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• <i>Maryna Steyn</i> • South Africa
• <i>Emeline Verna</i> • France

The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **summer 2021**.

We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions, information on upcoming events and contributions (comments on events; book reviews; discussions; interesting case studies etc.) by May-June 2021.

FASE Newsletter Editorial Board

• *Zuzana Obertová* • *Anja Petaros* • *Melanie Ratnayake* •

FASE Webpage Administrators

• *Zuzana Čaplová* • *Emeline Verna* •



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EDITORIAL

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

What a year we are leaving behind! We hope you and your family were spared from the direct effects of Covid-19 but as probably everybody in the world you must have felt the indirect consequences as did FASE.

Many of the original plans could not be realized, starting from the Basic Course in Crete, other events with FASE participation, and, finally, the election of the new Board.

We hope very much that we will be able to catch up on some of these in 2021.

Covid did not render FASE inactive though. We were

able to publish the FASE position statement on personal identification in forensic anthropology, and we have four new FASE certified practitioners due to the first ever online theoretical exam. You can read more on these two successes, and also on the updated plans for 2021 in this Newsletter.

We wish you a healthy, successful and hopefully more social 2021!

Your Editorial team

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is very difficult to imagine how to comment and say goodbye to 2020. And I will not even begin to mention how difficult it was for FASE to maintain its activities (missed conferences and meetings for example) because all this disappears in front of the illness, death and poverty that COVID 19 has and is provoking all over the world. A true *annus horribilis*. Those of us who work on ancient skeletal material would never have imagined when studying medieval skeletons, victims of the plague, that we too would go through all this. And those of us who deal with modern unidentified remains would never have thought that we too could become victims of ambiguous loss, losing our dead never to be seen again in our own hospitals. What a lesson.

I would like to say that, nevertheless, we managed to work on guidelines, articles, future meetings and projects looking forward towards times when all this will be a memory, but at the moment it just doesn't seem relevant. I know we have all struggled to teach our classes, offer our services to those who needed them and have somehow kept on doing research and worked hard at what we believe in every day (crime and victims as you all know in some ways have increased with COVID and our students have suffered greatly)...and for all this I am proud of us as a part of society.

So what can I say? Let's try to keep our head high, fighting for what is right and best, as humans and scientists, until we will go back to smiling, laughing, arguing about our usual affairs – without masks. So, regardless, here is wishing you and us all a happy and safe 2021.

I would like to cite (in emulating my Rector who before Christmas reminded us of this wonderful piece of Italian poetry) a verse from the poem *La Ginestra* (The Wild Broom) of one of our most decadent and romantic poets, Giacomo Leopardi, as a gift to you for an *annus mirabilis*, hopefully 2021.

“Or tutto intorno / una ruina involve, / dove tu siedi, o fior gentile, e quasi / i danni altrui commiserando, al cielo / di dolcissimo odor mandi un profumo, / che il deserto consola”

Loosely translated: after a year lived under an impending threat, which has brought ruin everywhere, I am sure that all of us will be able, like Leopardi's gentle broom clinging to the slopes of the volcano, to resist strenuously and become, for each other, a “presence (fragrance)” that consoles the desert where we are.

FASE EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

FASE PUBLICATIONS



Strengthening the role of forensic anthropology in personal identification: Position statement by the Board of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE)

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ABSTRACT

In this position statement, the Board members of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) argue that forensic anthropology methods can be used as means of personal identification, particularly in situations with limited availability of traditional identification methods (i.e. dactyloscopy, osteology, and molecular genetic analysis). This statement has been issued taking into account the international migration crises related to thousands of deaths worldwide, in which the utility of

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY IN PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

The collective effort of the FASE Board members to emphasize the role of forensic anthropology in the identification of human remains and living individuals has culminated in the publication in *Forensic Science International* of the paper “Strengthening the role of forensic anthropology in personal identification: Position statement by the Board of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE)”.

We invite you to read this position statement (which is open access) and we hope you will be inspired in your work in forensic personal identification.

Full citation:

De Boer H, Obertová Z, Cunha E, Adalian P, Baccino E, Fracasso T, Kranioti E, Lefèvre P, Lynnerup N, Petaros A, Ross A, Steyn M, Cattaneo C. (2020). Strengthening the role of forensic anthropology in personal identification: Position statement by the Board of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). *For Sci In.* 315. 110456. 10.1016/j.forsci.2020.110456.

FASE CERTIFICATION

Theoretical exams online for the first time

Covid-19 has brought numerous challenges for the whole world, the scientific community and the FASE. Due to the efforts of Professor Cunha and Professor Ross theoretical certification exams could be taken remotely online by candidates, who have already passed the practical part of the certification process in 2019 in Brussels.

There were five candidates for Level II certification from five different countries.

We congratulate Kara Adams (Canada/Scotland)
Joanna Drath (Poland)
Marta Marinho (Portugal)
Qun Zhang (Singapore) on successfully passing both exams and becoming FASE Level II certified.

FASE BASIC WORKSHOP in Crete - an update



The Covid pandemic has had, among other things, a big impact on the proper and timely arrangement of courses and has forced many institutions to transfer courses and education programs online. It is however hard to do so when the course is primarily based on exercises and hands-on experience such as in the case of the FASE basic workshops.

The FASE basic workshop was planned to take place on Crete September 2020 but due to the uncertainty of what the pandemic will bring in the second half of the year, it was decided to reschedule and postpone the workshop and the planned one-day symposium to September 2021 which has prove to be the right decision.

The current new dates for the course and symposium are:

20-24 September for the basic course
25 September for the one day symposium.

The plan is to maintain the original program that was intended to be a 5-day workshop for students and practitioners in the field of forensic anthropology, divided in morning session with lectures (19 in total) and sessions with practicals.

Depending on the situation the registration should open in April/May 2021.

<http://forensic.med.uoc.gr/fase2020/index.jsp>

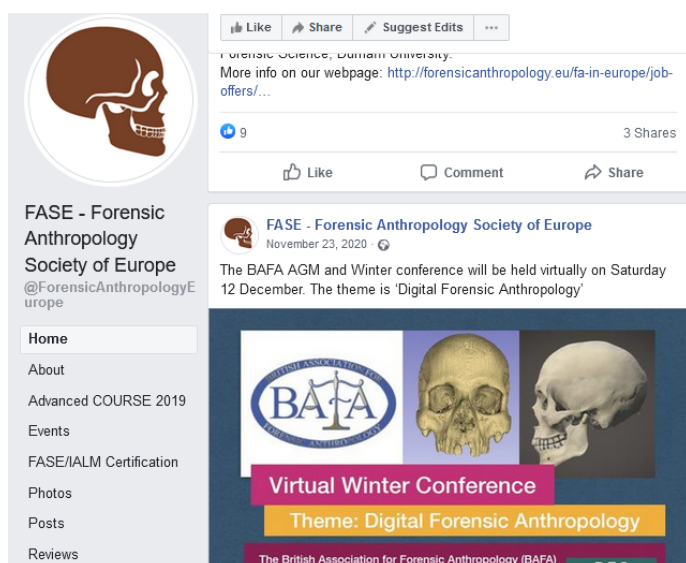
The deadline for the symposium abstract submission will be announced in due time on the webpage (as also on FASE webpage).

Those who have already registered and paid the fee have their place guaranteed for the 2021 course (those who prefer cancel should get in touch with the organization agency- information available online). Those who have already sent their abstract will be able, if needed, to update the material or submit a different abstract.

However, even now it is uncertain how COVID pandemic will develop and thus even the new dates are still subject to change. We will be continuously updating our webpages with new information and we invite all those that are interested in the workshop/symposium (as well those who have already registered) to periodically visit the course official webpage and FASE webpage to get timely updates.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



2020 was a year where digital world took our daily, private and professional, lives even more over than it already has becoming crucial in enabling us to keep social contact, to perform work, educate ourselves and others. Most institutions have relied on the digital world to keep them active.

The same goes for FASE that through our webpage, but even more importantly through our Facebook page, which today counts 3 840 followers, continues to update on job offers, scientific courses and events, funding opportunities and the current situation in forensic anthropology in Europe and worldwide.

The facebook page serves also as a communication platform where we respond questions and queries regarding FASE activities and forensic anthropology in general.

We invite you to continue to follow us on social media and we hope to be present soon on other digital platforms to keep continued contact with our members and sympathizers.

SAVE THE DATE: CALENDAR OF THE UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS 2020

- February 15.-19.02.**
73rd AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting
Online
<https://aafs.org/AAFS/Meetings/2021-Meeting/2021-Annual-Meeting.aspx>
- March 08.-09.03.**
Forensic Archaeology SIG: 1st Annual Virtual Poster Conference
Online
<https://www.archaeologists.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=142>
- 25.-28.03. (27.03. Osteoarchaeology session)**
Bioarchaeology Early Career Conference
Online
<https://becc2021.com/>
- April sessions will be spaced out over a few weeks in April**
48th North American Meeting of the Paleopathology Association
Online
http://asme.nichost.ru/attachments/article/136/Invite_2020_EN.pdf
- Maj 10.-12.05.**
The Nordic Conference of Forensic Medicine
Reykjavik, Iceland
<https://icelandtravel.artegis.com/event/NCFM>
- 25.-28. 05.**
ENFSI Annual Meeting
Athens, Greece
<https://enfsi.eu/agenda/annual-meeting-2021-save-the-date/>
- 28.05.**
AGFAD Treffen der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forensische Altersdiagnostik
Berlin, Germany
- Juni 01.-04.06.**
IALM
2021 Meeting of the International Academy of Legal Medicine
Online
https://www.ialm.info/ialm_meetings/ialm_meeting_2021/
- August 1-7.08.**
Annual IAI International Forensic Educational Conference
Nashville, Tennessee
<https://www.theiai.org/conference.php>
- 24-28.08.**
22nd Congress of the European Anthropological Association
Vilnius, Lithuania
<http://www.eaa2020.mf.vu.lt/>
- 26-27.08.**
9th European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology (EMFA)
Geneva, Switzerland
<https://www.xing-events.com/EMFA2020.html>
- 26.-30.08. (tentative dates)**
23rd Paleopathology Association European meeting
Vilnius, Lithuania
<https://www.ppa2021.mf.vu.lt/>
- September 01.-03.09.**
Triennial I.O.F.O.S. congress of forensic odonto-stomatology
Dubrovnik, Croatia
<https://iofos2020.belsoft.hr/>
- 10.-16.09.**
100. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Rechtsmedizin
Meran [Prolog] & München
<https://www.dgrm.de/tagungen/jahrestagung-dgrm>
- 20.09.-24.09.**
WORKSHOP
FASE basic course in Forensic Anthropology
Heraklion, Crete
- 25.09.**
FASE One Day Symposium
Heraklion, Crete
<http://forensic.med.uoc.gr/fase2020/index.jsp>
- More to come...
EAFS, May 30 – June 3 2022, Stockholm, Sweden
Triennial Meeting of IAFS, 20-24 November 2023, Sydney, Australia