# Mend the Gap – Sciences of PastSmart Integration of Genetics with Sciences of the Past in Croatia:Minding and Mending the Gap

**Basic Course on Archaeological Soil Micromorphology**

**SECOND CIRCULAR**

This circular is sent to the applicants to the Course who have been positively evaluated. It includes practical information on venue, course timetable and programme.

The lessons will be held at the Department of Geology – Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, partly in the microscopy laboratory , room MPZ2 (Division of Mineralogy and Petrology, Horvatovac 95) and partly in room GPZ-007 (Division of Geology and Paleontology, Horvatovac 102a).

On Monday, February 20 we shall start at 10:00 (room GPZ-007), the other days at 09:00, ending at 17:00. Short breaks will let all us recover at mid-morning.

No specific equipment is required.

Some basic literature and PDFs of the lesson will be provided during the Course.

The practical part f the Course will be based on the observation of thin sections of archaeological sites from the collections of the teachers. Participants that may already have their own thin sections are encouraged to bring them at the course for sharing observations.

We are looking forward to see you soon in Zagreb.

**Provisional programme**

**Monday, February 20**

10:00 – Registration. Welcome to participants by prof. Ino Čurik, coordinator of the MendTheGap Project, and by prof. Jasenka Sremac, Head of the Department of Geology.

10:30 – Presentation of the Course, aims and methods of Archaeological Soil Micromorphology.

11:00 – Tools for micromorphology: the polarising microscope, principles, structure, operation; elements of general mineralogy and optical mineralogy (N. Tomašić).

13:00-14:00 – Lunch break.

14:00-17:00 – Practical identification of basic mineral components (N. Tomašić).

**Tuesday, February 21**

09:00 – Archaeology, Geoarchaeology and Soil Micromorphology: theoretical aspects; aims and methods. Palaeoenvironmental and behavioural aspect: what can we expect from Micromorphology? From eye-scale to microscope-scale (and beyond): how to connect stratigraphy, microstratigraphy and micromorphological observations (G. Boschian).

Fieldwork: why, where and how to sample for Micromorphology. Laboratory work: thin sections characteristics, preparation and care (K. Gerometta, G. Boschian).

11:00 – General concepts of Soil Micromorphology. Organisation of the soil/sediment components: distribution of the basic components; coarse and fine components; voids; microstructure; fabric and b-fabric (G. Boschian).

13:00-14:00 – Lunch break.

14:00-17:00 – Practical work (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

**Wednesday, February 22**

09:00 – Pedofeatures: classification, identification, interpretation. Environmental effects on soils and sediments; reworking and indicators of reworking. Anthropic effects on soils and sediments (G. Boschian)

11:00 – Organic components: classification, identification, interpretation. Bone, burned bone, charcoal, phytoliths, shells, eggshells, coprolites (K. Gerometta).

13:00-14:00 – Lunch break.

14:00-17:00 – Practical work (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

**Thursday, February 23**

09:00 – Practical work on case studies. Pleistocene cave sediments: natural processes, climate effects, anthropic components. Hunters-gatherers cave use (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

13:00-14:00 – Lunch break.

14:00-17:00 – Practical work on case studies. Holocene cave sediments: processes, anthropic components. Pastoral caves (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

**Friday, February 24**

09:00 – Practical work on case studies. Open-air settlements: Natural processes, soils, climate (microcatastrophes) and anthropic components (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

13:00-14:00 – Lunch break.

14:00-16:30 – Human activity (prepared floors, combustion features, buildings, etc.) and reworking in Neolithic to Bronze Age settlements (G. Boschian, K. Gerometta).

16:30-17:00 – Final test.

This programme may be adjusted or changed depending on room and laboratory availability, or on the feedback of the participants.