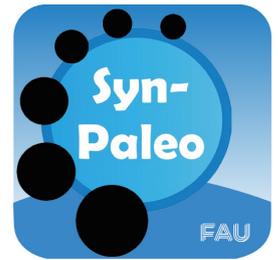


# PaleoSynthesis

## Newsletter 12/2021



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 Prof. W. Kiessling (FAU, Erlangen)  
 Prof. M. Steinbauer (University Bayreuth)



visit our homepage!

<https://www.paleosynthesis.nat.fau.de/>

### Contact us:

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 @PaleoSynth

  paleosynthesisproject

## Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

A year has passed, and we are saying “Goodbye 2021” and are welcoming 2022 expecting new challenges. But also, we are looking forward to more progress within PaleoSynthesis. We launched the Diversity Dynamics and Crisis in Paleontology speaker series and had an amazing response and exciting discussions. Plans are in place for the spring to hold our BioDeepTime workshop on site and we have finalized our application FossilDiscovery for Android. We also have started to plan the Summer Science School ‘22!

Spoiler alert: we will be seeking a new postdoc and workshop proposals in the spring!

## Workshop updates

It's been another hard year with all the consequences of the pandemic, so we are delighted to have many positives to report. All of our three workshops made good progress and there was an especially strong response to DDCP from the paleontological community.



### Diversity Dynamics and Crisis in Paleontology

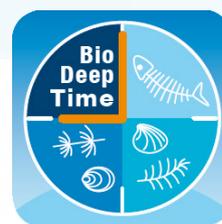
With the DDCP speakers series we have again made an effort - similar to the Big Questions - to get as much engagement as possible from the paleo community. The „Diversity Dynamics and Crisis“ workshop focused on identifying ways to improve the current practices in paleontology, to increase equality, diversity and inclusion in the field.

After announcing the series online & in social media we had wonderful feedback. The speaker series started in November 2021 and attracted over 235 participants, who watched the talks synchronously or asynchronously. Over the course of four weeks, we heard from various experts in paleontology, ecology, archaeology and education about the issues and barriers they observed and/or experienced and what could possibly be done to overcome them.

The next step is to synthesize what we learned from the

different topics and experts so that it is applicable to the field of paleontology. We will also invite input from the community again through a survey, which will be presented with the synthesis in a manuscript.

More information? See our [overview of talks](#) and the recordings on [YouTube](#).



### BioDeepTime

The participants of BioDeepTime are looking forward to the possibility of an in-person meeting in Erlangen in March 2022. We continue to adapt to the conditions of the pandemic, and will be continuing to work virtually to make progress on the project, which means developing a hybrid workshop meeting in March. Working virtually has unique challenges but it does also make it easier to include more people. Whether in-person or virtual, we expect to make another big step towards the development of a publication during the March meeting.



### PaleoNovelty

The workshop participants are actively working on a manuscript for the publication. We look forward to seeing this exciting work in print next year.



## APW 2022 Our 1<sup>st</sup> Science Summer School

We have decided on the date for the postponed Science Summer School! It will be a three weeks course beginning on August 22, 2022.

Our Summer School is designed to train young paleontologists in quantitative methods and programming as well as to strengthen methodological exchange. The Science School builds on the already existing Analytical Paleobiology Workshops (APWs). Using the R statistical software we will be focusing on quantitative methods in paleobiology.

The courses will be largely run by local staff, but we also invite external colleagues for the lectures to cover a broad spectrum of topics.

Our initial Summer Science School is targeted towards PhD students, but advanced master students are also



## Big Questions

The Big Questions project continues to make progress and has recently hit a major milestone. Each of the twelve working groups has produced their preliminary questions and all 117 of these questions are now being reviewed internally by other project participants. During this phase

## App development

Currently we have a trial version of FossilDiscovery uploaded to the Google Playstore. This is for effective testing of the structure of the application and to work on potential bugs. Our developer team appreciates feedback! We hope to overcome issues with upload permissions in the Apple Store soon to be able to provide a trial version

## Upcoming

Our Postdoc Jansen will end his stay at the end of August 2022, and we will be seeking a suitable successor for the next two years, starting in September. We will announce our call with details on qualifications and the outline of the position as well as the “how to apply” in the spring. So, if you are interested or know somebody that might be just perfect for the position stay tuned (HP, our

encouraged to apply. Twelve participants can take part in person. **Costs for travel and accommodation will be covered by the project.**

Reviewers will rate your application taking into account course readiness, inclusiveness, need for training resources, the material’s relevance to your scientific interests, and the letter of support.

All participants need to submit an application containing their current research plans, background, motivation, information if they need logistical assistance, and a recommendation letter provided by the applicant’s academic advisor.

**Please read more on the [details](#) before you prepare and submit your application.**

Deadline to apply is **February 28th, 2022**

**Important!** For the ‘22 workshop we will only accept participants that are fully vaccinated with a vaccine that is accepted within the EU (check here: [accepted vaccines](#)). **However**, we want to support as many students as possible - so there will also be the chance to join remotely.

of the project, the preliminary questions will be refined further, overlaps between questions will be identified, and participants will have opportunities to engage in cross-group discussions.

With our internal scrutiny and discussion, we are confident of producing a strong list of questions on important areas of research in paleontology’s future.

for iOS as well. We are also putting loads of effort into the database of photos and images, including making it possible for users to store their own photographs. Since we work on image implementation now our contact to the informatics department is very close now.



social media) and spread the news! Anyone interested is invited to contact Jansen to discuss the position.

Also, we will have a new call for workshop applications. With BioDeepTime, DDCP, and PaleoNovelty we have had three inspiring topics already, and the BigQuestions project was an “extra” generated by project lead Jansen Smith. We are ready for new topics and will announce our call soon!