

methodological developments and characterisation studies of ancient ceramics. The meeting took place in the Aula Magna of the University Main Building, where Galileo Galilei used to teach, and at the Department of Geosciences, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September, respectively. It grouped scientists with different backgrounds, such as archaeologists, geologists, chemists, physicists, engineers, material scientists and curators, all dealing with the study of ancient ceramics. Fifty oral presentations and 124 posters covered both traditional topics such as methodological developments, dating of ceramics, technology and provenance, alteration and conservation, glazed pottery, ceramics as building materials, technical ceramics, and a section dedicated to experimental firings. Generally a good scientific content was provided in the presentations, opening old and new discussions on archaeological and analytical approaches to the study of ancient pottery. For example, for the methodological development, new approaches and applications were presented, such as infrared thermography for forgery detection of ancient ceramics, the <sup>14</sup>C-AMS-dating, optically stimulated luminescence and archaeomagnetism on bricks, and the limit of electron paramagnetic resonance as new method for dating pottery. Several of the communications were addressed to the study of the physical characteristics of pottery, like thermal conductivity and mechanical resistance. Many case studies presented were based on both traditional methods (petrography, X-ray diffraction, bulk chemical analysis) and less common techniques like synchrotron-radiation micro X-ray diffraction, covering different ceramic materials (mostly pottery and glazed ceramics, and less technical ceramics and ceramic building materials), always considering the ceramic objects and their significance. The effect of marine water alteration, the physical effect of fire, as well as a new conservation technique of pottery were presented. From the archeological view point, a fruitful discussion on pottery from Mesolithic to Modern periods, coming from different cultures and regions from Europe, north and central Africa, the Middle East, Asia, North and South America caught the interest of the participants. Thus time was not enough during the oral sessions for a complete discussion for the numerous questions and long answers, making it sometimes hard work for the chairmen to keep the scheduled times. Nevertheless, the rich social program (coffee and lunch breaks, the social dinner, Friday's dinner, and guided visits) permitted the participants to exchange their opinions, share ideas, set up new collaborations and organise networks (Figure 1).

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## **Review of the 12<sup>th</sup> European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics, Padova**

The 12<sup>th</sup> European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics was this year held in Padova (Italy), between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013. It was co-organised by Lara Maritan, Claudio Mazzoli and Rebecca Piovesan (Department of Geosciences, University of Padova), Celestino Grifa and Mariano Mercurio (Department of Science and Technology, University of Sannio), and Luca Nodari (Institute for Energetics and Interphases, Italian National Research Council, Padova). The meeting grouped together 180 participants from different geographic areas, other than Europe, including North and South America, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and North Africa. This highlights the fact that the EMAC conference represents an important moment in the discussion of

Three winners for the best poster presentations were voted by the participants: congratulations to Bonato Enrica (University College of London, UK), Eftekhari Negar (University of Ferrara, Italy) and Vuković Biruš Maša (Croatian Conservation Institute, Zagreb, Croatia).

The Organising Committee is very grateful to all the authors who have contributed with their results to encourage productive discussion on various topics.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee and all the people who contributed with their help to the success of the meeting, and to pass the baton to the colleagues who will organise the next meeting in Athens in September 2015: good luck to Vassilis Kilikoglou and collaborators.



*Figure 1. Discussing science during poster session I on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.*

*Lara Maritan* (University of Padova, Italy)  
*Celestino Grifa* (University of Sannio, Italy)  
*Luca Nodari* (National Research Council, Italy)

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