



NECLIME Newsletter

December, 2021

Dear colleagues and members of NECLIME,

Another year with not quite easy conditions has passed and it seems that even more patience is required. Nevertheless, NECLIME was quite active in 2021, and, thanks to your dedication and input, various online events could be organized that kept the network going in these difficult times and opened up new perspectives.

As usual, this year's newsletter summarizes our past achievements and provides an outlook on our forthcoming activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for contributing to our network and greatly look forward to seeing you again on the various events planned for 2022, hopefully also in person.

Stay safe, enjoy the season and all best for next year!

Yours,

Andrea, Angela, Marianna, Martina, and Torsten



This year's meetings

NECLIME Online Conference, April 19–21, 2021



With 61 registered participants from 20 countries, the online format was very well received among our members and has proven very effective for the network to stay connected during the pandemic. Moreover, many colleagues attended a NECLIME meeting for the very first time including many young researchers. The conference program included a total of 30 oral presentations, spanning a wide range of topics. With results from the Far East of Russia and Japan to the Iberian Peninsula, the presented research fully covered the “classic” study area of NECLIME, complemented by reports on South American strata. In addition, about one third of the presentations included Paleogene records and palaeobotanical data thus accommodating the claim of our network to broaden our time frame. With nine contributions on Pleistocene to Holocene, NECLIME research further continued to show our interest in younger timescales opening a new field of techniques, methodological tests and their implications. Various contributions on progress in methodologies represented another highlight of the NECLIME Online Conference 2021, alluring to further follow these innovations in the frame of workshops to be organized by the NECLIME working groups. Among them are reconstruction methods of palaeo-altitude, tools for a more precise assessment of palaeoclimate, as well as biome reconstruction techniques including their calibration using modern data.



In the final discussion, personnel changes in the NECLIME co-ordination team, the new NECLIME Advisory Board, and our newly restructured website were presented to our members.

NECLIME online conference on South Asia, September 7-9, 2021

This NECLIME online meeting, organized in the context of the 75 years anniversary celebrations of the renowned Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow, India, had over 60 participants from a total of 11 countries. The conference aimed at bringing together researchers working on a wide variety of topics in South Asian geo-and bioscience such as Asian monsoon evolution and Himalayan uplift and evolution of its foreland basins, from continental and marine perspectives to tackle evolution and diversification of fauna and flora under changing environmental conditions.

The conference included 34 oral presentations and keynote lectures on various topics. Most recent progress and gaps in research were discussed involving e.g. the expansion of grasslands in the Himalayan foreland basin, linkage of diversity changes of flora and fauna to climate change and orogeny, uncertainties in measuring palaeo-elevation, and understanding of global and regional signals of climate change in general.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of Vandana Prasad who convened the conference and the perfect organization by Gaurav Srivastava and Vivesh V. Kapur, which we gratefully acknowledge, the event was a great success and thus carried forward the NECLIME tradition of organizing Asian meetings.

For all known restrictions of online meetings, it was shown that this format enabled the participation of numerous young scientists. Thus, we consider to offer the possibility of online participation also in future NECLIME events where this is possible.



NECLIME Workshop of early career scientist network, October 8, 2021

This initiative, created by our members Adele Bertini and Angela Bruch and aiming at supporting young scientists, had its first online meeting on October 8, 2021. With 20 young researchers participating, the new format was very well accepted. The programme included a first session with short introductions of the participants and a second session with smaller group meetings in breakout rooms to discuss expectations regarding future network activities.

General expectations to the early career scientist network, put in the final discussion, comprise exchange and collaborations in small pilot studies, sharing technical information and research experience, and organizing meetings with experts. Future meetings of this group are intended to take place at least once a year, organized by a team of volunteers (Arindam Chakraborty, Astghik Papikyan, Gabriele Niccolini). Information on the next meeting will be sent to you via email.

As we think, the new format will make NECLIME more attractive to young colleagues. We are very happy about this initiative and thank all those involved for their engagement.

Meetings scheduled for 2022

5th NECLIME workshop on Climate, February 21-22, 2022

This workshop is organized by Andrea Kern and Thomas Akabane and will be held online on zoom. If you are interested to join this workshop, please register by writing an email to Andrea Kern (annkern@gmail.com) before January 17, 2022. More information can be obtained from a circular that can be downloaded from our website.

The workshop will focus on applications of plant-based tools for palaeoclimate reconstructions using probability density functions such as CRACLE, CREST or others and comparisons to classical approaches such as the Coexistence Approach, CLAMP and non-plant proxy data. Moreover,



strategies on how to cope with challenges regarding the underlying datasets and statistics will be tackled.

NECLIME session at the 11th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, June 19-22, 2022, Stockholm, Sweden

The conference will be held as a physical meeting to provide palynologists and palaeobotanists an opportunity to discuss their research and meet one another four years after the previous EPPC. In addition to the symposia and workshops, several options for pre- and post-conference excursions are available. Registration for the conference is already open, please see the conference website for deadlines and further information (make sure to check for potential updates regarding the actual pandemic). Please consider the below NECLIME session.

S30. Vegetation dynamics and biodiversity changes in the realm of the Indian Summer Monsoon from Neogene to present-day - a NECLIME contribution (Martina Stebich, Vandana Prasad, Torsten Utescher)

20th NECLIME Annual Meeting, Tbilisi (Georgia)

The 2022 Annual NECLIME Conference is planned to be held at the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia, September 18- 26, 2022, organized by Eliso Kvavadze and Maia Bukhsianidze in cooperation with Angela Bruch.

We hope to organize this conference and excursions as the first in-person event since 2019. However, we are aware of unforeseen developments and some travel restrictions may still be in place. Therefore, we want to keep maximum flexibility and are planning for a hybrid conference are in progress, with an in-person meeting for those who can travel, plus online presentations and streaming of the conference to those who cannot make it to Georgia.

We will keep you updated if and how this meeting will take place in late 2022!



Further working group meetings anticipated for 2022

Announcements of further events and workshops of the NECLIME working groups will be sent to you via e-mail when projected. For a meeting of the NECLIME working group on palynology preparations are in progress.

NECLIME organizational issues

With preparations starting already in 2020, various organisational changes were finalized in 2021. The organization of NECLIME is now in responsibility of an extended **coordination team**.

- Angela A. Bruch
- Andrea K. Kern
- Marianna Kováčová
- Martina Stebich
- Torsten Utescher



New ideas can further be discussed with an international and diverse **NECLIME advisory board**, ready to support the NECLIME community with their experience in creating new plans for the future of the network.

- Funda Akgün, Izmir, Turkey
- Adele Bertini, Firenze, Italy
- Dimitri Gromyko, St. Petersburg, Russia
- Christine Hertler, Frankfurt, Germany
- Volker Mosbrugger, Frankfurt, Germany
- Vandana Prasad, Lucknow, India
- Rober A. Spicer, Stratton Audley, UK
- Dieter Uhl, Frankfurt, Germany
- Zhou Zhe-Kun, Kunming, China





Moreover, works on a new NECLIME website were successfully finalized in 2021. These works included extensive discussions, reviewing of contents, and selection of photos. Thanks to the initiative of Angela and the dedication of Andrea, our long-serving webmaster (and now also part of the coordination team), the restructuring of the web pages yielded a very presentable result.



Big thanks also to all of you who contributed with their materials. We are grateful to Alexander Gonschior, Tübingen, for his support in web design and -programming.
made

As in the past, our new website will be updated regularly, so please don't hesitate to check for NECLIME news there. Please contact our webmaster, Andrea K. Kern (annkern'at'gmail.com), for any issues regarding the web pages.