

PhD in Archaeobotany at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Title

The contribution of plant micro-remains for understanding food strategies and consumption in a Neolithic town, Çatalhöyük (Turkey).

Overview

Studies on food strategies and consumption have mostly relied on the analysis of charred seeds (plant macro-remains). However, plant micro-fossils (phytoliths and starch grains) together with chemical residues are important to uncover foodways in early settlements.

This research will develop a new integrated methodology for the study of foodways in the archaeological record by combining microfossil analysis, analytical microscopy and pXRF. The focus of analysis will be the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük, a *tell* site in Central Anatolia (Turkey) with an occupation spanning from the early Neolithic to Chalcolithic (7400-5700 BC). This is a key site in understanding the origins of complex settlements (mega-sites) and the development of agriculture and domestication.

Well-contextualized sediment samples will be selected from a wide range of archaeological contexts, related to domestic practices (such as storage bins, hearths, middens, burial infill) of Çatalhöyük East Mound buildings.

The research will be carried out at the BioGeoPal laboratory of the CaSEs research group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, under the supervision of Prof. M Madella and Dr C Lancelotti.

Eligibility criteria

The candidates must hold a degree in History, Archaeology or Humanities with at least a final note of 8.5, and she/he will need to apply for an FI through the UPF.

English language is required as it is the working language of the Çatalhöyük Research Project and the student will have to spend a certain amount of time in Çatalhöyük for fieldwork.

How to apply

The deadline for the FI submission is 28th of September and we would like to close the candidate selection by Monday 26th of September.

Interested students should contact as soon as possible both M Madella (marco.madella@icrea.cat) and C Lancelotti (carla.lancelotti@upf.edu) via e-mail, sending the CV and a telephone number for contact.