedings of our **meetings** and FASE as such. For 2015 I wish for many active forensic anthropologists and other related scientists.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you with lots of joy and also some challenging forensic anthropology cases!

*Eugénia Cunha*



## FASE ACTIVITIES

### ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE FASE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

*by Eugénia Cunha, FASE President*

The following are my views of the **2014 FASE certification process**.

We never believed that the process is going to be easy. However, it has proven to be much more difficult and time-consuming than expected.

The discussions on certification began in **2010** by FASE Board members (Eugenia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo, Eric Baccino, Laurent Martrille), two forensic anthropology practitioners from the USA (Ann Ross and Erin Kimmerle) and a former President of ALAF (Jose Pablo Baraybar).

At the AAFS meeting in **2011** the first model for an international FASE certification process was presented and received support by many including the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. Later in 2011 at the IAFS meeting in Madeira, FASE members had the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the proposed certification. The following year at the IALM meetings in Istanbul FASE Board and members decided to move forward with the process.

In **2013**, discussions continued at FASE meetings. All suggestions and recommendations received during the past two years have been taken into consideration. As a result, the **Certification Committee** was created, consisting of Eugénia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo, Gerard Quattrehomme, Sue Black, Ann Ross and Douglas Ubelaker. By the end of 2013 the first

call for applications was announced.

We received **38 applications**. Applicants for Levels 1 and 2 and honoris causa came from 15 different countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the UK, and the USA.

During the review process by the Certification Committee we realized that our first call was less than perfect and lacked many important details. The Committee worked extremely hard to correct the inaccuracies while maintaining objectivity throughout the review process.

A great majority of the applicants were not approved to take the certification exam because they did not meet one of the basic prerequisites, i.e. being a FASE member at the time of application.

For **Level 2** a significant number of applicants did not submit the required reference letter from their supervisor outlining their laboratory contributions and thus their application was rejected.

For **Level 1**, there were several reasons why applicants did not meet the requirements. The majority of the applicants who were not approved for examination failed to submit the

two case reports, which was considered by the evaluation committee as absolutely indispensable. Furthermore, some applicants failed to present proof of having performed more than 10 cases as an independent forensic anthropology practitioner.

By the end of the process **nine applications were approved**, of which **five were honoris causa**.

Four applicants were approved to take the exam (two for Level 1 and two for Level 2). Two of the approved applicants (one for each Level) informed the Committee that they were not available to take the exam at the given date and place.

Thus, only one applicant for each Level was present in Milan (Italy) to take both the **theoretical** (multiple choice) and the practical exam (stations and cases).

The exams were undertaken under the supervision of three members of the Certification Committee (Eugenia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo, Douglas Ubelaker). We are pleased to announce that both candidates successfully passed the exam.

The two successful applicants, who are now FASE-certified practitioners, are **Amanda Hale**, a research technician from the USA (Level 2), and **Carmen Ionescu**, a forensic doctor from Romania (Level 1).

We have certainly learned a lot during this process.

The **second call** will reflect many improvements to the process. The primary goal of the Certification Committee is to be fair, objective and to uphold the requirements of the FASE certification process.



Amanda Hale (second from the right) and Carmen Ionescu (second from the left) with the members of the Certification Committee in Milan

## 2<sup>nd</sup> CALL for FASE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

2nd call deadline: **1 March 2015**

Venue and Date for final exams: **Montpellier (France), 2-3 September 2015**



Please send your application to: **cunhae@ci.uc.pt**



The certification process for forensic anthropologists across Europe and around the world constitutes a crucial part of the FASE vision that further includes:

- supporting cooperation in training and research between European and international institutions; and
- improving the quality of methods and data used in forensic anthropology, which is in agreement with the recent developments in the European Union.

The certification has been created on the grounds of recent awareness of forensic anthropology within legal systems, and an increased interest in academic training in the field. As a result, the certification will provide a realistic career platform and scaffolding for the discipline. The goal to certify forensic anthropologists has also been prompted by the proliferation of academic qualifications of dubious origin and by the issue of "self-professed" experts. As in any

other discipline that is associated with judicial proceedings, there is a need for a quality control measure within the field that regulates the qualifications of expert witnesses in forensic anthropology at the European/international level. As a consequence, the FASE certification programme provides standardization among forensic anthropology experts and facilitates confidence in their value as expert witnesses for national and international courts.

### // THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

FASE invokes the **International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)** as the certifying agency, with FASE being the executive party. Although the certification is open to all countries, the primary aim is its adoption within Europe, where the discipline is provided through varying routes including biological anthropologists, medical doctors, and biologists.

The Certification Committee selected according to academic and professional qualifications after years of deliberation has been established in 2013.

## // EVALUATION COMMITTEE

- **Prof. Sue Black** - Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK
- **Prof. Cristina Cattaneo** - LABANOF- Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Odontology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy
- **Prof. Eugénia Cunha** - Department of Life Sciences/ Forensic Sciences Research Center, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
- **Prof. Gérald Quatrehomme** - Laboratory of Forensic Pathology and Forensic Anthropology, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, Nice, France
- **Prof. Ann H. Ross** - Department of Sociology and Anthropology, NC State University, Raleigh, USA
- **Prof. Douglas Ubelaker** - Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

After consideration of the recent certification developments in the UK and North America, FASE has concluded that our certification pertains to the assessment of individuals for professional activity with levels of certification being divided into two basic categories:

- a **lower level (Level 2)**, for which minimal qualification for handling skeletal remains and providing assistance to senior personnel (e.g., pathologists or anthropologists) has been achieved; and
- a **full qualification (Level 1)**, for which the certified person is considered to be an independent practitioner in medicolegal issues and is fully entitled to be called "forensic anthropologist".
- In addition, for the more experienced and established practitioners, practicing for at least 15 years, certification **as honoris causa** will be granted based upon their CV, qualifications, academic status, and professional experience. To be considered for honoris causa, the applicant must submit all documents required for level 1 certification.

At the present time, the certification only examines the expertise concerning remains of the deceased and does not include the assessment of the living.

## // LEVELS

### • Level 2 •

An anthropologist who works under close supervision of a senior forensic pathologist, anthropologist or other suitably qualified expert, and his/her responsibilities encompass at least data collection, including maceration of the remains, inventory, radiography, standard measurements, photography, initial notes, analyses may apply for Level 2 certification.

The applicant must hold a minimum of a **Master's degree** in **biological anthropology or a related field** (e.g. biology,

natural sciences, biochemistry, forensic anthropology, osteology, medicine, etc.).

The applicant must provide a **full narrative of how their education has prepared them for the work in forensic anthropology**. He/she must provide an unequivocal **proof of assisting with casework**, such as co-signed reports. In addition, a **letter from a supervisor** detailing applicant's responsibilities must be included.

In addition, the applicant must be a **member of FASE** prior the application for certification, and show **participation in relevant and continuing education** in forensic anthropology.

The certification process for **Level 2** is performed in two phases:

- 1) Initial evaluation of the CV and other documents. It is emphasized that incomplete applications will not be further considered for evaluation. A check list of the submitted documents should be included with the application form.
- 2) for those candidates who pass the initial evaluation, a written and practical examination is required. The written examination consists of objective questions on forensic anthropology theory, methods, and general knowledge. The practical exam consists of specimen evaluation including questions concerning human/non-human identification, taphonomy, aspects of the biological profile, and trauma.

### • Level 1 •

An applicant for Level 1 certification will have conducted forensic anthropological analyses independently, have written and signed reports, and testified in court. The conditions for being accepted as Level I practitioner include:

- fulfillment of the **same requirements as Level 2** applicants;
- holding a **MD or PhD degree**. The applicant must provide a **full narrative of how their training and experience has prepared them for work in forensic anthropology**. For medical doctors, additional training/degrees in physical anthropology and forensic sciences/medicine or forensic anthropology must be evident;
- submission of **two (2) case reports** which reflect comprehensive knowledge of forensic anthropology. For example, we do not recommend submitting case reports that only include one skeletal element or non-human identification.
- submission of a **list of cases that show applicant's expertise and experience** in agreement with national judicial regulations by providing an unequivocal proof that he/she was responsible for **at least 20 forensic anthropology cases** as an expert.
- evidence of **at least 5 years of experience** after completion of the highest academic degree.

In addition to the written and practical examination required for level 2 candidates, Level 1 candidates must also complete a practical viva voce oral examination that will focus on two case scenarios.

## // APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Submit the completed application form** (soon available from the website <http://forensicanthropology.eu/>) and ensure that **all mandatory documents** are included by providing a completed checklist. Applications with missing documents will not be considered.

2. Send the application documents, including application form, CV, case reports and any other relevant material to the following email address: **cunhae@ci.uc.pt**.

**NOTE:** that all documents must be translated to English (as well as include a copy of the original).

For **Level 1**, two forensic case reports signed by the applicant are mandatory.

For **Level 2**, a letter of recommendation from the direct supervisor and clear evidence of hands-on contribution to forensic cases must be submitted for evaluation.

**NOTE:** All applications that have been approved in 2014 but the applicants were not able to take the exams will be held for one year. The applicants do not need to re-apply but they do need to indicate whether they intend to take the examinations in 2015 by 1 March 2015. After 2015, these applicants will need to re-apply.

#### // APPLICATION FEES

A processing fee of **50 euros** must be paid at the time of application.

For those applicants who are approved to take the written and practical examinations an additional fee of **100 euros** must be paid.

Payment should be made exclusively by wire transfer to the following account:

AccountName: Centro de Estudos de Pós-Graduaçãoem Medicina Legal

Bank name: Santander Totta (0018)

Bank Address: Av. Dr. Armando Gonçalves, 5, 3000-059 Coimbra, Portugal; Agência: 0269 – Coimbra, Cruz de Celas  
Swift code: TOTAPTPL

IBAN code: PT50001802690020002510588

NIB: 001802690020002510588

*Please note that the transfer should be free of any charges for the beneficiary.*

#### CHECKLIST

##### • LEVEL 2

1.  proof of a Master degree in biological anthropology or related fields
2.  full narrative on the training related to forensic anthropology
3.  proof of continuing education in forensic anthropology
4.  proof of assisting with casework
5.  letter from a supervisor
6.  member of FASE

##### • LEVEL 1

1.  proof of a MD or PhD degree
2.  full narrative on the training related to forensic anthropology
3.  proof of continuing education in forensic anthropology
4.  two case reports
5.  list of cases (minimum 20 forensic anthropology cases as an expert)
6.  evidence of at least 5 years of experience
7.  member of FASE

##### • HONORIS CAUSA

1.  All Level 1 documents (1-5 & 7)
2.  evidence of at least 15 years of experience
3.  complete CV
4.  list of qualifications
5.  resume of professional experience and academic status

all documents must be copies of original documents accompanied by their English translation



## SUMMARY OF THE FASE BASIC WORKSHOP, ZAGREB 2014

by Anja Petaros, FASE Basic workshop Organizing Committee

After the basic workshops on forensic anthropology organized by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) held in Denmark in 2010 and Istanbul in 2012, this year it was Croatia, precisely the city of Zagreb to host this international biennial event. The **basic workshop** was organized in cooperation with the *Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb* and the *Department of Legal Medicine and Criminalistics, Rijeka University, Rijeka*. The workshop took place from 8 to 12

September 2014.

The beautiful library of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts served as the main location for the workshop, in which both the oral and practical sessions of the workshop took place. The workshop gathered **30 participants** (students, anthropologists, archaeologists and forensic practitioners (mainly legal medicine specialists)) from **17 different countries**, and a total of **18 lecturers and laboratory staff**. It was a wonderful occasion not just to introduce the



Friday lecture by Prof Šlaus at the FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology

Eugénia Cunha, Prof. Ann Ross, Prof. Douglas Ubelaker, Dr Daniel Gaudio, Dr Pierre Guyomarc'h, Dr Zuzana Obertova, Anja Petaros, MD; and the second dedicated to **practical sessions**. Besides presenting the traditional topics that characterize every basic workshop in forensic anthropology, including construction of the biological profile, trauma analysis, and taphonomy, the lectures focused also on forensic facial reconstruction, identification of the living, laboratory management procedures, writing forensic reports and witnessing in court.

The **practical sessions** were organized so that the laboratory assistants followed the oral presentations and were organized in teams that rotated between stations presenting different aspects of the topics of the day. Since the samples presented at the practical sessions included both archaeological and recent forensic osteological material, participants specialising in archaeology not familiar with forensic cases, and conversely legal medicine practitioners less familiar with archaeological taphonomy and trauma were well-served and could gain new insights. Both younger FA - laboratory assistants and lecturers -professors took part at the practical sessions.

Friday, the above listed lecturing team was joined by **local forensic specialists**: Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Prof. Dragan Primorac, Prof. Mario Šlaus from Croatia, as well as Assoc. Prof. Tomaž Zupanc and Prof. Irena Zupanič-Pajnič from Slovenia who introduced the participants to the identification work conducted in their respective countries.

The emphasis was especially on the role of *forensic genetics and forensic odontology* in the identification process. Both Croatian and Slovenian recent history, marked by great losses of human lives and the consequent uncontrolled emerging of mass graves pertaining to the 1991-1995 Croatian War (Croatia) and the WWII and post-war period (Croatia, Slovenia), created a wealth of experience in the management of mass casualties and techniques of forensic identification. The presentations also allowed for comparison of different working habits and techniques between countries, and emphasized the practical value of forensic anthropology.



Lecture on bone trauma given by Prof Ann Ross at the FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology

participants to the basics of forensic anthropology but also to share experience, discuss cases, and network.

The workshop was opened by the members of the Local Organizing Committee: *Prof Mario Šlaus*, creator and curator of the Osteological Collection of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and *Prof Pavao Rudan*, General Secretary of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Chief Editor of the international journal *Collegium Antropologicum*.

The workshop was divided in two parts: the first dedicated to **oral presentations** held by renowned experts in the field, including Prof. Eric Baccino, Prof. Cristina Cattaneo, Prof.

The Organizing Committee of the workshop also provided a relief from the scientific session by organising a **come-together dinner at a local tavern**. Most of the participants took part at this gathering. The relaxed atmosphere and more time for networking and interactions than was available during the workshop allowed the participants to get to know each other better and chat about topics other than forensic anthropology :-)

We hope that the social program will become a traditional part of the FASE workshops and courses in the future.

The overall satisfaction of the participants was high as showed by the results of the questionnaire sent out after the workshop finished.

The **opinion of the participants** is very important to FASE since any pitfalls in the organization of the workshop or suggestions for future topics or improvements will help the organisers of the next workshop to make the event even better than the previous one.

We therefore **thank all the participants who took time to fill in the relatively long questionnaire and pointed out some issues mainly regarding the practical sessions and time management.**

Finally, FASE and the Organizing Committee would like to express their deep gratitude to all the participants that showed really a high level of preparation and interest, but also to Dr Zeljka Bedic, Dr Vlasta Vyroubal, Jozo Perić-Peručić from the Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts for their involvement in the long organization process, and to students Ivana Prgomet and Anita Adamić that took care of everything that went on "behind the scenes". We would also like to extend our gratitude to all lecturers who kindly shared their knowledge and experience not only at the oral sessions, but also during the practicals and the social gathering.

### *From the pen of the attendees....*

I was happy to attend the 7th FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology in September, hosted in Zagreb. As a bioarchaeologist starting my PhD in October, I was interested in gaining an overview of forensic research into human remains and the possibility to engage in interdisciplinary exchange in understanding methods and issues in a closely related field.

The FASE workshop took place over five days in the Library of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences, a neo-Renaissance building housing artwork and well designed and equipped learning spaces. Each day consisted of a morning of lectures followed by an afternoon of practical sessions.



Relaxing evening spent at the come-together dinner at a local Zagreb's tavern

All the speakers and sessions were of a high standard, several were of particular interest to me. Douglas Ubelaker highlighted among other things, the use of artificial radiocarbon in tissues to estimate the date of death. Cristina Cattaneo presented on positive identification and trauma, and Eugenia Cunha and Cristina Cattaneo presented thoughtful insights into suitable structure and style in compiling forensic reports. Ann Ross touched on laboratory procedures, including Biosafety level accreditation and the importance of the chain of custody. In this case it was particularly interesting to understand the day to day workings of a laboratory, and relevant legal considerations. Eric Baccino also discussed the application of the Lamedin method to estimate age in forensic cases. Finally, Mario Šlaus provided a very interesting talk about the Croatian War, with a note on some of the risks that forensic anthropologists face in war zones.

The workshop practical sessions used a range of relevant skeletal material, and were of such interest that groups sometimes spent too long on one table! The staff were well trained, knowledgeable and engaging, and the atmosphere was open and friendly.

The workshop also provided a great opportunity to meet experienced academics and develop contact with other early career researchers from across the globe.

I am still exchanging information on social media about research and events with international colleagues from different scientific backgrounds that I met at the workshop.

Did the workshop achieve its aims? Yes, as it provided a useful and practical introduction to both theory and method in forensic anthropology. We left with a present, copies of several of the conference presentations as well as published protocols and articles. I'd like to thank the organisers in Zagreb, and I'm now looking forward to the next workshop in Montpellier.

*by Priscilla Ulguim | PhD Researcher  
School of Science & Engineering  
Teesside University*

## SUMMARY OF THE FINAL MEPROCS CONFERENCE

During the last three years FASE has acted as a supporting organization of the EU-funded project **MEPROCS** (Advanced Forensic Framework FP7-SEC 2011), which has aimed to define new methodologies and protocols for forensic identification by **craniofacial superimposition** (CFS). The project has now come to an end and was concluded with the **international conference and workshop** on CFS (ICCF2014) held in Dundee between 30 June to 4 July 2014.

The events were outstandingly organised by *Prof Caroline Wilkinson* and her team. Both the international conference and the workshop brought together a vast number of international scientists from many disciplines.

The **conference** brought a detailed overview of both the **strengths and limitations of the CFS**, presented through the results of original prospective and retrospective studies, interesting case reports and case reviews.

Twenty oral and fifteen poster presentations were held during the two-day conference (the **abstracts and programme** can be downloaded from: <http://www.meprocs.eu/metaspaces/portal/11/384-int.-conference?pms=1,258,383002,view,normal,0>).

Worth mentioning are surely the **keynote lectures** held by Prof Douglas Ubelaker (Craniofacial Superimposition: History and Current Issues) and Dr Carl Stephan (Compiling a Science of Craniofacial Superimposition).

A summary of all the work done during the MEPROCS project was offered during the closing session of the conference, including a brief overview on the CFS principles, state-of-art, methodology, and best practices.

The **workshop** that followed the conference provided **additional training and knowledge transfer** for interested practitioners. The event also allowed the participants to visit the beautiful and superbly organized facilities of the **Centre for Anatomy & Human Identification** (CAHID).

The practical part consisted of a **hands-on experience with both classical and advanced CFS methods and tools**. The workshop showed how considerably the procedures vary between laboratories and countries. The participants had the

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CRANIOFACIAL SUPERIMPOSITION (ICCF2014)



# MEPROCS

DUNDEE (UK), 30 JUNE-4 JULY 2014

[www.meprocs.eu](http://www.meprocs.eu)



opportunity to practice each of the techniques, and to discuss and compare the results among each other. While some of the advanced software and tools appear unreachable for many of the practitioners, the workshop proved that satisfying results can be obtained also by using the classical methods that can be performed on a small budget. However, all the methods seen had one thing in common: the necessity to understand CFS in detail and develop sufficient skill to conduct the superimposition.

The practical session allowed the participants also to test the CFS software **Face2Skull** (<http://www.face2skull.com/>) developed by the **European Centre for Soft Computing** as one of the final products of the MEPROCS project. This software tries to overcome some of the limitations that became apparent during the course of the CFS project as well as to simplify and facilitate the superimposition process by making it more automatic.

The team of experts involved in the practical sessions included among others Caroline Wilkinson, Christopher Rynn, P. T. Jayaprakash, Rimantas Jankauskas, Alexey Abramov, and Kazuhiko Imaizumi.

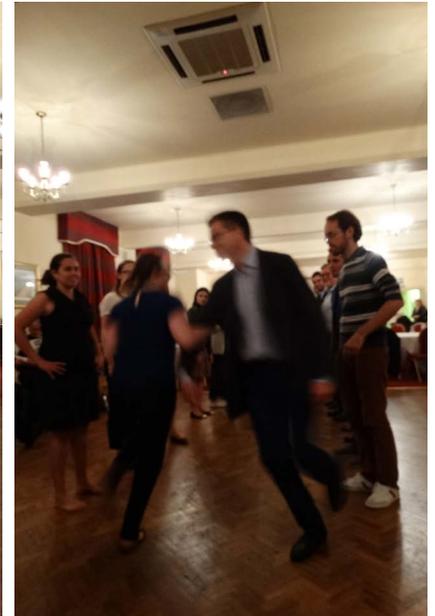
During the practical sessions different 3D laser scanning tools were presented and tested, and some of the participants had their own 3D scan done.



Discussing the classical CFS methods

The city of Dundee was a perfect host for the two events. It is impossible not to mention the hospitality of the CAHID, especially of the students that took over the role of tour guides for the participants, and the enthusiasm and affability of the organizing committee. The working sessions were balanced off by a fantastic social program, including a fine dinner, and a total immersion in traditional music and dances; with many of the participants trying to learn and dance traditional dances with varying, and often hilarious, results.

The final results and achievements of the MEPROCS project have been compiled into the [Handbook on Craniofacial Superimposition](#) (Springer edition) that will be soon available on the MEPROCS official website: <http://www.meprocs.eu/metaspaces/portal/11/385-handbook?pms=1,258,383002,view,normal,0>.



The bravest participants during the social program - trying to perform traditional dances

## A SHORT SYNOPSIS OF THE FASE WORKSHOP

### “ANCESTRY ESTIMATION IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY” Dubai, January 19, 2015

The workshop will be organised as one of the opening events for the **23rd Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine**, taking place in **Dubai** between **19 and 21 January 2015**. The workshop will be held on the morning of **19 January** with *Eugénia Cunha* and *Douglas Ubelaker* as lecturers.

**Ancestry** is one of the big four parameters of the biological profile which means that it is a mandatory item to be analyzed within a forensic anthropology expertise. We will show that ancestry can effectively narrow down the field of inquiry, facilitating a match between human remains and a missing person.

This **workshop** will start with a discussion of the evolution of the concept and it will present several approaches to assess ancestry, in particular highlighting metric versus non-metric methods. Priority will be given to the **skull**, namely the face since it is considered the most informative anatomical area to infer ancestry.

Yet, other bones such as the femur will also be discussed.

The **relation of ancestry with other biological parameters** will be discussed followed by an evaluation of ancestry in a fresh cadaver versus in a decomposed body. It is well known that a **combined assessment** of morphological features and measurements gives the best insight to ancestry. Within the

**metric analysis** we will progress from craniometric points to indexes, and then onto geometric morphometrics. Beyond linear measurements the benefits of **2D and 3D models** will be discussed. The more popular **software applications to assess ancestry** – Fordisc, Cranid and Ancestrees, will be presented using practical example cases.

The presenters intend to provide as many **practical examples**

as possible as well as cases in which ancestry has proven useful in reaching positive identification.

It will be emphasized that a holistic approach in which cultural, chemical (isotope analysis), genetic and other assessments are integrated, is the best option for achieving a good result.

**Practical recommendations** will be provided regarding the use of metric and non-metric approaches, and a list of the most useful traits will be suggested. Finally, recommendations will also be given regarding the presentation of ancestry estimation in written reports.

#### Additional information on the IALM Congress

Other workshops that may be of interest are the **ICRC Workshop** on Management and Identification of the Dead from Armed Conflicts, Catastrophes and Migration: Challenges and Lessons Learnt for Humanitarian Action, and **Violence Against Women Workshop** on Analysis of Violence Against Women: Questions and Answers from Forensic Medicine.

There will also be several scientific sessions with topics related to forensic anthropology, including Age Estimation in Living Persons, Torture and Clinical Forensic Medicine, The Fight against Child Trafficking: Forensic Anthropological, Clinical and Genetic Identification Methods, Investigation and Identification of Burnt Bodies, and AMI and PMI Estimation in the Early and Late Periods.

More information can be found on the official website of the Congress:

<http://www.ialmdubai.ae/>

## FORTHCOMING FASE ADVANCED COURSE AND SYMPOSIUM “IMAGING IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY” Montpellier, September 3-5, 2015

We are happy to announce the next FASE events in **Montpellier** in **September 2015**.

The advanced course will be organized by *Prof Eric Baccino* and *Dr Philippe Cathala* from the University Hospital of Montpellier, France in collaboration with the [Association of Legal Medicine and Clinical Toxicology of Montpellier](#).

It will take place in the **14th century old historical rooms** (Theatrum Anatomicum) of the Montpellier Medical School (2 rue Ecole de Médecine, Montpellier, France) from Sept 3 (Thursday) to Sept 4 (Friday) 2015.

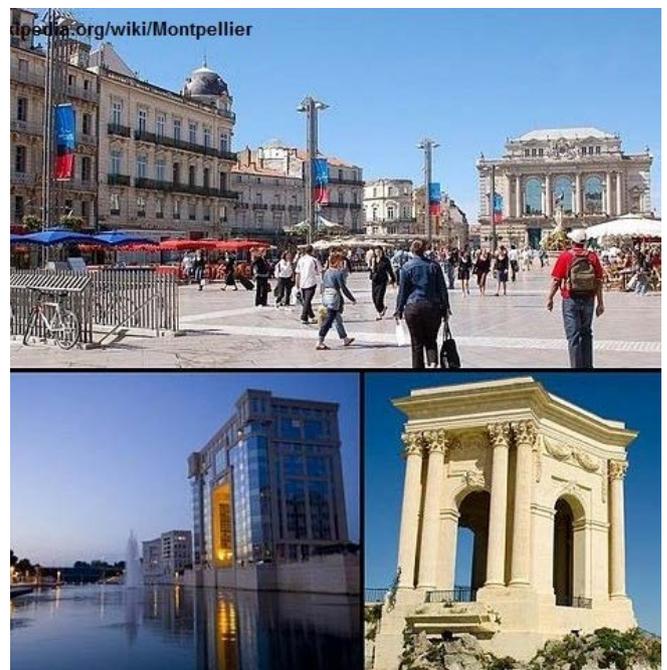
The main topic of the course will be “**Imaging and Forensic Anthropology**”.

The course will cover many topics:

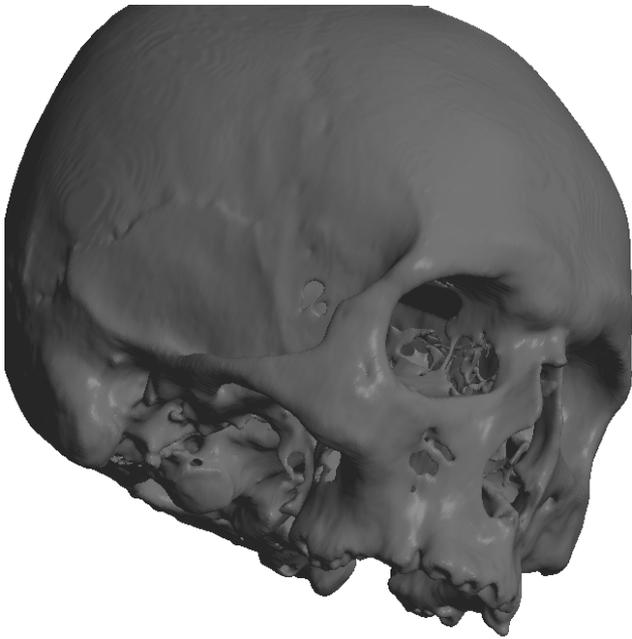
- postmortem CT, 3D CT scanning and MRI
- bone trauma in forensic medicine and anthropology
- age determination in the living
- interesting and helpful case reports.

The course will allow an interdisciplinary perspective on the topic and will involve lecturers from different scientific fields: radiologists, forensic pathologists, forensic anthropologists etc.

The main speakers of the course will be Prof **Fabrice Dedouit** (radiologist and forensic pathologist, University Hospital of Toulouse, France), Prof **Niels Lynnerup** (forensic anthropologist, University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Prof **Cristina Cattaneo** (forensic pathologist and anthropologist,



LABANOF, University of Milan, Italy), Prof **Pascal Adalian** (forensic anthropologist, University of Marseille, France), Dr **Laurent Martrille** (forensic pathologist, University Hospital of Nancy, France), Dr **Samuel Merigeaud** (radiologist, Montpellier, France), Prof. **Patrice Taourel** (Chief of the Radiology Department, University Hospital of Montpellier, France), Prof **Eric Baccino** (Chief of the Forensic Medicine Department, University Hospital of Montpellier, France).



The two-day course will be followed by another event: **FASE Symposium** which will take place on September 5 (Saturday) 2015. The symposium aims to gather forensic anthropologists from Europe and worldwide that want to present their research projects in form of oral presentations or posters, share their experience and contribute to further networking in the European forensic anthropology community.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** July 1st, 2015.

**REGISTRATION FEES** (including 2 lunches on site):  
before July 1st, 2015

General Public: 420 Euro  
FASE members: 320 Euro  
Students : 250 Euro



**REGISTRATION FORMS REQUEST AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:**  
[amltc34@gmail.com](mailto:amltc34@gmail.com)

## FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

### FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORIES ACROSS EUROPE //

#### // FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND ODONTOLOGY LABORATORY - LABANOF UNIVERSITY OF MILAN, ITALY



Since its foundation in **1995** **LABANOF** (Laboratorio di Antropologia e Odontologia Forense), based at the Department of Scienze

Biomediche per la Salute of the Università degli Studi di Milano, deals with the recovery and examination of human remains, and consequent assessment of cause and manner of death, and identity.

For this it has a wide network of components active in *K9 recovery, forensic archaeology, botany, geology and entomology*.

In 2002 it started working on the living, becoming active in *identification of the living* and subsequently in issues concerning clinical forensic and humanitarian medicine such as aging unaccompanied minors and examination of victims of maltreatment and torture.

It counts two resident forensic pathologists, one odontologist, two anthropologists, one natural scientist and two biologists. It currently has three technicians and undergraduate and postgraduate national and international students.

**LABANOF** is first of all a University laboratory and therefore is active in teaching at a national and international level and research mainly on identification and trauma, frequently in collaboration with other



Forensic case work: from excavation...

national and international institutions (eg EU and regional grants). It has been committed equally, since 1995, to the social cause of unidentified cadavers and houses the first and only Italian website for unidentified cadavers and human remains of the province of Milano, in agreement with the judicial authority.

In 2007 it formally became consultant for the Government's Office of Missing Persons and has now signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian Government for the identification of the victims of Lampedusa.

The Laboratory works across Italy and occasionally in other European countries and Switzerland in cases of recovery and examination of human remains and identification of the living and has active members on the Swiss DVI team and within humanitarian agencies.

The Laboratory also deals with the anthropological and palaeopathological study of human historical and archaeological remains in the region, as well as providing museums and antiquariums with facial reconstructions and installations concerning anthropology and studies of necropolises and historical remains. It collaborates with the Museo Archeologico of Milano and has created a regional database for over 1000 ancient skeletal remains from the Roman Era to the late 19th century.

In collaboration with the City of Milan LABANOF houses a known skeletal collection of over 1400 known individuals who died between 1992 and 2009, with known demographics, cause of death, diseases, sometimes autopsy reports and x-rays. Of these 200 are subadults between the age of 0 and 8 years.

The Laboratory has more recently begun collaborating with the City of Milano on the issue of maltreatment, for medicolegal examinations of refugees claiming physical



... to 3D reconstruction

torture or unaccompanied minors for aging. It also collaborates with SVS/D and has been granted EU funding in the past for projects against juvenile pornography.

The technical equipment includes two microscopes, one endoral x-ray device, a 3D Minolta laser scanner, a total station, direct external availability of CT scanning and SEM-EDX.

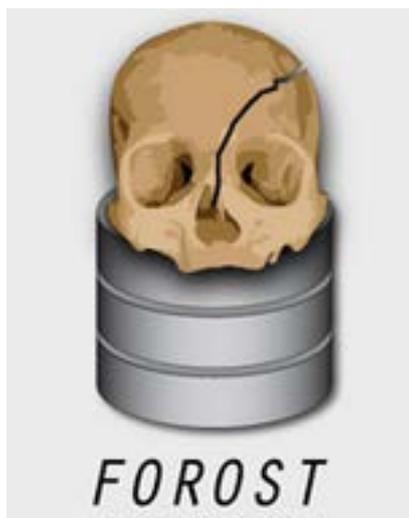
Visit us at [www.labanof.unimi.it](http://www.labanof.unimi.it)



Summer anthropology workshop organized in the hills of the Monferrato region every July for undergraduate and postgraduate students

## FOROST 2013 SEMINAR: REVIEW

by Dr. Sabrina Shotts, FOROST coordinator (Europe)



[forensicosteology.org/](http://forensicosteology.org/)

In August 2013, forensic and physical anthropologists from the United States and Mexico convened for the **Third International Seminar of the Forensic Anthropology** (Tercer Seminario Internacional de Antropología Forense) in Mexico City.

The five-day seminar was held at the **Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas (IIA)** at **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)**, which manages the FOROST image metabase ([www.forensicosteology.org](http://www.forensicosteology.org)) in collaboration with California State University, East Bay (CSUEB).

The program of the seminar consisted of 28 presentations on a broad range of topics and methods in forensic anthropology, such as skeletal trauma, taphonomy and postmortem interval, child and animal abuse, stable isotope analysis, cranial morphometrics, and ancestry determination.

Slides of the seminar presentations can be viewed on the FOROST website

[http://forensicosteology.org/im\\_detail.php?language=en&show=9](http://forensicosteology.org/im_detail.php?language=en&show=9)

For FOROST, the seminar showed the successful growth of the organization since its inception in 2007. FOROST began as a joint effort between universities in the United

States and Mexico, and continues to strengthen these relationships. At the 2013 seminar there were more American and Mexican student participants than ever before, and the FOROST editorial team is working to produce both English and Spanish versions of the FOROST Occasional Publications series.

The most recent publication, the FOROST Cranial Photography Protocol ([http://forost.org/Forost\\_Citation/FOROST\\_Skull\\_Photo\\_Protocol.pdf](http://forost.org/Forost_Citation/FOROST_Skull_Photo_Protocol.pdf)) was presented at the conference, and forthcoming protocols were also announced.

Other announcements included the addition of the Donald J. Ortner slide collection to the FOROST metabase, where these images are now indexed and easily accessible to the global forensic osteology community.



2013 FOROST Seminar

## INVITATION TO ATTEND THE “FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT COURSE” The Hague, April 15-17, 2015

In April (from April 15-17) 2015, The Netherlands Forensic Institute organizes a three-day course in Forensic Anthropology and Disaster Management.

The three-day course focuses on forensic anthropology and disaster management, and combines theoretical background with elaborate practical training.

The course comprises of two parts, forensic anthropology

and disaster management.

The first two days focus on forensic anthropology and its associated fields, and incorporate theoretical background and elaborate practical training. Lectures are given by renowned experts in the various forensic anthropological fields, and focus on standard forensic anthropological procedures, as well as new developments in the respective fields. Practical application of the knowledge acquired during the lectures is

## Forensic Anthropology and Disaster Management

International three-day course for medico-legal experts



source: <http://academy.forensicinstitute.nl/forensic-anthropology/>

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Target group</b>              | Practicing medico-legal experts (beginners and experts)   |
| <b>Duration</b>                  | Three successive days   |
| <b>Number of participants</b>    | 30-40   |
| <b>Course location and dates</b> | NFI Field Lab, The Hague; 15-17 april 2015  |
| <b>Costs</b>                     | €750,- per participant (no VAT)   |
| <b>Accreditation</b>             | Accreditation will be requested from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) UEMS (16 points). |

incorporated with hands-on training on provided skeletal material.

**The last day** of the course enables participants to gain knowledge of the **methods used in disaster management**, as well as the problems that have been encountered during investigations of various mass disasters. Lectures are presented by experts who participated in investigations of major disasters, such as the airplane crash in Tripoli, Libya in 2010, and the Utoya tragedy in 2011.

The goal of this course is to provide **both practicing beginner and experienced medico-legal experts** insight and training in the field of forensic anthropology and to gain and exchange experience with the management of disaster incidents.

The lecturers that will be involved in the course are: **S. Banaschak** (vice-director of the Institute of Legal Medicine, Universitätsklinikum Köln, Germany), **S. Black** (*forensic anthropologist* and director of CAHID, University of Dundee, Scotland), **M. Conway** (service manager, *mortuary*, Bereavement & Post Mortem Examination Services, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Chesterfield, UK), **C. van Dongen** (*reporting Officer human DNA/familial searching*, NFI The Hague, the Netherlands), **L. Font** (post-doctoral researcher *Isotope Geochemist* - Forensic Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands), **R.R.R. Gerretsen** (forensic anthropologist, NFI The Hague, the Netherlands), **F. Kroon** (*forensic odontologist* LOFO and Oral Surgeon, Spijkenisse Medisch Centrum, Spijkenisse, the Netherlands), **R. de Leeuwe** (*forensic archaeologist*, NFI The Hague, the Netherlands), **D. Ridgewell** (service manager, Mortuary, Bereavement & Post Mortem Examination Services, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, UK), **T. Rognum** (*medical examiner*, Universitetet i Oslo, Oslo, Norway), **T. Ruder** (forensic radiologist, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland), **G. Rutty** (Chief *Forensic Pathologist*, East Midlands Forensic Pathology Unit, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK), **S. Symes** (forensic anthropologist, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA, USA), **M. van Wijk** (forensic anthropologist trainee, NFI The Hague, the Netherlands), **C. Wilkinson** (*director, Face Lab*, Liverpool School of Art & Design), **P. Zoon** (forensic Researcher *Microtraces/SEM*, NFI The Hague, the Netherlands)

For more information check the website:  
<http://academy.forensicinstitute.nl/forensic-anthropology/>

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2015

January

**19-21.01.**  
23rd Congress of the IALM  
*Dubai, UAE*  
<http://www.ialmdubai.ae/>

### WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2015

January

**19.01.**  
Ancestry estimation in FA  
23rd Congress of the IALM  
*Dubai, UAE*  
<http://www.ialmdubai.ae/>

## MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2015

- February** **16-21.02.**  
67th AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting  
*Orlando, FL, USA*  
<http://aafs.org/meetings/2015>
- March** **24-25.03.**  
84th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists  
*St. Louis, MO, USA*  
<http://physanth.org/documents/14/AAPA-call-for-presentations-2015-final.pdf>
- 25-29.03.**  
Paleopathology Association Annual Meeting  
*St. Louis, MO, USA*  
<http://www.paleopathology.org/meetings.html>
- April** **21-22.04.**  
Forensics Europe Expo  
*London, GB*  
<http://www.forensicseuropeexpo.com/page.cfm/link=55>
- June** **01-03.06.**  
2nd International Conference on Virtual Archaeology (VA2015)  
State Hermitage Museum  
*Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation)*  
<http://www.virtualarchaeology.ru/news/conf2/index.php>
- 22-26.06.**  
Ninth ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine  
*Bol- Brač, Croatia*  
<http://www.isabs.hr/>
- August** **27-28.08.**  
ICFS 2015 : XIII International Conference on Forensic Sciences  
*Paris, France*  
<https://www.waset.org/conference/2015/08/paris/ICFS>
- September** **31.08.-05.09.**  
26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)  
*Krakow, Poland*  
<http://www.ies.krakow.pl/conferences/isfg/>
- 05.09.**  
FASE Forensic Anthropology Symposium  
*Montpellier, France*  
<http://www.forensicanthropology.eu/index.php/activities>
- 06.-11.09.**  
EAFS 2015 7th European Academy of forensic science conference  
*Prague, Czech Republic*  
<http://www.eafs2015.eu/#>

## WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2015

- January** **26-30.01.**  
Geometric morphometrics in R  
*Barcelona, Spain*  
<http://www.transmittingscience.org/courses/gm/gm-in-r/>
- February** **02-06.02.**  
Forensic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture with Karen T. Taylor  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/forensic-art.html>
- 17.02.**  
Fordisc 3.1 workshop: Theory, Methods, Application  
*Orlando, FL, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- March** **21-22.03.**  
Two-Day Body Recovery Field Course  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/2daybodyrecovery.html>
- April** **15-17.04.**  
Forensic Anthropology and Disaster Management  
*The Hague, Netherlands*  
<http://academy.forensicinstitute.nl/forensic-anthropology/>
- 27.04.-01.05.**  
Forensic Fire and Death Investigation  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- May** **11-15.05.**  
Skeletal Death Investigation through TEEEX  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops.html>
- 26.-29.05.**  
Forensic Anthropology Field Methods  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- June** **01.-05.06.**  
Death-Scene Archaeology: Field Methods in the Location, Recovery, & Interpretation of Human Remains from Outdoor Contexts  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>

## MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2015

November

**18.-22.11.**

114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association  
*Denver, CO, USA*  
<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/futureaaa-meetings.cfm>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING FORENSIC CONGRESSES AND COURSES NOT YET ANNOUNCED CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://webdata.aafs.org/public/meetings/listings.aspx>

<http://www.ascd.org/forensic-conferences/>

[http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Upcoming\\_events](http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Upcoming_events)

<http://www.babao.org.uk/>

<http://www.bahid.org/>

<http://cahid.dundee.ac.uk/courses>

## WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2015

June

**01.-05.06.**

**06.-10.06.**

Human Osteology  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

**01-06.06.**

Outdoor Human Remains Recovery  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/fieldrecovery.html>

**08-10.06.**

Forensic Taphonomy of Texas  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/taphonomy.html>

**08-12.06.**

Outdoor Recovery Course  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

**08-12.06.**

Fragmentary Human Osteology  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>

**15-19.06.**

Forensic Anthropology Methods  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/FAmethods.html>

**15-19.06.**

Analysis of Bone Trauma in Suspected Violent Deaths.  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>

**22-26.06.**

Documentation and Interpretation of the Fatal Fire Scene  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>

July

**13-17.07**

Introduction to Human Identification  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

## WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2015

The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **spring-summer 2015**. We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions (comments on events; book reviews; discussions, interesting case studies etc) by **April 2015**.

We also invite **organizers** to email us an invitation to relevant **events** that can be included in the next issue

([fase.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fase.newsletter@gmail.com))



### July

#### 20-22.07

Skeletal trauma  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, USA  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

#### 22-24.07.

Advanced Methods in Forensic Anthropology:  
ANCESTRY  
San Marcos, Texas, USA  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/advanced.html>

### August

#### 10.08.

Identifying Human From Non-Human Bone  
Texas State University, Forensic Anthropology Center  
San Marcos, Texas, USA  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/nonhuman.html>

#### 17.-20.08.

Human Osteology  
Texas State University, Forensic Anthropology Center  
San Marcos, Texas, USA  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Osteology.html>

### September

#### 03.-04.09.

FASE Advanced Course: Imaging in Forensic Anthropology  
Montpellier Medical School  
Montpellier, France  
<http://www.forensicanthropology.eu/index.php/activities>

#### 21-25.09.

Forensic Art: Master Facial Reconstruction Sculpture  
San Marcos, Texas, USA  
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Master-forensic-art.html>

## Not a member? Join Us!

To become a member of FASE you can apply for membership at IALM, International Association of Legal Medicine. As a IALM member you have the option of becoming member of FASE that does not carry any additional fee and it allows you to receive various extra information on forensic anthropology in Europe.

<http://www.ialm.info/>

<http://www.ialm.info/>

[lassociazione.html](http://www.ialm.info/lassociazione.html)

