

COT-INTIMATE-THM 2024 International Conference **“Tephra: Chronology, Stratigraphy, Hazards, & Climate”**

FIRST CIRCULAR

8-16 September 2024, Catania, Sicily, Italy



Dear colleagues,

The International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth Interior (IAVCEI) Commission of Tephrochronology (COT), Tephra Hazard Modelling (THM), and the INTegration of Ice-core, MARine, and TERrestrial palaeoclimate records (INTIMATE) network of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), warmly invite you to join them in Catania for a week of discussions and field trips centered around tephra!

Whether you specialize in tephrochronology, tephrostratigraphy, tephra hazards, or volcano-climate interactions, this conference is made for you!

The conference will feature an icebreaker (September 8), 3 days of presentations (September 9, 10 and 12), a mid-conference fieldtrip to Etna (September 11), and post-conference field trips (September 13-16). Registration and abstract submission will open on May 13th, and close on June 17th and July 15th, respectively. We have dedicated funds to support attendance of early career researchers (ECRs). A special issue with the Geological Society and American Geophysical Union will welcome papers on research presented at the conference. Please find more details on the conference below.

We look forward to seeing you in Catania!

Conference Topics

Tephrochronology | Tephrostratigraphy | Physical volcanology | Tephra hazards |
Volcanic impacts on climate



This conference does not have defined (or concurrent) sessions. We welcome any presentations based around the interdisciplinary usage of tephra. This includes but isn't limited to: *Tephrostratigraphy and Tephrochronology* (classic applications, advances in geochronology, dating and correlation), *Tephra and Climate* (insights on volcano-climate and climate-volcano interactions), and *Tephra and Volcanology* (uses for constraining magnitude, frequency, hazards, ash modelling etc.)

Key Dates

Registration, abstract submission, and funding application links will be on conference website ([LINK](#)). Please note that the abstract submission and registration pages are currently being built and should be active by May 13th but may be slightly delayed.

May 13 th	Abstract submission opens
	Registration opens
	ECRs funding application opens
June 17 th	Abstract submission closes
	ECRs funding application closes
July 1 st	Abstract acceptance and ECR funding outcome announced
July 15 th	Registration closes
Sept 8 th	Ice-breaker in Catania!

Conference Schedule

Sunday Sept 8 th	Guided visit of the monastery, icebreaker party (conference cloister)
Monday Sept 9 th	Oral sessions, poster sessions and lunch
Tuesday Sept 10 th	Oral sessions, poster sessions and lunch
Wednesday Sept 11 th	Mid-conference field trip to Etna
Thursday Sept 12 th	Oral sessions, lunch; closing dinner/party
Friday Sept 13 th – Sunday Sept 16 th	Post-conference field trips



Location

We are delighted to host you at the [Monastero dei Benedettini di San Nicolò l'Arena](#) in Catania (Sicily, Italy). A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the baroque monument is one of the biggest Benedictine monasteries in Europe and its construction dates from the 16th Century.

Getting there: Catania airport offers both national and international connections. Ferries from mainland Italy offer you various options to Sicily, including a ferry between Catania and Naples that is well connected by train, bus, or plane to numerous cities in Europe.

Registration Fees

Full registration fee: 400€ (includes icebreaker event, coffee and lunch, and mid-conference field trip)

Early career researcher (ECR)* fee: 275€

Additional fee for closing dinner: 35€

Additional fee for post-conference field trips: See below

**ECR: Anyone who passed their PhD (or an equivalent) less than 8 years ago is eligible, but recognize that no one definition fits all, and will consider individual circumstances.*

Please note that we are only able to accommodate a maximum of 125 registrants. If you are interested, please submit an abstract and register as soon as possible.

Early Career Researcher (ECR) Travel Support Grants

Funds are available from IAVCEI and INTIMATE to subsidise the costs of selected ECRs (and for INTIMATE, those from low-income countries) travelling to and presenting at the conference. Please click [here](#) for the eligibility criteria and the application form. For further clarification please contact Danielle McLean (ECR Rep):

ecr@cot.iavceivolcano.org

Please note the application deadline for Travel Grants is June 17th.

Conference Special Issue

You will be able to submit the research presented at the conference – particularly papers related to tephra hazards – to a special issue that will open before the conference and close in 2025/2026. The special issue will be in the new “Geohorizons” series of the Geological Society, published in collaboration with the American Geophysical Union. All papers will be open access and authors with no publication agreement or funding will get a waiver on article processing charges.

Field Trips

Disclaimer: Please note that we are still working on details on the Etna portions of the mid-conference and post-conference trip Option 2 that will be updated ASAP

Mid-conference field trip: An Etna overview

Field trip coordinators: Francesco Romeo (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia) and Simon Blockley (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Costs: included (during registration you must indicate whether you plan to attend or not)

Summary: An overview of Etna and its eruptive history, we will end the day at a vineyard. More details will follow soon.

Required: Field gear (boots, waterproofs, etc.), moderate levels of fitness (e.g., short hike at high elevation). Personal travel insurance.

Option 1: Aeolian Islands (limited to 21 attendees)

Field trip coordinators: Paul Albert (Swansea University) and Federico Lucchi (University of Bologna)

Costs: 475 €

Summary: The trip explores the more recent volcanism (silicic) of the Aeolian Islands (< 50 ka), with a particular focus on the tephrostratigraphy/tephrochronology of Lipari and Vulcano. We will visit proximal tephra sequences of eruptions which have occurred on both Lipari and Vulcano, including some which have occurred in historical times. We also aim to visit far-travelled tephra deposits related to large-magnitude eruptions at the Campanian volcanoes, which outcrop on Salina.

Included: 3 nights' accommodation (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), half-board (based on sharing twin or triple rooms). Two nights are on Lipari, and one night on Salina. Transport from Catania to Lipari (via Capo Milazzo), and between the islands (Vulcano, Lipari and Salina), is also included.

Not included: Onward travel from Salina (Sept 16th), but we highly recommend an onward trip to Stromboli! Please note that return to Catania is NOT included.

Required: Field gear (boots, waterproofs, etc.), moderate levels of fitness (hiking will be required; for instance, an altitude gain of ~360 m on Vulcano). Personal travel insurance.

Planned Itinerary:

Friday Sept 13th: **Lipari** (Valle Muria) explosive volcanism and tephros. Staying on Lipari.

Saturday Sept 14th: **Vulcano** (La Fossa, and Palizzi valley), including boat ride around the southern Lipari domes. Staying on Lipari.

Sunday Sept 15th: **Lipari** (Monte Pilato pumice cone, Rocche Rosse lava). Staying on Salina.

Monday Sept 16th (am, optional): **Salina** (External Tephros from Campania).



Option 2: Sicily Tour

Field trip coordinators: Simon Blockley (Royal Holloway, University of London), Katie Flowers (Royal Holloway, University of London).

Costs: 200-325€ (indicative - numbers dependent)

Included: Bus transport around Sicily to the different localities, and lunch each day.

Not included: Accommodation in Catania, buses will return to Catania each day.

Required: Field gear (boots, waterproofs, etc.), moderate levels of fitness (hiking will be required; for instance, an altitude gain of ~200 m on Etna). Personal travel insurance.

Preliminary itinerary:

Friday Sept 13th: Coach from Catania to Aci Castello (start of Etna Volcanism) then on to Refugio Sapienza. Cable car to 2500m and hike to the edge of the Valle del Bove depression, discussion of Valle del Bove centers and the later evolution of Etna.

Saturday Sept 14th: Travel by coach to southern Sicily to visit the base of the Quaternary marked by the uplifted marine sequences of Monte San Nicola.

Sunday Sept 15th: Etna regional tectonics and uplift, coach from Catania to Capo Milazo, to examine previous interglacial terraces, returning to Taormina to examine Holocene to Last Interglacial coastal uplift.



For general enquiries please email; meetings@cot.iavceivolcano.org

For Special Issue enquiries please email; alastair.hodgetts@ed.ac.uk and IAVCEITHM-REQUEST@JISCMAIL.AC.UK

Organizing Committee

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