For the past twenty years, methods and reflections intrinsic to the excavation and study of structures linked to the practice of cremation have continued to evolve, with a growing and more diverse community of researchers. The GAAF 2022 Meetings are part of the questions already developed in part during the Meetings around the Fire (GAAFIF, 1998) and the Meetings on New Approaches to Funeral Archaeology (GAAF, 2014, session 2). The objective of the 13th edition of the GAAF, which will be held in Toulouse from May 30th to June 1st, 2022 will be to take stock of our discipline, to show the progress made and to bring about a collective reflection on its necessary evolution.

It will also give the opportunity to open a discussion on the relationship ancient or current societies have with cremation, in the widest possible chronological and geographical framework. This process will also address the relationship between cremation and burial, what these practices share or how they differ, in situations of continuity or rupture, depending on the society or the era.

Presentations and discussions will be organized around four main themes.

**Theme 1 – Cremation from yesterday to now**

The succession of gestures linked to cremation in populations of the past are complex and diverse. However, cremation in the present West, marked by the crematist and hygienist movements of the second half of the 19th century, as well as by a technical approach to death or pyres and, more generally, the funeral practices observed in Asia by the ethnologists, are all sources of information to approach them and try to understand them. This theme is
therefore multidisciplinary and will aim at comparing experiences and various points of view from archaeology, ethnography, sociology or even the history of legislative or theological corpus related to cremation.

**Theme 2 – Archaeosciences**

The concomitant development of technological advances and sciences related to archaeology, over the past decades, has renewed our methodological approaches to the study of cremations, as well as the questions related to funeral acts associated with this practice. While imaging techniques offer new means of accessing bone masses and their content, photogrammetry and geographic information systems make it possible to renew the approach to ossuary vessels, tombs or spaces sepulchres in their spatial dimension.

Likewise, ceramic, archaeozoology or small finds studies - long employed in questions related to funeral practices - are now supplemented by life sciences (palynology, carpology, anthracology, etc.), earth sciences (geoarchaeology, micromorphology) or even physicochemical approaches. These disciplines provide access to the creation of funeral pyres and what is placed there, but also to the development of secondary structures, and even to the development of funeral spaces and their surroundings. Concerning the deceased themselves, isotopic or palaeogenetic studies, frequent today in work on burials, gradually address the burnt bone remains.

This theme will therefore be dedicated to the new tools and fields of research used to study the remains linked to the cremation ritual, through the presentation of case studies or feedback.

**Theme 3 – Methodological feedback and survey strategies**

Since the emergence of the study of cremations in France in the late 1980s and the development of the discipline over the following decade, methods of studying burnt bone remains have evolved. These changes can be attributed to various factors: the increase in the number of trained workers, the evolution of technical and technological means, as well as the development of rescue archaeology leading to constraints in time and resources. At the same time, several academic works have shown the great difficulty there is in establishing reliable repositories suitable for the study of cremations of ancient populations (in particular for colour change, fragmentation and weight data). Therefore, these Meetings will be an opportunity to take stock of the methodological evolutions and adaptations of the last
decades, but also to question the limits of our work tools and our discipline, in order to consider its future evolution.

In 2015, the Meeting around the challenges of the excavation of large medieval, modern and contemporary funeral sites drew up a “critical and reasoned assessment […] on the scientific purposes, methods and means implemented […] to address these large groups, trying to collectively identify perspectives for the future, both in terms of research and practice. "(GAAF, 2015). The chronological field retained for this Meeting in effect excluded cremation structures. Nevertheless, the evolutions seen in funerary archaeology over the last twenty years have concerned these as well as inhumation burials. In addition, the diversity of these structures, their very tenuous appearance when it comes to ossuary vessels or isolated residue pits, as well as the time-consuming nature of the study of bone deposits, are all additional constraints for these archaeological operations. It therefore appeared necessary to us to initiate a collective reflection, both on the aforementioned constraints as well as on the scientific objectives and the limits of our discipline, in order to draw in our turn "perspectives for the future".

In this context and in addition to the communications related to this theme, a short round table will be organized in order to promote exchanges between the various stakeholders in archaeology ("conservateurs" and "agents prescripteurs" from the Regional Services, field workers and managers of rescue archaeology, researchers).

**Theme 4 – Current research**

Since the 1980s, large funeral spaces dedicated in whole or in part to the practice of cremation have been the subject of excavations, as have large burial complexes or monumental tombs. The last decades have thus seen the excavation of large-scale sites in Fréjus, Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, Agde or near Castres, more recently in Nîmes, Narbonne, Vannes, Marquion, Sauchy-Lestrée or even Pompeii. These large groups also stand alongside discoveries of more unexpected practices such as cremations from the Carolingian period. The proliferation of sites and the increase in surfaces surveyed have also enabled the discovery of non-sepulchral structures which nevertheless belong to the funeral process and sometimes remain complex to interpret.

This theme will be dedicated to the presentation of current events in archaeological research related to cremation. Particular emphasis will be placed on syntheses of large groups, on thematic work on a stage in the operating chain linked to the cremation of bodies or on a specific type of structure or arrangement.
Oral communications / poster proposals must be sent to the organizing committee by email before **November 21, 2021**. They must be accompanied by an abstract, of a maximum length of **400 words for oral communications, 200 words for posters** and specify the theme in which the authors wish to communicate.

Each oral communication will last **20 minutes**. At the end of each session, a debate will be organized with all the participants of the topic.

A **5-minutes** oral presentation of the posters is also scheduled during the Meeting.

The scientific committee responsible for evaluating the proposals will meet in January 2022 to select the contributions and establish the program.

Please send your proposals using the form attached to **gaaf2022toulouse@gmail.com**

**Organization committee:** Vanessa Brunet (Eveha, UMR 6273 CRAHAM), Anne-Gaëlle de Kepper (Inrap), Erwan Nivez (UMR 6298 ARTEHIS), Sophie Oudry (Inrap, UMR 7268 ADES), Yannick Prouin (Eveha, UMR 7268 ADES).

**Scientific committee:** Sylvie Bach (SRA de Nouvelle Aquitaine, UMR 5608 TRACES), Hélène Barrand-Emam (Antea-Archéologie, UMR 7044 Archimède), Valérie Bel (Inrap, UMR 5140 ASM), Guy de Mulder (Département d’archéologie, Université de Gand), Bernard Dedet (CNRS, UMR 5140 ASM), Germaine Depierre (Ministère de la Culture, UMR 6298 ARTEHIS), Henri Duday (CNRS, UMR 5199 PACEA), Matthieu Gaultier (Conseil départemental d’Indre-et-Loire, UMR 7324 CITERES LAT), Marine Laforge (Eveha, UMR 6566 CRéAAH), Isabelle Le Goff (Inrap, UMR 7206 EA), Stéphane Rottier (Université de Bordeaux, UMR 5199 PACEA), Aurore Schmitt (CNRS, UMR 5140 ASM), William Van Andringa (École Pratique des Hautes Études, UMR 8546 AOrOC).
COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL

Deadline: November 21st, 2021 at
gaaf2022toulouse@gmail.com

Last Name, First Name:

Institution:

Email address:

Phone number:

Chosen Theme:  □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4

Type of presentation:  □ oral □ poster

Title of the presentation:

List of authors and their institution:

Abstract (poster – 200 words max; oral presentation – 400 words max):