REPORT: TAG IBÉRICO 2018

The first 'TAG Ibérico' took place during the first weekend of February 2018 in Carmona (Seville). Sessions took place in two venues: Puerta de Sevilla (an archaeological site under the management of the city council) and Conjunto Arqueológico de Carmona (first site-museum in Spain, under the management of the regional government).

Some basic data:

- 1 Keynote
- 1 Barference
- 5 Sessions
- 20 Papers
- 1 Visit
- 48 Participants (+2)
- 7 Volunteers
- 2 Grants

Over 30 hours together

The inaugural keynote was given by Beatriz Marín Aguilera (Cambridge University) on post-colonial theory.

The barference (informal conference in a social venue) was given by Daniel García Raso (independent researcher) in the bar of Museo de Carmona (city museum), open to the public. It was about videogames and archaeology and all attendants could actually play afterwards.

The sessions were about very varied topics: the colonization of the body; forensic archaeology; management; public archaeology & the projection of contemporary identities in the past.

The visit was planned as a participatory gymkhana where different teams had to arrive to a location visiting Carmona, but due to the weather and time constraints we did a traditional visit to the necropolis and the city.

Participants came from 4 countries and several regions within, representing 22 institutions as well as companies and themselves (several independent researchers). We spent over 30 hours together between the academic and the social programmes. We need to thank the volunteers from Asociación Hespérides (students from Universidad de Sevilla) for their help in the conference.

Two grants (fee, accommodation and meals) could be given to those two who applied for them.

In regard to the economics of the conference, we can state it was sustainable, as the back from JAS Arqueología S.L.U. represented less than 1/5 of the total spending. A summary of the numbers:

Income (€2,020): €1,740 fees €280 sponsors [plus €460 compensated by JAS Arqueología S.L.U.] Costs (€2,480): €910 material €1,470 meals and breaks (plus drinks and food in the barferencia) €100 grants

*We need to state that all meals were covered within the inscription fee (4 breaks, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)

During the meeting of the first day we stated an assembly of assistants for the decision making. It will be more formally settled in the next months. JAS Arqueología S.L.U. will keep backing 'TAG Ibérico' and some small changes will be made in the process of handling to make things easier. The first decision is that the conference will be biannual and the next two will take place in Lisbon (2020) and Segovia (2022). We expect it to continue being itinerant between Spain and Portugal.

The evaluation form gave some positive results. An overall rate of 3,75 over 5, as well as a majoritarian 'same or better' than other conferences in the different aspects of the organization.

Among the critics, most come from the development of the academic program, where times were not respected and moderation of debates was difficult. This will be improved in further conferences, although we are to blame as participants. Parallel sessions are rejected, as the concept of community that we intended to build has been a success.

There was a clear division between theory and profession, and most critiques came that way (as it affected the debates). On the bright side, 'the profession' has created a parallel group that met in November 2018 to delve into the issues raised at TAG.

Next in Lisbon!