



## AWARDEE REPORT FORM

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UNIVERSITY	University of Algarve
NAME OF AWARD	Symington Bequest Fund
PURPOSE OF AWARD <i>conference/event attended/organised (full name) with city and dates.</i>	
Deliver a podium presentation at the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) 2024 meeting.	
REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits? <i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i>	
Attending the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) 2024 meeting in Auckland (New Zealand) would allow me to present the podium talk “The Relationship between Mandibular Morphology, Population History and Diet in the Mesolithic–Neolithic Transition in Westernmost Iberia”. It focuses on the impact of the transition from a Mesolithic foraging mode of subsistence to Neolithic agropastoralism in Iberian mandibular morphology. First, presenting this talk would add to the presentations I have given, and so contribute to enhancing my CV. It would also provide me with further presentation experience, and so improve my communication skills. I also anticipated that delivering this presentation would promote discussion with fellow colleagues and provide potential networking opportunities with people with common interests. Moreover, this meeting focuses on computational methods applied to archaeology, and so I anticipated that other talks would present methods that could be potentially relevant and of use for my research.	
COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar/ event. <i>Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.</i>	

Although I was aware of the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) meeting for several years now, this was the first time I was able to attend. The meeting was very lively and with plenty of interaction between participants. While there, I was able to watch several presentations showing the application of computer-based methods to archaeological and anthropological research, heritage and dissemination to the general non-specialized public. After I gave my talk, focusing on the impact of a major mode of subsistence transition on human mandible morphology, there was time for questions and answers. Several people asked relevant questions that provided important and constructive feedback about the research I presented. Moreover, while at the conference I had the opportunity to approach fellow colleagues who gave talks presenting methods and/or materials that are potentially relevant for my ongoing research. After brief discussions, common interests were clear and opportunities to collaborate emerged. Altogether, this allowed me to experience a new meeting, present my research and receive relevant feedback, and provided me potential international networking opportunities.

REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? (*does not apply to equipment grant*). For public engagement/outreach awards what did your audience gain and how did you evaluate success?

*Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.*

In the conference, I was able to deliver my oral presentation and receive questions from colleagues. This provided me the opportunity to enhance my oral communication skills and interact with fellow colleagues. Moreover, other talks presented novel methods that can be adapted to tackle questions I am interested in. That gave me the opportunity to approach the colleagues delivering those talks and briefly discuss common interests and potential networking. The discussions were fruitful, and we agreed on keeping in touch to collaborate in the near future. This will provide further training in novel methods and so the opportunity to acquire skills that will be very relevant to develop my competences and methods toolkit.

REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future? For public engagement/outreach awards how with the materials/knowledge generated by this activity be used in the future?

*Minimum number of words between 200-400. Please write in coherent paragraphs.*

Attending conferences always offers the opportunity to develop communications skills, not only for the presentations but also to approach colleagues and discuss potential collaborations. This is especially so in meetings which gather colleagues from a wide span of research areas. That was the case of this meeting, in which common interests in the use of digital methods applied to archaeology gathered researchers with very different backgrounds. As such, I had the opportunity to see how the application of new upcoming digital methods may enhance the research I've been undertaking, and to enhance communication skills to bridge across somewhat contrasting areas. Moreover, and importantly, by being able to network, this experience opens prospects for further collaborations and so of new research opportunities which, in turn, will result in future publications (which are critical for the academic career).

Data Protection/GDPR: I consent to the data included in this submission being collected, processed and stored by the Anatomical Society. **Answer YES or NO in the Box below**

YES

Graphical Images: If you include graphical images you must obtain consent from people appearing in any photos and confirm that you have consent. A consent statement from you must accompany each report if relevant. A short narrative should accompany the image. **Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below**

NA

Copyright: If you submit images you must either own the copyright to the image or have gained the explicit permission of the copyright holder for the image to be submitted as part of the report for upload to the Society's website, Newsletter, social media and so forth. A copyright statement must accompany each report if relevant. **Answer N/A not applicable, YES or NO in the box below**

NA

SIGNATURE

DATE

2024/04/16

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