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ABSTRACT VOLUME

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PALEOSYNTHESIS: THE GERMAN SEED FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION

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Paleontology is a so-called rare subject, which shares with other rare subjects that it holds a unique and interdisciplinary canon of knowledge but at the same time being in a precarious situation at many universities. The main reason for the insecure situation is probably the small number of actors covering a huge range of topics. The situation may improve with a focus on (yet to be identified) big questions and an advanced methodological toolkit.

The Paleosynthesis project was launched in 2019 to strengthen paleontology with interdisciplinary synthesis workshops, summer schools and various outreach activities such as a Fossil Discovery App for mobile phones. Approaching halftime of the externally funded project (funding provided by the Volkswagen Foundation), we reflect upon the achievements and shortcomings of the project. This talk aims at a greater engagement of the German paleontological community in the project, be it in interdisciplinary workshop proposals or in the development of large-scale questions.