



## **RAW EARTH IN FUNERARY CONTEXT Formal, typological and technical developments during the Neolithic and the Bronze Age**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Université Montpellier 3 Paul Valéry, Site Saint-Charles, France

**March 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Call for papers**

The international conference “*RAW EARTH IN FUNERARY CONTEXT. Formal, typological and technical developments during the Neolithic and the Bronze Age*” will be held in **Montpellier** in **March 2023** (<https://terrecruefun23.sciencesconf.org>).

The objective of this conference is to highlight the place of raw earth in the funerary sphere during the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, to understand its formal complexity and the variability of techniques. These topics will be addressed from a comparative perspective on a large geographic scale. If today the earthen materials constitute a privileged focus of study for the Neolithic and the Bronze Age periods, its use in funerary contexts remains poorly known and therefore rarely investigated. Recent archaeological discoveries in the Mediterranean area demonstrate the importance of an approach on a larger geographical scale, inducing complementarity between different fields of research (in funerary archaeology, building archaeology, geoarchaeology, ethnology).

Several lines of analysis will be considered: the role of raw earth and its different formal variations within the funerary space, its technical specificities as an architectural element or an architectural system, its role in funerary semantics.

The aim of the meeting is to discuss and compare data from various geographical horizons over a long period. Moreover, beyond the archaeological examples, it seems important to open this conference to ethnological examples.

All uses of raw earth will be considered, both those concerning the interior and exterior architectural arrangements of the tomb, as well as the elements and furnishings (furniture and building elements) related to funerary practices and uses related to the treatment of the corpse.

The conference will be organized around four broad themes:

- Theme 1: raw earth as architecture, architectural device or furniture element of the burial;
- Theme 2: raw earth in the treatment of the dead;
- Theme 3: technical aspects and technological analysis at different scales of study;
- Theme 4: the economy of the raw earth materials at the scale of the tomb alone or the associated village.

The proceedings of this symposium will be published.

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**Chronology:** Neolithic, Bronze Age and ethnological examples

**Geographical area:** worldwide

**The presentations will be divided between:**

- oral communications (20 minutes length) presenting synthesis and case-studies ;
- posters

**Official languages of the conference:** French, English

**Submission of proposals:** proposals for papers or posters should be submitted to the organizing committee before the **May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022** (<https://terrecruefun23.sciencesconf.org>). Abstracts in French and English are requested. Each abstract should not exceed **500 words**, and include **8 keywords** maximum, as well as **2 images** in landscape format. The affiliation of all co-authors must be mentioned.

**Important dates**

- Submission of proposal : before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 ;
- Notification of acceptance to authors : June 2022 ;
- Registration : September 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 ;
- Conference : March 8-9<sup>th</sup> 2023 (dates to be confirmed) ;
- Article submission: September 15<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Organization Committee**

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