BAFA

Virtual Winter Conference 2021/22

'Research Design and Current Topics'

15TH JANUARY 2022

Conference & Abstract Booklet

Contents

Welcome!

Thank you for registering to attend the Virtual Winter Conference of the British Association for Forensic Anthropology, which will be held virtually on Saturday 15th January 2022.

The theme of the Winter conference this year is '***Research Design and Current Topics'***. Throughout the day the conference features student presentations (with prizes), invited keynote speakers, an interactive Ask-Me-Anything (AMA) discussion session and a virtual social event (Quiz!) to close the day.

Research design refers to the overall strategy that you choose to integrate the different components of the study coherently and logically, thereby, ensuring you will effectively address the research problem; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. The function of a research design is to ensure that the evidence obtained enables you to effectively address the research problem logically and as unambiguously as possible. Research design carries an important influence on the reliability of the results attained; a critical element for practical applications and validation in forensic sciences. Distinguished researchers will be invited to discuss various elements of research design that participants may find useful for their current work and the critical evaluation of publications and research. Presenters will also discuss practical case applications and novel topics in forensic anthropology.

The conference will be hosted online through Zoom and a private link will be sent out to all registered delegates prior to the start of the conference. We kindly ask BAFA Members to register for the conference by the 12th of January 2022.

If you are on social media, please connect with us during the conference too:

Facebook: **@BAFA.UK**
Twitter: **@BAFA_UK**
LinkedIn: **British Association for Forensic Anthropology (BAFA)**

#BAFA2022

If you need any help or support on the day or in the lead up to the conference then please don't hesitate to get in touch via e-mail: **CONFERENCE@BAFA.UK**

Virtual Conference

The full programme of the conference formally runs from 10:00 (GMT) until 16:50. All attendees are welcome to join the BAFA virtual social after the conference, which will include quizzes and prizes!

Final Programme (GMT)

Start time	Item		Speaker	Length
0930	***BAFA Committee Meeting***		***Closed to Committee***	***30-minutes***
1000	Conference Welcome from BAFA Chair		**Dr Julie Roberts**	**5-minutes**
1005	Introduction		**Session chair – Amy Rattenbury**	**-**
	Keynote presentations	Research Design & Statistics in Forensic Taphonomy	**Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney**	**30 minutes**
1040		Statistics in Forensic Casework and Policing	**Dr Anya Hunt**	**30 minutes**
1110		It's Going Tibia Okay: Managing Your Time and Well-being in Long-term Research Projects	**Rosie Crawford**	**30 minutes**
1140		Bayesian Statistics Explained (Title TBC)	**Dr Sarah Forbes-Robertson**	**30 minutes**
1210	Panel/breakout discussion		**Session chair - Dr Julie Roberts**	**30 minutes**
1230	**30-minute lunch break**		**-**	**30-minutes**
1300	Student presentations (round 1)	**Introduction**	**Panel chair - Linda Ainscough**	**-**
1305		An investigation into microbiological taphonomic changes for use in the determination of the post-mortem interval	**Heather Angell**	**15 minutes**
1320		Assessing the Accuracy of 3D Bone Models and Their Use in Forensic Anthropology	**Eden Andrades**	**15 minutes**
1335		Fluorescence of Submerged Skeletal Remains: Alternative Light Sources (ALS), Maceration, and the Osteo-Fluorescence Calculator (OFC)	**Catherine Maidment**	**15 minutes**
1350		The Effect of Trauma on Bone Diagenesis	**Caley Mein**	**15 minutes**
1405		**Q&A Session**	**Panel chair - Linda Ainscough**	**15 minutes**
1420	**15-minute break**		**-**	**15-minutes**
1435	Student presentations (round 2)	**Introduction**	**Panel chair - Dr Sarah Ellingham**	**-**
1440		A Survey of Ancestry Estimation Method Preferences and Utilisation in Forensic Anthropology	**Marion Davidson**	**15 minutes**

1455		Effect of Drugs on Human Body Decomposition and Soil Environment	**Gabriela Mroz**	**15 minutes**
1510		Virtual trauma: Automated photogrammetry workflow as a tool in anthropological practice	**Vasiliki Louka**	**15 minutes**
1525		The Application of Geometric Morphometric Analysis to Weapon Identification in Sharp Force Trauma Analysis: A Pilot Study	**Rebecca Strong**	**15 minutes**
1540		**Q&A Session**	**Panel chair - Dr Sarah Ellingham**	**15 minutes**
1555	**10 minute break** ***(Committee and attendees to vote for best presentations)***		**-**	**10 minutes**
1605	Ask Me Anything (AMA) session with practitioners		**Steering Committee & Participants**	**30 minutes**
1635	Results of presentation competition announced		**Dr Jan Bikker**	**5 minutes**
1640	Closing remarks from BAFA Chair		**Dr Julie Roberts**	**5 minutes**
1645	**5 minute break**		**-**	**5 minutes**
1650	Social quiz		**Hosted by Connor Welty and Paige Tynan**	**…**

Biographies and Abstracts

Invited Keynote Speakers

Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney

Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney is a Biological and Forensic Anthropologist from Northumbria University where he leads the Forensic Science Research Group. His broad interests concern the application of multi-disciplinary forensic taphonomy and thanatology into both current medico-legal practice and the Evolutionary Anthropology of the deep past. His research focusses on taphonomy in forensic, archaeological and palaeontological contexts, with the aim of understanding mortuary behaviours, peri and post-mortem alteration to the body, and site formational processes. His work integrates decomposition modelling with multi-scalar approaches to how body deposition sites (whether intentional or natural) function and change through time - integrating bone taphonomy, sedimentology and geomorphology, biotic and abiotic factors to understand the persistence and transfer of taphonomic evidence through time. Voted "the student most likely to fail maths" by his "O" level mathematics teacher, he has an active interest in robust experimental design, and now works with n-dimensional space statistics, multivariate modelling, and methods of statistical shape analyses. He also passed "O" level maths. Go figure.

Keynote Title: Research Design & Statistics: Moving From Anecdata to Big Data in Forensic Taphonomy

Abstract: This talk will discuss some of the ongoing issues surround robust experimental design, statistical literacy, and appropriate population sampling in forensic anthropology - using research in taphonomy as a example of some of the problems facing the wider field of anthropology. These problems are manifest and many – from small samples that do not reflect real world populations, the inappropriate use of multivariate statistics, through to the current rush to apply Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence without any attempt at hypothesis formulation. All is not doom and gloom however, and I will argue that by implicitly embedding robust design into anthropological research, together with collective multi-collaborator projects adopting a Big Data approach, that many of the historical limitations in our field can be circumvented and overcome.

Dr Anya Hunt

Anya Hunt is Head of Scientific Support at North Wales Police, a role which involves ensuring that a wide range of scientific services are managed and coordinated effectively across the region. Prior to this she was Chief Executive Officer of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences for over seven years. She is an expert in forensic quality management systems, has a background in sales and technology within the forensic arena, and has also worked as a forensic scientist specialising in chemistry and footwear marks. She has a PhD in analytical chemistry, an MSc in forensic science and technology, and a BSc in chemistry and pure maths. She has a longstanding interest in the use of statistics in forensic and police work.

Rosie Crawford

Rosie has recently completed her MSc in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology at Cranfield University and documented her experience on her self-titled YouTube channel, Rosie Crawford. Rosie has now been sharing informative videos about university applications, effective studying, and life at university as a working class student for 6 years and, in 2020, became the co-founder of a free digital education platform, The StudyTube Project, formed in response to school closures during the pandemic. She is especially interested in non-adult osteology and palaeopathology.

Dr Sarah Forbes-Ferguson

Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson is affiliated to School of Life Sciences, Coventry University . Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson is currently providing services as Professor. Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson has authored and co-authored multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers and presented works at many national and International conferences. Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson contributions have acclaimed recognition from honourable subject experts around the world. Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson is actively associated with different societies and academies. Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson academic career is decorated with several reputed awards and funding. Dr. Sarah Forbes-Robertson research interests include Life Sciences.

Student Presentations

Title: An investigation into microbiological taphonomic changes for use in the determination of the post-mortem interval.

Author(s): Heather Angell

Affiliation of Author(s): University of Wolverhampton

Abstract: Forensic taphonomy is an important sub-discipline of forensic anthropology which has become a focal point for research within the United Kingdom (UK). Whilst there has been an increase in research, there is still a lack of publicised outputs due to a variety of challenges including funding, experimental location, time, and sample sizes. Research within forensic taphonomy is vitally important in developing taphonomic models for the UK which can help estimate the post-mortem interval. Whilst forensic microbiology itself is not a relatively new discipline, its application to forensic taphonomy is a developing area. Most specifically, the use of microbiomes as a potential tool for estimating the post-mortem interval. This is not only due to microorganisms being present and contributing to all stages within the decomposition process but also due to their predictable behaviour and succession patterns. Previous research in the UK has highlighted crystal formation on articular cartilage as a viable preliminary method for estimating the post-mortem interval. More than one species of bacteria has been identified as being able to produce struvite crystals in these conditions which have resulted in an association being established between urinary tract or gastrointestinal tract pathogens, and the formation of struvite crystals. Further research was conducted concerning microbial communities particularly those which are associated with decomposing remains including those which have already been identified. This has allowed an in-vitro model to be established to generate the production of struvite crystals. This resulted in a new differential

media to be developed which will allow for the selection and identification of bacteria that have the struvite crystal formation capabilities. This development will aid in the preliminary analysis of bacteria to determine whether they are of significant importance without more time consuming and costly analysis being conducted. Therefore, this research has the potential to contribute to the development of a taphonomic model to help estimate the postmortem interval for the UK.

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Title: Assessing the Accuracy of 3D Bone Models and Their Use in Forensic Anthropology

Author(s): Eden Andrades

Affiliation of Author(s): Cranfield University

Abstract: Forensic anthropologists build a biological profile using osteometric and morphological information that they obtain from skeletal remains. An anthropologist deduces information such as the age and sex of an individual by performing a physical and visual examination on their bones. Usually, this analysis is conducted by physically handling the human remains. However, in recent years, with digital technology advancing, there has been an increase in indirect methods of analysis using models generated from 3D imaging, including photogrammetry and computed tomography (CT) scanning. CT scanning is more typical; however, photogrammetry has been applied in several fields, including road accident reconstruction and architecture. However, the application of photogrammetry in the forensic anthropological context has not been investigated extensively. Furthermore, research on the surface quality of virtual 3D bone models for use in forensic anthropology is almost non-existent. This study aims to validate the accuracy of 3D bone models produced using photogrammetry by comparing them to the actual physical models. In order to do this, 3D models of eight human bones were reconstructed using photogrammetry. Photos were taken using a Canon camera and then turned into models using Agisoft Metashape. Different aspects of the accuracy of the 3D models were assessed following Carew et al. (2020), including the metric accuracy of the 3D models; the viability of applying age and sex estimation methods (with multiple observers (n = 4); and the surface quality using a customized scoring method (with multiple observers (n = 4)). The results of this study established that the models were accurate within 2.0 mm of the original specimen. Observers evaluated gross features on the models confidently; however, it was found that some fine surface details did not appear as clearly on the 3D models and they did on the original bones. These results validate the applicability of 3D bone models for forensic anthropological use. However, when fine surface details are essential for evaluation, caution is advised.

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Title: Fluorescence of Submerged Skeletal Remains: Alternative Light Sources (ALS), Maceration, and the Osteo-Fluorescence Calculator (OFC)

Author(s): Catherine Maidment[1] & Anna Williams[1,2]

Affiliation of Author(s): [1]University of Central Lancashire [2]Lancashire Forensic Science Academy

Abstract: Aquatic searches for human remains are time-consuming and expensive, often requiring additional equipment and expertise. Current search strategies such as side scan sonar and cadaver dogs are tailored towards locating intact cadavers and are much less effective when searching for skeletal material. Alternative light sources (ALS) are a routine staple of crime scene investigation, providing a non-destructive and cost-effective approach to revealing latent evidence. By harnessing the autofluorescence properties of bone collagen, ALS presents a potential new approach to locating and identifying skeletal remains in the field. This research consisting of 2 pilot studies, demonstrates how ALS can be used to identify osseous material deposited in terrestrial and underwater forensic contexts, and discusses how maceration may be an effective preparation technique for bone undergoing laboratory ALS analysis.

The first pilot study consisting of 17 different porcine bones (Sus scrofa domesticus) in air, and 12 porcine humeri in 4 deposition contexts (canal, sea, freshwater, and air, n=3) observed over 21 days, used digital photography to identify the most suitable ALS wavelength and coloured filter combination to visualise bone fluorescence in terrestrial and underwater contexts, as well as measurement of the water chemistry to investigate the taphonomic impact on bone collagen. A bespoke C++ computer program: the Osteo-Fluorescence Calculator (OFC), was developed to calculate the observed fluorescence and simplify the quantification process with thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) used to measure bone collagen and further investigate the hypothesised collagen-fluorescence relationship. Key results identified the orange filter as the most successful for visualising bone fluorescence ($P=0.033$), but that high water salinity may be detrimental to bone collagen (submersion interval and collagen loss in sea water ($P=0.019$), canal water ($P=0.038$)).

However, residual tissue from manual defleshing impeded fluorescence results. Therefore, a second pilot study was developed to determine the most effective maceration method for porcine bone, aiming to optimise fluorescence output without compromising collagen content. Using the same photographic and quantification methodology, 3 maceration techniques; hot water (80oC), biological washing powder (50oC) and enzymatic (55oC) (n=10) were studied. Hot water was most effective providing consistent fluorescence results with little impact on collagen ($p=0.012$), whereas biological washing powder was destructive to bone appearance and collagen levels ($p=0.000$), rendering it unsuitable for future use. Overall, this research yielded promising results, informing the design of further experimentation, and confirming the practical applications for ALS in skeletal analysis. In the field, effective ALS has the potential to help simplify search methodologies, reduce costs, speed up recovery, and triage findings, with implications for missing persons cases, crime scene investigation and archaeological contexts.

Title: The Effect of Trauma on Bone Diagenesis

Author(s): Caley Mein & Anna Williams

Affiliation of Author(s): University of Central Lancashire

Abstract: Trauma is often seen in anthropological examinations, both in forensic and archaeological contexts, yet while the effects of trauma on soft tissue decomposition have been well researched, the effects of trauma on bone alterations over time have not been established. Skeletal tissue can undergo a series of physical and chemical changes after death, which are dependent on the condition of the remains and on the deposition environment. The main drivers of these changes are microbial attack, which can lead to dissolution of the bone mineral, hydrolysis of collagen, and the loss of microstructural integrity of the bone. As bone diagenesis has been heavily researched in attempts to develop more accurate post-mortem interval estimations, it is important to understand the extent at which trauma could affect diagenesis.

This research hypothesises that damage to the surface of the bones, such as that caused by trauma, can lead to easier microbial access to the internal microstructure of the bone, resulting in increased diagenetic changes around the trauma site, and that this will be significantly different to the extent of diagenetic changes occurring in bone with no trauma. Due to difficulties differentiating between peri-mortem trauma and post-mortem trauma, both were included in this project with trauma being inflicted to partially defleshed porcine ribs either on day 0 to simulate peri-mortem trauma, or at 60 days post-deposition for post-mortem trauma. Samples were collected at two different timescales, 90 days, and 180 days post-trauma, and analysed using scanning electron microscopy with energy dispersive spectroscopy (SEM-EDS) for elemental analysis and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy – attenuated total reflection (FTIR-ATR) for structure and composition. Early results indicate elemental and compositional changes occur to all samples over time ($p < 0.5$), with significant differences observed between the control samples and those with peri-mortem trauma. However, significant differences have not yet been observed between control samples and those with post-mortem trauma.

Further research is currently being undertaken, however data collected so far indicates that trauma does affect the rate of bone diagenesis occurring over time in an exposed deposition, with peri-mortem trauma leading to significant differences.

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Title: A Survey of Ancestry Estimation Method Preferences and Utilisation in Forensic Anthropology

Author(s): Marion Davidson, Dr Carolyn Rando, Professor Ruth Morgan

Affiliation of Author(s): University College London

Abstract: The published literature contains conflicting statements regarding which ancestry estimation methods are the most preferred and most frequently utilised by practicing forensic anthropologists. However, to date there is no published research that examines the preferences as well as the utilisation of ancestry estimation methods by forensic anthropology practitioners. In this study, an anonymous online survey was developed to determine the most preferred and most frequently utilised ancestry estimation methods and techniques among forensic anthropologists and other disciplines that similarly examine human skeletal remains. Of the 109 respondents, 67% had completed or were in the process of completing a doctoral degree, with a mean year of degree completion of 2013. Approximately 40% of respondents were trained in the United Kingdom, 40% were trained in the United States, and the remainder were trained elsewhere. Of all respondents, 56% reported forensic casework experience. Preliminary analysis of the results reveal that the cranium is reported as both the most preferred skeletal element and the most examined skeletal element, and a combination of metric and non-metric assessments is the most preferred and the most utilised technique. Additionally, a trait list is both the most preferred and the most utilised type of ancestry estimation analysis. These insights can help to ensure that further research into ancestry estimation is applicable to the practicing forensic anthropologist.

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Title: Effect of Drugs on Human Body Decomposition and Soil Environment

Author(s): Gabriela Mroz

Affiliation of Author(s): University of Central Lancashire

Abstract: The relationship between forensic toxicology and forensic taphonomy is known, but has not been specifically researched in an academic capacity. This research focuses on finding the dependence of toxicological variables on taphonomical factors, and vice-versa.

For this purpose, statistical data of drug-related deaths are analysed to illustrate the problem within the United Kingdom. Then, three chosen cases that included drug-related deaths are presented, and knowledge gathered from literature review and other available sources is applied to determine if and what correlations occur between body decomposition, substance usage and the environment. A thought experiment is conducted thereafter, and the Total Body Score system, proposed by Megyesi et al., 2005, is applied.

The thought experiment is designed to reassess the previously examined cases using data included in the reports, case studies or media-covered information, and to apply toxicological knowledge using a novel approach. The purpose of the investigation is to assess practical usage of toxicology during taphonomy-related cases, and vice-versa. It is understood that an interdisciplinary approach can positively influence the process of investigation and prevent misconceptions within forensic examination, thereby contributing to greater accuracy.

The research shows that a correlative relationship between each variable occurs in every stage of human body decomposition: However, it is not straightforward, and, in some cases, a long-term usage-related effect on the body will affect post-mortem changes (Victim 2 and Victim 3). In one case (Victim 1), the multidrug-related death resulted in visible body alteration within 24 hours post-mortem.

The environment in which a body remained and other forensic evidence is also influenced by drugs within a decomposing body, such as entomological evidence and aquatic organisms.

The conducted study creates a need for a practical approach of the analysed topic, and highlights the importance of a taphonomical facility as a medium for extensive research of the discussed variables and their relationships.

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Title: Virtual trauma: Automated photogrammetry workflow as a tool in anthropological practice

Author(s): Vasiliki Louka

Affiliation of Author(s): University of Leicester

Abstract: Photogrammetry is a technique that generates three-dimensional models from two-dimensional data, such as photographs and images. Although it has been in use for many decades, it has not been extensively utilized for the reconstruction of complex skeletal trauma. Moreover, despite the current advances in DSLR cameras, photographic equipment and software, other imaging and scanning modalities are being preferred instead for the reconstruction of human remains in forensic anthropology. This study aims to present a straightforward photogrammetry workflow applied in forensic routine for the reconstruction of traumas from armed conflicts.

The material of this study consists of remains from Greece and Spain, spanning from the late 19th up until the mid-20th century, focusing on violent conflicts. These conflicts are the Holocaust of Arkadi Monastery in Crete (1866), the Greek Civil War (1943-1949) and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The remains come from different taphonomic contexts, demonstrating various types of trauma. The Spanish sample originates from a mass grave that was excavated by the Spanish Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory. The Cretan remains constitute an ossuary assemblage stored in the Arkadi Monastery at Rethymnon. The Greek Civil War remains are part of a commingled assemblage that was studied at the Forensic Anthropology Unit, in Athens.

The remains were analysed following anthropological protocols, in Spain and Greece. The injured remains underwent a photogrammetric workflow which consisted of sets of photographs from various angles, depending on the size of the skeletal element and the type of trauma that was documented. Moreover, for this project, an automated turntable was constructed and controlled via the Arduino software, to rotate the bones during the photographic session, minimizing the error that would otherwise be introduced by manually rotating them after each shot. The photographs were processed with Agisoft Metashape Professional and 3D models of selected remains were generated.

The process focused on capturing the identifying morphological characteristics of trauma (e.g., gunshot wounds, sharp-force trauma), the clarity and shape of the virtual remains but also the applicability and repeatability of the photogrammetric routine. The workflow was designed to be applicable in various working environments, such as laboratory and non-specialised facilities with different lighting setups. The results of photogrammetry showed that the generated models were highly detailed, with visible the diagnostic morphological features of each trauma type, enabling the identification of the inflicting mechanism on the virtual model. The texture and colour of the models were a faithful representation of the actual specimens.

The outcomes highlighted the importance of photogrammetry as an alternative to expensive scanning or imaging equipment, that can be applied in different contexts to facilitate the virtual reconstruction of skeletal trauma, providing the ability to store the virtual remains for further analysis, exhibition and reporting.

Title: The Application of Geometric Morphometric Analysis to Weapon Identification in Sharp Force Trauma Analysis: A Pilot Study

Authors: Rebecca Strong[1], Tim Thompson[1], David Errickson[2] and Melanie Brown[1]

Affiliations: [1]Teesside University [2]Cranfield University

Abstract: Current methods for identifying a potential weapon type from sharp force trauma can be a subjective process, with previous research demonstrating cutmarks created by the same weapon type can produce morphologically different shapes. Geometric morphometric analysis (GMM) quantifies and documents shape to detect measurable changes using recognised landmarks through statistical analysis. GMM, therefore, could be employed to interpret potential weapon type from a cutmark's shape aiding in reducing subjectivity during sharp force trauma analysis Structured light scanning (SLS), is an active scanning method that emits patterned light to record and digitise the surface of an object including geometric data. The SLS has proven applicability in forensic research including visualisation and documentation of skeletal remains associated with criminal investigations and the documentation of traumatic injuries in soft tissue. It therefore stands to reason the SLS can be applied to traumatic lesions on skeletal remains within forensic contexts. With knife crime on the rise in the UK, it would be beneficial to have an analytical and standardised methodological approach that can aid in the identification of potential weapon types from cutmark morphology. A pilot study was undertaken with the aim to determine if GMM can be used to identify potential weapon types from cutmark morphology and determine if the SLS is a suitable imaging method for sharp force trauma. Four weapons were used by two individuals to create 130 cutmarks in modelling clay at a 45-degree angle. Each cutmark was scanned using a HP structured light scanner to create a 3D model for GMM analysis. The results demonstrate that cutmark shape can be used to differentiate weapon types, with cross validated discriminant function analysis exhibited a 95% correct classification rate for identifying the weapon type. Analysis also showed that the classification of weapon type was unaffected by the individual who created the cutmark. The results from this preliminary work supports the potential for this method of imaging and analysing sharp force trauma to be implemented into forensic casework.

Registration and Abstract Submission

Conference registration

The conference is for BAFA Members only. The conference is free, however registration is still required.

For non-BAFA members who wish to participate, please consider signing up as a BAFA Member. You will not only be able to attend the virtual conference in January, but you will also get the additional benefits of being a Member of the Association! For more details, please our website:

Current BAFA Members will have received an annual Membership renewal email at the end of November. Memberships are renewable on the 1st January of each year. If you have not received an email or if you are unsure about your membership status, please contact our Membership Secretary: membership@bafa.uk.

BAFA MEMBERSHIP INFO/APPLICATION

We kindly ask you to register by the end of the day on the 12th January 2022 using the link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bafa-winter-conference-2021-22-tickets-221509379517

Student Abstract Submissions

Students are invited to present their research in prerecorded, 10-15 mins presentations at the conference. We welcome research presentations from a diverse range of forensic disciplines. Time will be allocated after the talks for a Q&A session. A panel will judge the presentations, and prize winners will be announced by the judging panel at the end of the conference. *Two prizes can be won: a £100 prize for the Attendees choice and a £100 prize for the Committee's Choice.*

Students who wish to present their research can submit an abstract to: *conference@bafa.uk*. The abstract submission should contain: title, author(s), affiliation(s) of author(s), and abstract text. Your abstract body should have 250–450 words. The deadline for abstract submissions is 5th January 2022. The BAFA committee will review the submissions and candidates will be informed on the 7th January 2022 at the latest if they have been selected to present their research at the conference. Those successful will be invited to prerecord a video presentation.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of abstracts, please email: *conference@bafa.uk*

Conference Booklet

A conference booklet with abstracts of the accepted posters will be made available before the conference for all registered attendees.

Recordings of the Event

Recordings of the virtual conference sessions, as well as the posters, will be made available on the Member Section of the BAFA website for those members not able to attend. Recordings may also be used for future promotional purposes.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance will be issued to all participants after the conference. Please allow up to two weeks for these to be sent.

Organising Committee

Chair: Dr Julie Roberts
Vice Chair: Linda Ainscough
Secretary: Dr Rachael Carew
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Treasurer: Dr Helen Langstaff
Commercial Officer: Linda Ainscough
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