

The XVIII° UISPP World Congress in Paris (4-9 June 2018)

The XVIII° UISPP World Congress took place in Paris, in the “Quartier Latin”, at the Sorbonne University (building Pantheon of the University of Paris 1), from 4 to 9 June 2018.

More than 1 650 participants, 119 sessions, 1 800 communications and posters, come from the five continents and all countries of the world are the main figures of the XVIII° UISPP Congress.

The main information about the Congress (list of sessions, book of abstracts, detailed programme, list of participants), is available on the site of the Congress at the address "uispp2018.sciencesconf.org".

The general theme of the XVIII° UISPP Congress was dedicated, through eight special sessions, to the adaptation and sustainability of prehistoric and protohistoric societies in the face of climatic variations.

The worldwide dimension of the UISPP has materialized by many sessions devoted to the prehistory and protohistory of Africa, America, Oceania, South-East Asia, Central Asia, Siberia, and of course Europe.

If the chronology of prehistory and protohistory remains the core of the scientific activity of the UISPP: lower, middle, upper and final Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age (the latter scoring a comeback to the UISPP), it should be noted also the numerous sessions dedicated to peopling of the desert, mountain and coastal areas.

Many sessions have also been devoted to technology (stone and bone industry, adornments, ceramics), to wear traces analysis, to raw material procurement, but also to dwelling structures and hearths studies.

Funerary archaeology, archaeogeography, archaeozoology, absolute dating methods, biological anthropology and paleogenetics were present through sessions that showed the importance and originality of their scientific contribution to the prehistory and protohistory.

Prehistoric art has been particularly well represented by many sessions that reveal the great dynamism of this research especially in the franco-iberian area, but also in the Sahara and south-America.

Finally, it should be noted the sessions of historiography of the prehistoric and Protohistoric research (including a symposium devoted to the French Prehistorians of the second half of the twentieth century), the sessions of methods and theory of archaeology, the sessions dedicated to the management of the archaeological heritage, preventive archaeology, field excavations and archaeological prospecting.

The large Pantheon building, where all parallel sessions took place, was particularly well opened to meetings and discussions between colleagues during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks and lunch offered by the organization of the Congress.

The Monday evening reception at the very near “Ecole Normale Supérieure”, with the inauguration of the exhibition on the Celts was much appreciated, as well as excursions on

Wednesday afternoons at the “Musée de l’Homme”, for the exhibition on Neanderthal or the “Musée d’Archéologie Nationale” (with opening of the famous Piette room) and of course the student Thursday evening. The Friday night in the “Ecole Normale Supérieure”, devoted to the theme of Origins, unfortunately had to be cancelled, due to events of violent occupation of several universities in Paris.

The opening of the Congress was held on Monday morning, with the speeches of the institutional representatives of archaeology in France, the UISPP, the CIPSH and the University of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, host of the Congress. Two plenary communications have been the opportunity to present the two volumes on the Prehistory of France (under the direction of F. Djindjian) and the Protohistory of France (under the direction of J. Guilaine and D. Garcia), which marks the spectacular progress of the knowledge since the last State of the art, in 1976, on the occasion of the IX ° UISPP Congress in Nice. The opening ceremony has been recorded, stored on open access on Youtube network and may be seen via the internet site of the congress.

The Executive Committee of the UISPP, which, by statutes, is constituted by the board of the UISPP and all the presidents of the UISPP scientific committees (around forty), met Wednesday afternoon and the resolutions that has been discussed and endorsed were submitted to the vote of the General Assembly held on Thursday afternoon, and at this occasion the UISPP awards have been officially given, for the first time in the history of the UISPP, to more than 20 of winners. The list of awards and the medal (a Stater of the Parisii) are available on the site of the XVIII Congress and on the site of the UISPP.

In the decisions of the Executive Committee, it is useful to point out a strategy of open access scientific publishing including: a journal, "UISPP journal", a series of monographic publications, and the edition of the proceedings of the Inter-Congress meetings of scientific commissions.

The next XIX° UISPP World Congress will be held in Morocco in Meknes, hosted by the University, in the first week of September 2020. The historical and medieval city of Meknes, accessible by low cost flights via Fez and with an important and cheap set of hotels, make it a welcoming place of Congress for a reduced budget. The special theme of the Congress will be dedicated to the prehistory and protohistory of Africa in its relations with the Mediterranean basin.

Proposals have been received for the Organization of the twentieth Congress in September 2023; they will be studied by the UISPP board.

The appointment of a new board has been endorsed by the Executive Committee and by the General Assembly:

Secretary General	Marta Arzarello
Treasurer	Apostolos Sarris
President	François Djindjian

The acts of the XVIII° UISPP Congress will be a complete publication. About fifty volumes are planned. An editorial Committee was organized to help session organizers. Information about the publication of the proceedings is available on the website of the XVIII° UISPP Congress.

François Djindjian, for the steering committee of the XVIII° UISPP congress