



## **NECLIME Online Conference 2021**

April 19–21

Conveners: Angela Bruch, Torsten Utescher, Andrea Kern, Marianna Kováčová, Martina Stebich

### ***Report***

#### **In general**

The NECLIME Online Conference took place from April 19 to 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 situation. 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 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 expanded into younger timescales opening a new field of techniques and methodological tests and their implications, also on deeper time records.

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, and biome reconstruction techniques and their calibration using modern data.

#### **Organization and technical details**

The meeting was organized in four sessions using the ZOOM platform. Most of the contributions have been pre-recorded by the presenters enabling a smooth process and ensuring enough time for discussions. Talks were made available for viewing in a server directory accessible to the participants who could not join the conference live. For social gathering after the sessions, the “wonder.me” online software provided the possibility for further exchange of ideas and discussion in smaller groups.



Altogether, the selected online tools were valued quite positively by the participants, especially the possibility for virtual meetings and discussion in wonder.me turned out to be very effective to accompany the official scientific part of our meeting.

As for all our past, physical meetings, an abstract volume has been sent out to the participants and will be made available to the public on our website.

### Outlook and final discussion

- New structure of NECLIME

Personnel changes in the NECLIME co-ordination team and the new NECLIME Advisory Board were presented to our members. There was broad agreement that NECLIME is well-positioned for ensuring its successful functioning, also in the future. The re-organization of NECLIME further emphasized on a future research of “NECLIME and beyond” and a further inclusion of Paleogene and Pleistocene studies.

- Website

During the last year, the NECLIME Website has been completely restructured and updated regarding new working groups and the NECLIME 2030 perspective. The feedback obtained from our members was largely positive. Updates and comments are currently integrated and should soon be visible online.

- Meetings

In view of the success of the online conference the majority of our members was in favor of organizing further digital meetings or/and offering the possibility of online participation in physical meetings. It was pointed out that especially young scientists would benefit from a digital format, apart from the general issue of travel expenses in the context of scarce science funding.



- NECLIME conferences

#### Siwalik Regional NECLIME Conference

This online event, organized by Vandana Prasad and Gaurav Srivastava from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences in Lucknow, India, aims to present contributions on the Siwaliks, a crucial area holding the key for reconstructing changes in the Himalayan mountain range and their extra-regional impact. Apart from palaeobotanical approaches, presentations on paleontology, sedimentology and geology of the Siwalik strata, as well as studies on geochemistry and chronology (e.g. palaeomagnetism) are invited. Studies on age-equivalent deposits in the Himalayas are further included for in-depth comparisons (Nepal, Tibet, India, etc.). The conference is planned for the first week in September and will be connected to the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of the BSIP, on September 10, 2021. A circular will inform you about more details.

New information on the postponed XV IPC/ XI IOPC Prague and anticipated EPPC will be communicated to our members as soon as it is available.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NECLIME Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, originally intended for 2021 is definitely postponed and hopefully will take place in 2022. The 4<sup>th</sup> NECLIME Asian Meeting in Matsudo/Chiba will most probably take place in 2023. Details will be communicated to you as soon as planning is possible.

- NECLIME workshops

Under the current restrictions regarding research stays and traveling, online workshops are considered useful to stay connected and to promote research within our network. Planning for various events is underway.

#### Workshop of the NECLIME working group on palynology

An online workshop is planned to take place still in 2021. Details will be communicated.

A workshop with physical presence planned for 2021, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, is currently postponed to next year (organizers: Dimitar Ivanov and Serkan Akkiraz).



#### Workshop of the NECLIME working group on Plant Macrofossils

An online workshop is intended to take place in the last quarter of this year or early in 2021. Details on specific topics will be communicated (organizers: Su Tao and Gaurav Srivastava together with Boglárka Erdei and Torsten Utescher).

#### Workshop of the NECLIME working group on Fire Ecology

As first workshop of our new working group is planned to take place in September or October still this year and will be organized by the coordinators of the working group (Dieter Uhl and André Jasper). Details are yet to come.

#### Workshop of the NECLIME working group on Climate

An online workshop on new methods in quantitative palaeoclimate reconstruction from the palaeobotanical record (keywords CRACLE, CREST) is likely to be scheduled later this year. Details are currently discussed (organized by Andrea Kern and working group coordinators).

#### NECLIME early career scientists network

A new platform within the NECLIME network was suggested and discussed during the conference, which aims to attract young researchers and to foster collaborations and exchange between them. A first online meeting is planned for **October 8, 2021**, to explore the potential of such an initiative together with interested students and early career scientists. A more detailed announcement will be distributed soon (organized by Adele Bertini and Angela Bruch).



Some impression of the first NELCIEM online conference:

